

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2024

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

**2nd Week
April 2024**

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Subject-Polity and nation

Suvidha portal

Why in the News?

Since the announcement of General Elections 2024, over 73,000 applications have been received on Suvidha Portal.

About Suvidha portal

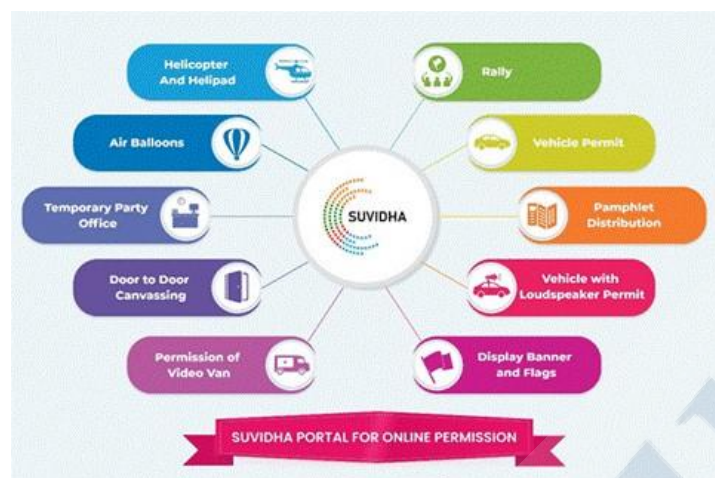


Figure 1. Source: PIB

1. The Suvidha portal represents a **technological advancement** dedicated to upholding the principles of openness, fairness, and transparency in elections, ensuring a fair playing field.

2. This portal was developed by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.

3. It operates on **first-come-first-served** basis.

4. It caters to **permissions for organizing rallies**, opening temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans, helicopters, obtaining vehicle permits, distributing pamphlets.

4. It provides a **convenient online system for political parties and candidates** to apply for permissions at any time from anywhere. It has offline submission options also, which guarantee universal access.

5. The Suvidha portal **enhances the electoral process** by offering real-time tracking of applications, updates on status, and SMS notifications. This improves both efficiency and transparency.

6. It also **supports the scrutiny of election expenditures** by making permission data readily available. Thus it fosters greater accountability and integrity.

Read more: [Election Commission of India](#)

SC ruling on candidate's right to privacy from voters

Why in the News?

Recently, the Supreme Court **ruled that electoral candidates have a right to privacy**, asserting that they are not obligated to disclose every detail of their personal and financial history for public scrutiny.

About the judgement

1. It has been held that a **candidate's decision to keep private those details which do not pertain to or affect their suitability for public office** should not be considered a 'corrupt practice' under **Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951**. Such non-disclosure would not amount to a **"defect of a substantial nature"** under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.

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2. The Supreme Court observed that it is not necessary for a candidate to declare every item of movable property that he or his dependent family members owns.
3. Items which **constitute a sizeable asset in itself or reflects upon the candidature, in terms of his lifestyle, must be disclosed.**
4. The Court also highlighted that **candidates must declare their assets to enhance democratic participation** and ensure voters have the necessary information to make informed choices.
5. It recognized the voters' right to essential information about candidates but also noted the **importance of balancing this with the candidates' privacy rights**, suggesting that disclosure of every personal detail is not necessary.

Curative Petition

Why in the news?

The Supreme Court has **recently set aside the 2017 arbitral award** that required the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to pay nearly Rs 8000 crore to Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Infrastructure. However, **exercising curative jurisdiction in a commercial case** pushes the envelope and raises questions on the finality of a ruling of the highest court in the country.

About Curative Petition



Figure 2. Source-Live Law

Description– It is the **final and last option for the people to acquire justice.** The concept of curative petition originated from the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra and another case (2002). It may be filed after a review plea against the final conviction is dismissed.

Objective– To ensure there is **no miscarriage of justice and to prevent abuse of process.**

Criteria for admission:-

- 1) It can be entertained if the petitioner establishes that there was a violation of the principles of natural justice.
- 2) It can be admitted where a judge has failed to disclose facts that raise the apprehension of bias.
- 3) A curative petition needs a senior advocate's certification that mentions a good number of reasons to consider it.

Who hears Curative petitions?

- 1) A curative petition must be **first circulated to a bench of the 3 senior-most judges**, and the judges who passed the concerned judgment (If available).
- 2) It only **gets listed for a hearing if most of the judges agree that it is necessary** and, ideally, it is heard by the same Bench as before.
- 3) Curative petitions are **usually decided by judges privately**, unless someone asks for an open-court hearing.
- 4) At any point, the **Bench can ask a senior counsel to assist as amicus curiae** during the curative petition review.

5) If the Bench decides at any point that the **petition is baseless and without any merit**, it can make the petitioner pay extra costs.

Read more-[Article 136 of Indian Constitution](#)

Subject-International Relations

Washington treaty

About Washington treaty

Description-The Washington Treaty, or North Atlantic Treaty, forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It is a short treaty containing only 14 articles.

Date of signing of treaty-The Treaty was signed in Washington, D.C. on 4 April 1949, by 12 founding members.

Authority-The Treaty derives its authority from Article 51 of the **United Nations Charter**. This article reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to their individual or collective defence.

Collective defence-It means that an attack against one Ally is considered as an attack against all Allies. This is at the heart of the treaty and is enshrined in Article 5.

What is the significance of Washington treaty?

- 1) The Alliance has ensured **peace, democracy and prosperity for its members**, now counting 32 Allies and one billion people on both sides of the Atlantic
- 2) Despite the change in the security environment in the last few decades, the original treaty has remained **unchanged**, and each ally has the potential to implement it according to their capabilities and circumstances.

Read more-[North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#)

IPEF's Clean Economy Investor Forum

Why in the News?

Recently, the IPEF organized a Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore.

About IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum

1. The IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum is **one of the initiatives under the IPEF**. The Forum **aims to mobilize investments into sustainable infrastructure, climate technology and renewable energy projects**.
2. It brings together the region's top investors, philanthropies, financial institutions, innovative companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs.
3. **Managed by:** Invest India (India's National Investment Promotion Agency).

What are opportunities for the Indian industry?

The Forum will have opportunity for the Indian industry in the two following track:

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a) **Climate Tech Track:** This track is open for top climate tech companies and startups from member countries, including India, to present their innovations to global investors. It **focuses on recognizing leading enterprises** in climate technology.

b) **Infrastructure Track:** This track **highlights ready-to-invest sustainable projects in energy (solar, wind, hydrogen), transport (EVs, charging stations), and waste management**, to be showcased at the 2024 Forum in India.

About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

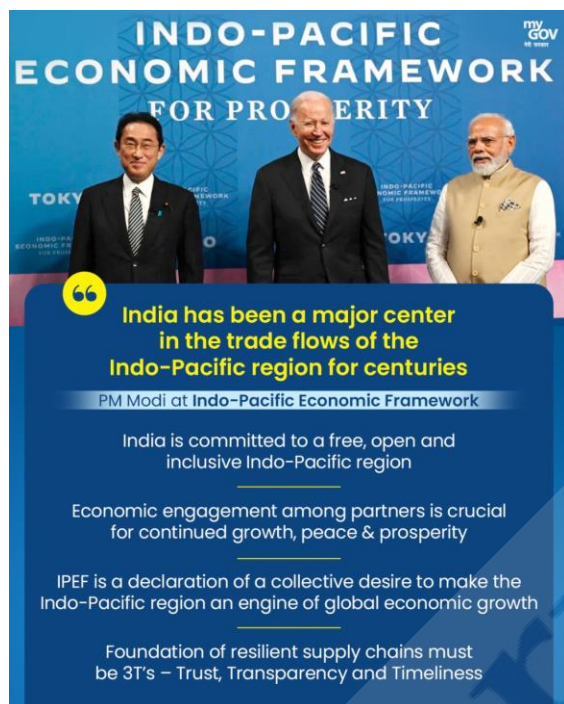


Figure 3. Source: My gov

1. The **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** is an **economic initiative** launched by U.S.A President Joe Biden in 2022.

2. **Objective:** It provides a platform for countries in the region **to collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth**, and aims to contribute to cooperation, stability and prosperity in the region.

3. **Members:** It has **14 partners** – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A and Vietnam.

4. **Nodal agency:** Department of Commerce for the IPEF engagements

5. The IPEF comprises **four pillars of cooperation** namely: **Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy and Fair Economy.**

Read more: [IPEF agreement](#)

Defence Attache

Why in the news?

India has **started to post military and defence attachés to several new countries.** This is being done to expand strategic ties with key regions across the globe.

About Defence Attache



Figure 4, Source-Getty Images

Description- A Defence Attaché is a member of the armed forces who serves in an embassy as a representative of his/her country's defence establishment abroad.

Representation- A Defence Attaché (DA) can represent all branches of the military, but in bigger countries, they may represent an individual service branch, such as an air force or naval attaché.

Duties-

A) They have to protect, develop, and promote the defence interests of their country in the nation they are assigned,

B) They have to protect, develop, and promote the

defence interests of their country in bilateral military and defence relations as well.

C) They may be deployed to work on specific issues, like migration.

D) They may serve as part of a military mission with organisations such as NATO, the EU, or the UN.

Designation- They usually operate as the head of the mission or a military adviser.

Diplomatic immunity- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961, gives immunity to individuals based on their position in a diplomatic mission. Article 7 of the convention defines the legal status of the Defense Attaché.

What is Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961?

Objective- To ensure that diplomats can conduct their duties without threat of influence by the host government.

Provisions-

A) It outlines the rules of diplomatic relations to facilitate friendly relations between States and to enable States to develop economic, cultural and scientific relations.

B) It provides the legal basis for diplomatic immunity.

Subject-Indian economy

Well Known Trademark

Why in the news?

Recently, the Delhi High Court has recognised "Haldiram" as a well known trademark.

What is a trademark?

It is a distinctive sign or indicator used by a business organisation to distinguish its products or services from those of other entities.

About Well Known Trademark



Figure 5. Source-IP matters

Statutory recognition-The **Trade Marks Act, 1999**, provides protection to well-known trademarks to prevent its misuse. It also obligates the Registrar to safeguard them against similar trademarks.

Rights of the owner-

A) The owner can prevent others from **registering** or **using identical** or similar marks for different goods and services, once a trademark is declared well known.

B) This trademark mark can be **licensed or franchised** to others. It provides opportunity to the owner to generate an **additional source of revenue**.

What is the significance of a Well-known Trademark?

1) They are **highly valuable assets** for businesses. They contribute to **brand recognition, consumer trust, and market competitiveness**.

2) It provides an additional protection against unauthorized use, even for goods or services that are not directly related to the **original trademark**. This protection prevent consumer confusion and safeguards the reputation and distinctiveness of the mark.

Read more- [Intellectual property rights \(IPR\)](#)

Funding Winter

Why in the news?

Investments from large foreign investors in Indian startups has **declined by 80% in 2023**. This is because of Indian startup ecosystem's funding winter.

About Funding Winter

Source-Inc 42

Description- It is a term used to **describe a period of reduced capital inflows to startups**. It is a cyclical effect that happens due to multiple factors which impact the free flow of investments in the market.

Duration-The **duration of a funding winter is unpredictable**. It may last for a long time depending on the multiple factors acting upon it.

Factors responsible for funding winter- It can take place due to **geopolitical unrest, or monetary policies and financial irregularities** in a country. It can also be centric to the relevant sectors.

What is the effect of Funding Winter?

1) It is **difficult to raise funding** and achieve sky-high valuations during funding winter for founders.

2) It requires **business owners to reset their priorities** in terms of profit maximization.

3) During funding winter, **start-ups take measures to save their working capital.**

4) **Expenditures** like the advertisement expenses, capital expenditures, and expansion plans **are put on hold** in order to increase the sustainability of the firm.

Note-

Capital Expenditure- It is money invested by a company to acquire or upgrade fixed, physical or non-consumable assets.

Read more- [Prabhaav Report on performance of Fund of Funds for Start-ups \(FFS\)](#)

Electronic Trading Platforms (ETP)

Source- This post on **Electronic Trading Platforms (ETP)** is based on the article [“Unauthorised FX platforms: Need enhanced vigilance by banks”](#) published in “The Hindu” on 9th April 2024.

Why in the News?

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has **raised concerns over unauthorised Electronic Trading Platforms** (such as forex trading platforms) and has asked **banks to maintain vigil against such illegal activities.**

About electronic trading platforms (ETPs)



Figure 6. Source- Forex Academy

1. Electronic Trading Platforms- Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) are **digital systems** where transactions involving **various eligible instruments** such as securities, money market instruments, foreign exchange instruments, or derivatives can be executed. It is distinct from traditional stock exchanges.

2. Issues related to ETPs-

a) Unauthorized ETPs **engaged in false advertising, promising forex trading opportunities** to people living in India.

b) **Scams and significant financial damage to**

individuals by the agents of these unauthorised ETPs who enticed users with promises of lucrative returns from forex trading or investment plans.

4. Actions Taken:

a) **RBI framework for authorisation of electronic trading platforms 2018** (ETPs) for financial market instruments regulated by it.

b) RBI **maintains and updates a list of unlicensed forex trading platform** and creates awareness among the public regarding the same.

CDP-SURAKSHA

Why in the news?

Indian government has launched a new platform CDP-SURAKSHA. This platform will be employed for disbursing subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).

About CDP-SURAKSHA

Description-It stands for **System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance**. This is a **digital platform** which will allow an instant disbursal of subsidies to farmers in their bank account by utilising the **e-RUPI** voucher from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Features of the CDP-SURAKSHA-It has features such as **database integration** with PM-KISAN, cloud-based server space from NIC, UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, local government directory (LGD), content management system, geotagging, and geo-fencing.

What is the Significance of the CDP-SURAKSHA?

- 1) **Boost to Horticulture sector**-India's horticulture sector contributes nearly **one-third to the agriculture gross value addition (GVA)**. This platform will push the growth of horticulture sector.
- 2) **Departure from old system**-It will provide subsidies to farmers at the time of purchasing the planting material **unlike old system** where a farmer had to buy planting materials on their own and then had to approach the **officials concerned for the release of the subsidy**.

About Cluster Development Program (CDP)



Figure 7.Source-NHB

Description- It is a **component of the central sector scheme** of National Horticulture Board (NHB).

Launched by- It was launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)** in 2021.

Objective- To **leverage the geographical specialisation of horticulture clusters** and promoting integrated and market-led development of pre-production, production, post-harvest, logistics, branding, and marketing activities.

Read more-[Horticulture Cluster Development Programme](#)

Shrinkflation

Source- This post on **Shrinkflation** is based on the article **"Shrinkflation makes its way back into FMCG"** published in **"The Financial Express"** on 15th April 2024.

Why in the News?

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Recently, an increasing trend of shrinkflation has been observed in the Indian FMCG industry.

About Shrinkflation



Figure 8. Source: Consolidated Credit Counselling Services of Canada

1. **About:** Shrinkflation is a combination of two words “shrink” and “inflation,”. It refers to the reduction in product size.

2. It is a **form of hidden inflation**. It occurs when a product’s size decreases as a response to increasing production costs or market competition. **For ex-** Reducing the size of a chocolate bar from 55 grams to 50 grams but the price remaining the same or cutting the number of days of an internet data pack from two months to 56 days but keeping the price unaltered.

3. **Causes:** Businesses often resort to shrinkflation primarily due to **high production costs and intense market competition**. This tactic is primarily used in the food and beverage

sectors. It increases the cost per unit to enhance profit margins.

4. **Impact:** It can complicate accurate inflation assessments. It can potentially drive consumers away if they realize they are receiving less value for the same price.

Read more: [Inflation](#)

Subject-Science & technology

Coordinated Lunar Time

Why in the news?

US government has asked NASA to **develop a time system for the Moon** to ensure that international groups and private companies working in the moon, can synchronize their activities.

About Coordinated Lunar Time



Figure 9. Source-RNZ

Description-It will **provide a time-keeping benchmark for lunar spacecraft** and satellites that require extreme precision for their missions. It will also synchronize the communication between satellites, astronauts, bases and the Earth.

Importance-A unified time standard **would ensure coordinated operations**, reliability of transactions and managing the logistics of lunar commerce.

How does Earth's time standard work?

Most of the world's clocks and time zones follow **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)**, which is a globally accepted standard for time. UTC is established by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, France.

Measurement-

- 1) It is tracked by a weighted average of more than **400 atomic clocks placed in different parts of the globe**. Atomic clocks measure time in terms of the resonant frequencies. Resonant frequency is the natural frequency of an object where it tends to vibrate at a higher amplitude of atoms such as cesium-133.
- 2) In atomic time, **a second is defined as the period in which a caesium atom vibrates 9,192,631,770 times**. As the vibration rates at which atoms absorb energy are highly stable and ultra-accurate, atomic clocks make for an excellent device for gauging the passage of time.

What is the need to develop a time system for the moon?

- 1) **UTC cannot be used to determine time on the Moon**. Since there is less gravity on the Moon, time ticks slightly faster as compared to time on the Earth. For ex- an Earth-based clock will appear to lose on average 58.7 microseconds per Earth day with "additional periodic variations. However, even a small difference in time can cause issues for things like spacecraft docking on the moon, timing data transfers, communication, and navigation.
- 2) With the **rise in number of moon missions in future, it will be difficult to synchronize their mission operations standard with each other**, and it may lead to collisions. Thus, it is important to have Coordinated Lunar Time.

Read more-[Chandrayaan-3: Significance and Way Forward](#)

PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)- ISRO's Zero Debris Milestone

Why in the news?

ISRO's PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission successfully deployed the XPoSat satellite and converted the PSLV's last stage into the POEM-3 module, leaving no debris in Earth's orbit.

About PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)

1. The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module is a **platform** that will **help perform in-orbit experiments** using the final stage of the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**.
2. It was developed by the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
3. It was used for the first time in the PSLV-C53 mission in June 2022. ISRO had POEM orbit the earth to perform in-orbit scientific experiments with various payloads onboard.

4. How it works:

- a) POEM is **powered by solar panels** mounted on the fuel tank of the rocket's fourth stage and a lithium-ion battery.
- b) It has a **navigation, guidance, and control (NGC) system** to stabilise its altitude along with helium control thrusters.
- c) The NGC system has **four Sun sensors, a magnetometer, and gyroscopes**. It also has a telecommand system

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to communicate with the ground station.

d) It communicates to **ISRO's NavIC satellite constellation for navigation.**

5. **Earlier use of PS4 rocket junk:** ISRO first demonstrated the capability of using PS4 as an orbital platform in 2019 with the PSLV-C44 mission that injected Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2 satellites into their designated orbits. The fourth stage in that mission was kept alive as an orbital platform for space-based experiments.

Achievement of POEM-3

1. ISRO's PSLV C-58 mission successfully launched the XPoSat satellite into a 650 km orbit and converted its fourth stage into the POEM-3 module at 350 km for experiments.
2. It features nine payloads. POEM-3 completed 400 orbits and conducted several experiments over 25 days.
3. After two months, POEM-3 re-entered Earth's atmosphere on March 21, 2024, disintegrating successfully with all objectives met.

Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System

Source-This post on **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System** is based on the article "[DRDO & Indian Army conduct successful trials of indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System](#)" published in "**PIB**" on 14th April 2024.

Why in the News?

Recently, DRDO & Indian Army conducted successful trials of indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System.

About Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile Weapon System



Source: The statesman

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Aspects	Description
About	The MPATGM (Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile) Weapon System is a portable missile launcher to engage and destroy enemy tanks and armoured vehicles.
Developed by	It was indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) .
Components	MPATGM, Launcher, Target Acquisition System, and the Fire Control Unit
Features	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is lightweight and portable. Its design allows it to be easily carried and operated by a single soldier. This enhances the mobility of infantry units.2. The MPATGM system can effectively hit armored targets from a considerable distance, providing infantry with crucial anti-tank functionality on the battlefield.3. It has versatility and equipped with day/night and top-attack capabilities which enhances its effectiveness across a wide range of operational scenarios.4. It has dual mode seeker functionality which is a great value addition to the missile capability for tank warfare. <p>Note: The dual-mode seeker combines imaging IR and SAL capabilities into a single system.</p>

Read more: [Defense Research and Development Organization \(DRDO\)](#)

Hydrocarbon extraction

Why in the News?

Hydrocarbons have been the foundational elements of crucial energy resources around the globe.

What is hydrocarbon and where are they located?

1. A hydrocarbon is an organic compound made solely of **carbon and hydrogen atoms**.
2. These naturally occurring substances are the foundational elements of crucial energy resources such as crude oil, natural gas, coal, and others.
3. Hydrocarbons are primarily located in **subterranean rock formations**. Hydrocarbons are also **found in plants, animals, and their fossils**.
4. They exist in various forms such as **natural gas, coal, crude oil, and petroleum**.
5. These hydrocarbons accumulate in **reservoirs underground** when a more resistant rock type overlays a less resistant one, creating a lid that causes hydrocarbons to accumulate below it.
6. The primary source of hydrocarbons in this rocky underground is called **kerogen, which are lumps of organic matter**.

Note: The type of kerogen determines the type of hydrocarbon that is produced.

How are hydrocarbons extracted?



Figure 10. Source: The hindu

1. Location Determination: Petroleum geologists **evaluate rock porosity and permeability** to locate hydrocarbon reservoirs.

They **identify source rocks rich in kerogen**, the main hydrocarbon source, and use data-driven modeling and exploratory drilling **to estimate hydrocarbon volumes**.

2. Drilling: Drilling and reservoir engineers aim to maximize

extraction without harming the reservoir. They drill a production well, the main channel through which hydrocarbons are brought to the surface.

3. Preparation: The **plant material** is prepared by **grinding or breaking it down into smaller pieces** for increased surface area.

4. Extraction: The prepared material is placed in the extraction vessel, and the hydrocarbon solvent is passed over it to dissolve the desired compounds.

Subject-Environment

Invasive alien species threatening Natural ecosystem

Why in the news?

In order to manage the rising chital population on Ross Island (now Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island), the Andaman and Nicobar administration has sought assistance from the Wildlife Institute of India.

About Invasive Alien Species:

1. Invasive alien species (IAS) are the species **which are introduced and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threatens biological diversity**.

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2. These include **animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms**. It can influence all kinds of ecosystems.

3. **Characteristics** of Invasive Alien Species is described as “**arrive, survive and thrive.**”

These species are introduced **either through natural or human intervention**. They survive on native food resources, reproduce at a fast rate and edge out native species in the competition over resources.

4. **Example of Invasive Alien Species in India:** The list of invasive wildlife in India is dominated by certain species of fish such as the **African catfish, Nile tilapia, red-bellied piranha, and alligator gar**, and turtle species such as the red-eared slider.

5. **Impact on Flora:** In habitats where there is no competition, **invasive species can dominate the entire ecosystem**. For ex- The increased population of chital in the Andamans has affected the regeneration of native vegetation, as the deer are known to consume seeds and seedlings.

6. **Impact on Fauna:** Invasive species act as disruptors in the food chain and disturb the balance of the ecosystem. For ex- **In Keoladeo Park, Bharatpur in Rajasthan**, the African catfish has been known to prey on waterfowls and migratory birds as well.

7. **Impact on economy:** In September 2023, the IPBES reported that 37,000 alien species have been introduced globally, adding around 200 new species annually and costing **over \$423 billion each year in economic damages**. For ex- The cotton mealybug from North America has significantly impacted India's cotton yields.

Read more : [Spotted Deer](#)

Manga disease

Why in the news?

The forest department is monitoring an outbreak of mange among a pack of Asiatic wild dogs in the [Mudumalai Tiger Reserve \(MTR\)](#) in the Nilgiris.

About Manga disease

Source: The Hindu

Aspects	Details
Description	It is a skin disease of animals caused by mite infestations.
Caused by	Sarcoptes scabiei mite, which also causes human scabies.
Is it contagious?	1. They are transmitted between animals by direct contact and by objects that have been in contact with infected animals. 2. Humans can contract certain types of mange from infected dogs and can temporarily infest human skin, leading to itching and discomfort.
Symptoms	Inflammation, itching, thickening of the skin, and hair loss.
Prevention	Prevention includes maintaining a clean environment, disinfect belongings, and avoid contact with infected or stray animals.

Treatment	Treatment options aim to eliminate the mites, alleviate symptoms, and promote skin healing. Topical medications are commonly prescribed to target localized mange areas.
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About Asiatic Wild dogs

Aspects	Description
About	1) It is a member of the family Canidae and the class Mammalia . 2) Asiatic Wild dogs also known as Dhole (Cuon alpinus).
Distribution	1) It is an apex social carnivore in the tropical forests of South and Southeast Asia. 2) In India, Dholes are found in three clusters namely the Western and Eastern Ghats, central Indian landscape and North East India . 3) According to a 2020 study, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in conservation of dhole.
Habitat	Dense jungles, steppes, mountains, scrub forests, and pine forests.
Threat	Competition and disease transmission from domestic dogs are a threat to this species.
Conservation status	IUCN Status: Endangered CITES: Appendix II Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule II



Subject-Report & Indices

Glycaemic index (GI)

Why in the News?

Recently a study has found that **consuming low glycaemic index** diets might prevent the development of type 2 diabetes.

About Glycemic index (GI) and Glycemic load (GL)

Low GI foods	High GI foods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fruits ■ Grains ■ Lentils ■ Non-starchy vegetables ■ Legumes ■ Dairy products ■ Brown rice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sugar ■ Sweetened drinks ■ White polished rice ■ Potatoes ■ White bread
	

Source: The Hindu

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1. The **glycemic index (GI)** ranks **foods containing carbohydrates according to their effect on blood glucose levels** after eating.
2. **High Glycemic Index (GI) foods** are **digested and absorbed by the body quickly**, leading to a rapid spike in blood sugar levels. **For ex-** Sugary foods and beverages, white bread, potatoes, and white rice.
3. **Low and medium GI foods** are **digested more slowly, causing a more gradual increase in blood sugar levels**. **For ex-** Fruits and vegetables, pulses, and whole grains like porridge oats.

Glycemic Index and Glycemic load advantages

1. **The glycemic index (GI)** is **beneficial for individuals with type 2 diabetes** as consuming low GI foods aids in managing blood glucose levels.
2. **The glycemic load (GL)** **evaluates the quality and quantity of carbohydrates** in a particular food item and the amount of carbohydrate consumed in one serving.

Findings of the study

- a) People with the **highest Glycemic Load (GL) intake** faced greater diabetes risks than those with the lowest.
- b) The link between glycemic index (GI) and diabetes risk was notably stronger in individuals with higher body mass indexes (BMIs).

World Cybercrime Index

Why in the news?

Recently, an international team of researchers has compiled the 'World Cybercrime Index'.

About World Cybercrime Index

1. The 'World Cybercrime Index' identifies the **globe's key cybercrime hotspots** by ranking the most significant sources of cybercrime at a national level.
2. The index was developed through a collaborative effort between the **University of Oxford and UNSW Canberra**.
3. It is based on data collected from a survey involving **92 top global experts in cybercrime**, who specialize in intelligence and investigations related to cyber activities.
4. It ranks roughly 100 countries and **identifies key hotspots** according to various categories of cybercrime.
5. The five major categories of cybercrime assessed by the study were **technical products/services, attacks and extortion, Data/identity theft, Scams, cashing out/money laundering**.

6. Key findings from the World Cybercrime Index:



Figure 11. Source: University of Oxford

a) **Russia tops the list** with the highest cybercriminal threat, followed by **Ukraine, China, the USA, Nigeria, and Romania.**

b) The **United Kingdom (UK)** ranks at **number eight** in terms of cybercrime threat.

c) **India was ranked 10th in cybercrime**, mostly involving scams that trick people into making advance payments.

d) The study indicated that **certain types of cybercrime were linked to specific countries.** For ex- the U.S.A was predominantly connected with data and identity theft crimes, whereas crimes involving technical products or services frequently traced back to China.

e) The study also found that countries that are **cybercrime hubs “specialise” in particular categories.** For ex- **Russia and Ukraine are highly technical cybercrime hubs**, whereas **Nigerian cybercriminals are engaged in less technical forms of cybercrime.**

f) The worldwide **economic impact of cybercrime** is projected to **significantly increase over the next four years**, escalating from \$9.22 trillion in 2024 to \$13.82 trillion by 2028.

Read more: [Cyber attacks and Cyber Security in India](#)

Global Hepatitis Report 2024

Source-This post on **Global Hepatitis Report 2024** is based on the article **“Why is there a WHO alert on viral hepatitis?”** published in **“The Hindu”** on 15th April 2024.

Why in the News?

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the Global Hepatitis Report 2024.

About Global Hepatitis Report 2024

1. According to the report, this disease is the **second most common infectious cause** of death worldwide, claiming **1.3 million lives annually.**
2. The number of deaths attributed to viral hepatitis **rose from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022.**
3. **Hepatitis B** was responsible for **83% of these deaths**, while **hepatitis C** accounted for the remaining **17%.**
4. Each day, approximately **3,500 individuals worldwide** succumb to infections caused by **hepatitis B and C.**

5. People between the ages of 30 and 54 bear half of the chronic hepatitis B and C disease burden, with children under 18 accounting for 12% of the cases. **Men make up 58%** of all cases.

About hepatitis

Type of Hepatitis					
	A	B	C	D	E
Source of virus	feces	blood/ blood-derived body fluids	blood/ blood-derived body fluids	blood/ blood-derived body fluids	feces
Route of transmission	fecal-oral	percutaneous permucosal	percutaneous permucosal	percutaneous permucosal	fecal-oral
Chronic infection	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Prevention	pre/post- exposure immunization	pre/post- exposure immunization	blood donor screening; risk behavior modification	pre/post- exposure immunization; risk behavior modification	ensure safe drinking water

Figure 12. Source: Publichealthnotes

1. Hepatitis is an **inflammation of the liver**. It causes **liver diseases** including acute and chronic infections, liver failure, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

2. **Mode of Transmission:** Hepatitis can be spread through **infectious means** such as **viruses, contaminated food and water, and sexual contact**, as well as through **non-infectious means** like **excessive alcohol consumption, toxins, certain medications, and specific medical conditions**.

The predominant mode of **transmission for Hepatitis B** is **from mother to child**, accounting for nearly 90% of cases where the infection is passed on during

childbirth.

3. There are **five primary strains of the hepatitis virus**, identified as types **A, B, C, D, and E**. Each type causes liver disease but they vary significantly in **transmission methods, disease severity, and geographic prevalence**.

4. **Symptoms:** a) **Hepatitis B** often leads to an acute infection, manifesting symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) that can last for several weeks.

b) **Chronic Hepatitis** particularly in children, can cause lifelong liver issues, potentially leading to liver scarring, known as cirrhosis, and an increased risk of liver cancer.

c) **Hepatitis C** symptoms typically develop two to twelve weeks after exposure and can include jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal pain, fever, dark urine, pale stools, joint pain, and fatigue.

5. **Diagnosis and Treatment:** According to the report, **only 2.4% of Hepatitis B cases have been diagnosed**, and none have received treatment. In contrast, **28% of Hepatitis C cases were diagnosed**, with 21% undergoing treatment.

Hepatitis B is preventable through immunization and Hepatitis C can be effectively cured using antiviral drugs.

Subject- Schemes and Programs

Prerana Program

Why in the News?

Recently, the Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) addressed the first alumni meeting of the Prerana Program.

About Prerana Program



Figure 13. Source: prerana.education.gov.in

1. **About:** Prerana is an **experiential and inspirational learning program** for students with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation.

2. **Launched by:** **Department of School Education & Literacy**, Ministry of Education, Government of India

3. **Aim:** To offer a **meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience** to all participants and empowering them with leadership qualities.

4. Salient Features of the programme:

a) It is a **week-long residential program** for selected students of **class IX to XII**.

b) PRERANA started in the pilot phase from January to February 2024 in the Vernacular school at **Vadnagar, Mehsana, Gujarat**. The 6th batch will start from 15th April 2024.

c) In this phase, the Prerana program has been held for **five batches of 20 participants** each from five states and one Union Territory.

d) Prerana combines experiential learning with **cutting-edge technology, bridging traditional heritage with modern innovation**.

e) **The curriculum is built around nine core values:** Dignity and Humility, Valor and Courage, Hard Work and Dedication, Compassion and Service, Diversity and Unity, Integrity and Purity, Innovation and Curiosity, Faith and Trust, and Freedom and Responsibility.

f) These themes aim to instill a **deep respect for India's diverse culture** and promote the **philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family)**.

g) The day-wise program includes **yoga, mindfulness, and meditation, alongside thematic experiential learning and engaging hands-on activities**.

Evening activities will include visits to **ancient and heritage sites, inspirational film screenings, mission life creative activities, talent shows etc.** ensuring a holistic learning approach.

Subject-Defence Exercises

DUSTLIK- Military Exercise

Why in the News?

The Indian Army contingent has departed for the 5th edition of India- Uzbekistan joint military Exercise Dustlik.

About Exercise Dustlik



Source: The Financial Express

Aspects	Description
About	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan.The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 at Termez, the Republic of Uzbekistan.The last edition was conducted at Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023.
Participating Nations	India and Uzbekistan
Objectives	The aim of Exercise Dustlik is: a) to foster military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in mountainous as well as semi-urban terrain. b) to enhance tactical, technical, and procedural interoperability and strengthen defense cooperation and bilateral relations between the two participating nations.
Focus	The exercise will emphasize high physical fitness, joint planning, tactical drills, and the basics of special arms skills .