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SOURCES



**Date: 21-22 Apr. 2024**

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## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. MEA order may give relief to those who opted for Portuguese Citizenship- The Indian Express

**Relevance:** Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.

**News:**

- MEA could provide relief for people from erstwhile Portuguese territories in India (**Goa and Daman & Diu**), whose Indian passports were revoked after acquiring Portuguese citizenship.
- The Ministry of External Affairs has instructed passport authorities in the country to mandatorily issue a "**revocation order**".

**Key Highlights:**

- Authorities began revoking the passports of people from Goa, who had acquired Portuguese citizenship, for "suppressing material information" about acquiring foreign nationality.
- Government has decided to accept '**revocation certificates**' for those who have acquired Portuguese nationality as per Portuguese Nationality Law.
- According to **Portuguese law**, it offers those born in Goa before December 19, 1961 the day Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule and two future generations the option of registering as Portuguese citizens.

**Portuguese in India:**

- Portuguese India was a colonial state within the Indian Subcontinent from 1505 to 1961.
- The Portuguese established trading posts and forts along the Indian coastline, with a significant presence in Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- Their influence was limited, unlike the English who expanded their control over larger parts of India.
- In 1961, the Indian government annexed the Portuguese territories, marking the end of Portuguese rule in India.
- In 1843 the capital was shifted to **Panjim, then renamed Nova Goa**, it became the administrative seat of Portuguese India.
- In **December 1961**, the Indian military initiated an invasion of Goa.
- marked the end of **450 years** of Portuguese rule in Goa
- Merger of the Union Territories of Daman and Diu (D&D) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH), also erstwhile Portuguese territories, happened in 2019.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Portuguese Rule
- Overseas Citizens of India

#### 2. India is a top-tier security partner: Australia- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

**News:**

- India is a top-tier security partner for Australia, stated its new National Defence Strategy-2024 released last week
- **Through the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and India**, the government is continuing to prioritise practical and tangible cooperation that directly contributes to Indo-Pacific stability.

**Key highlights**

- The 2024 Integrated Investment Programme (IIP) was also released which sets out the specific defence capabilities Australia will invest in to give effect to the NDS.
- Australia will also invest in deepening our defence relationships with partners across Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as well as in the Indian Ocean and North Asia regions, the NDS said.

**India- Australia bilateral relation**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- COP26 meeting
- Mutual Recognition of Educational Qualifications

- India and Australia's relationship goes back a long way, starting with a trade office established in Sydney even before India's independence.
- There have been ups and downs, like tensions after India's nuclear tests in 1998.
- Both countries share democratic values, traditions from the British Commonwealth, and a growing economic partnership.
- There are also strong **cultural connections, with a large Indian-origin population** in Australia.
- In 2020, the countries upgraded their partnership to a "**Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**."
- This involves close cooperation on issues like climate change (COP26 meeting) and defense (joint military exercises and agreements).
- The Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Educational Qualifications (MREQ) was signed in March 2023. This will facilitate mobility of students between India and Australia.

## GS III

### 3. What are the new Green Credit Programme rules- The Hindu

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Carbon Credit
- Mission LIFE

#### News:

- The Environment Ministry issued **further guidelines** on its Green Credit Programme (GCP), after it had prescribed rules governing the first initiative.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Green Credit Programme:** It has its origin in Mission Life.
- The GCP programme presents itself as an “innovative, **market-based mechanism**” to incentivise “voluntary actions” **for environmental conservation**.
- Individuals, organizations and companies public and private would be encouraged to invest in sectors ranging from
  - Afforestation water conservation, stemming air-pollution, waste management, mangrove conservation and in return be eligible to receive ‘**green credits**’.
- An autonomous body, the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**, is in charge of administering the programme.
  - They will define methodologies to calculate ‘**green credits**’ that result from the activities prescribed.
  - They will also manage a **trading platform** whereby such credits could be traded.

#### Controversy around GCP:

- The GCP programme for afforestation says that companies can “**exchange**” their credits for “complying with compensatory afforestation, which would create **excessive deforestation** in certain parcels of Land.
- Planting trees does not automatically boost ecosystems.
- Planting the **wrong types of trees** could foster invasive species or prevent a sustainable ecosystem.
- There is also a threat that natural forests could be razed and invasive monocultures promoted.
- Finally, the GCP also says that green credits that result in **storing carbon (from trees)** may be used for carbon trading.
- This again is **controversial** as the math equating these activities is not clear.

#### Government response:

- States must rely on to calculate what it would cost to restore a degraded forest landscape.
- Preference would be given to **indigenous species**
- companies would not be able to offset all their obligations under compensatory afforestation using green credits, but could claim a portion of it.

#### 4. IRDAI removes age bar for buying health insurance- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

**News:**

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has **removed the age limit** for purchasing health insurance policies,

**Key Highlights:**

- Earlier, there was an **age limit of 65 years** to buy new health insurance policies.
- Aimed at bringing in extended health benefits to senior citizens
  - and caters to diverse demographic groups, including children and maternity needs.
- Companies are encouraged to develop tailored products to meet specific age-related requirements, fostering a more **inclusive healthcare ecosystem**.

**IRDAI:**

- It is a statutory body under the IRDA Act 1999 and is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**.
- It is also a regulatory body created with the aim of protecting the interests of insurance customers.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), in its **'Vision Insurance for all'** by 2047, has allotted states and union territories to every insurer to increase insurance penetration in India.
- IRDAI is also planning to launch **Bima Trinity** - Bima Sugam, Bima Vistar, Bima Vaahaks - in collaboration with general and life insurance firms to make insurance activities better.
- Bima Sugam:** It is a unified platform for insurers and distributors. It simplifies policy purchases, service requests, and claims settlement
- Bima Vistar:** It is a bundled policy that covers life, health, property, and accidents, ensures quick claim payouts.
- Bima Vaahaks:** It is a women-centric workforce operating at the Gram Sabha level.

**Economic Survey 2022-23:**

- India's insurance market is poised to emerge as one of the fastest growing markets globally in the coming decade.
- As per the IRDAI, insurance penetration in India increased from 3.76% in 2019-20 to 4.20% in 2020-21, registering a **growth of 11.70%**.

**Challenges Related to Insurance Sector**

- Need for Complete Digitalization
- Lower Adoption Rate in People
- Claims Process Slow

##### Prelims Takeaway

- IRDAI
- Bima Trinity

#### 5. Net direct tax collections exceed 2023-24 target- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

**News:**

- India's net **direct tax** collections grew **17.7%** in 2023-24 to hit ₹19.58 lakh crore
- Marginally surpassing the **revised estimates** for the year
- Surge in personal income taxes whose share of the tax kitty rose to 53.3% from 50.06%
- However, the corporate taxes' contribution dipped to 46.5% from 49.6%.

**Direct tax:**

- A direct tax is a tax that a **person or organization pays** directly to the imposing Government.
- There are various types of Direct Taxes like Income Tax, Property Tax etc., however the important Direct taxes are:

##### Prelims Takeaway

- CBDT
- Direct Taxes

- **Income Tax:** Income tax is levied on one's earnings in a financial year from 1 April and 31 March. Tax slabs are the brackets that determine the tax to be paid based on the annual income.
- **Corporate Tax:** Imposed on net income of a company registered in India under the Companies Act 1956. It is also an income tax, due to its large contribution to the income tax, it is shown in a separate head.
- **Minimum Alternate Tax:** Aimed at bringing those companies under tax net which try to escape corporate tax or pay very low tax by using provisions of the tax laws.
- **Equalization Levy:** It was introduced in the Finance Act, 2016 as a measure of tax evasion. It is levied on foreign companies over cross-border digital transactions
- **Security Transaction Tax (STT):** It is a direct tax charged on purchase and sale of securities that are listed on the recognized stock exchanges in India.

#### Significance of Direct tax:

- **Equity:** Direct taxes like income tax, wealth tax, etc. are based on the principle of ability to pay.
- **Progressive:** Usually direct taxation is progressive in effect, taxes increase with rise in Income.
- **Productive:** Direct taxes are elastic and productive. Revenue from direct taxes increases or decreases automatically with the change in the national income or wealth of the country.

#### Government Initiatives to Improve Direct Taxes:

- **Concessional Rates:** For Personal Income Tax - The Finance Act, 2020 has provided an option to individuals and cooperatives to pay income tax at concessional rates .
- **Vivad se Vishwas Scheme:** Under Vivad se Vishwas, declarations for settling pending tax disputes are currently being filed.
- **Transparent Taxation platform:** It is aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.

## 6. The mpox virus uses a 'genomic accordion' to evolve and infect humans

**Relevance:** Health

**News:**

- The mpox family of viruses is known to be able to evade selective evolutionary pressures.
- In a recent study, scientists reported the part of the mpox genome where such changes happen.

**Highlights:**

- poxvirus Mpox was in the headlines after a rapidly expanding global outbreak in 2022-2023.
  - The virus was previously called '**monkeypox**' after a spillover event in a research facility involving monkeys in **1958**.
  - However, researchers have identified mpox in many sporadic outbreaks **among humans**.
- Without immediate intervention, the outbreak has the potential to spread rapidly across national, and even continental, boundaries and come out as another global outbreak.
  - To mitigate this emerging danger rigorous genomic investigations and coordinated public health efforts are required for world's health security.

**Mpox Virus:**

- Mpox (previously monkeypox) is a viral illness caused by the mpox virus, a species of the genus **Orthopoxvirus**. Two different clades exist: **clade I and clade II**
- Mpox is treated with **supportive care**. In some circumstances Vaccines and therapeutics developed for smallpox approved for use in some countries can be used for mpox.
- Due to a mpox outbreak in 2022 in more than 118 countries **World Health Organisation (WHO) declared it as a public health emergency**.
  - The outbreak was due to one clade (strains of the virus descended from a common ancestor) — called **IIB**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Small pox
- Mpox virus

## 7. Consumer-oriented sectors on the slow lane to recovery in FY2024-25 - The Hindu

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

**News:**

- Consumer-oriented sectors have been struggling most of last year with rural demand refusing to pick up.
- However, the last quarter of FY24 saw a slight narrowing of the gap between rural and urban demand, and FY25 may be better than last year but the recovery is going to be uphill.

**Rural recovery slow**

- During most of FY24, FMCG companies were focused on margins and there were several rounds of price hikes taken during the early part of the year.
- Rural demand and recovery dominated the conversations of most companies but that recovery is yet to happen in a big way.
- The elevated interest rates, as well as higher food inflation kept rural demand subdued for most of FY24.
- Rural consumers spent more on non-food than food products with non-food categories rising 8.7% compared with 3.8% for food.

**Auto sector**

- The automobile sector has been a mixed bag with 2-wheeler and sport utility vehicles sales showing good demand while that of commercial vehicles and tractors lagged.
- New products, pricing, financing, interest rates, economic growth and the monsoon will drive sales in the current fiscal year.
- The dip in discretionary spending is expected to have an impact on automobile sales and if the Reserve Bank of India keeps the interest rates at the current level of 6.5%
  - it would affect price-sensitive entry level vehicle sales which are already subdued.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Budget
- Industrial Sector

## 8. Fourth global mass coral bleaching triggered: What are corals and why are they important?- Indian Express

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

**News:**

- The **fourth global mass coral bleaching** event has been triggered by extraordinary ocean temperatures, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said
- This could have **serious consequences for ocean life and millions of people** who rely on reefs for food, jobs, and coastal defence.

**Key highlights**

- Corals are tiny sea creatures that live together in massive colonies, building undersea structures called reefs.
- These reefs are like underwater rainforests teeming with life.
- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's biggest, stretching for over 2,300 kilometers.
- Reefs are vital for healthy oceans.
- They provide food and shelter for countless fish and other marine animals.
- They also protect coastlines from waves and storms.
- Sadly, rising water temperatures threaten coral reefs.
- When stressed, corals expel colorful algae living inside them, turning them white. This is called bleaching.
- Bleached corals are more likely to die.
- Corals are tiny animals that build large reefs.
- Coral reefs are vital for marine life and coastal protection.
- Rising water temperatures threaten coral reefs through bleaching.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Coral
- Great barrier reef

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. On the fall in household savings - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Issues related to savings and investment in the economy.

**News:**

- Decline in household savings is caused by a drastic reduction in net financial savings as the household net financial savings to GDP ratio attained a four-decade low.

**Highlights:**

- Net financial savings** of the household is the difference between gross financial savings and borrowing.
- The sharp reduction in household net financial savings in 2022-23 has been associated with an overall fall in household savings despite marginal recovery in physical savings.
- Household net financial savings in general can be potentially reduced by at least three distinct factors:
  - First, households mostly finance their additional consumption expenditure by increasing their borrowing or depleting their gross financial savings.
    - This factor hardly played any role in the sharp reduction in gross financial savings in **2022-23** as the **consumption to GDP ratio** remained largely unchanged between **2021-22 (60.95%)** and **2022-23 (60.93%)**.
  - Second, when households finance higher tangible (physical) investment by increasing their borrowing or depleting their gross financial savings.
    - This played only a limited role. While the gross financial savings to **GDP ratio declined by 3 percentage points (7.3% to 5.3%)** in **2022-23**, **household physical investment to GDP ratio increased only by 0.3 percentage point (12.6% to 12.9%)** during the same period.
  - Third, when interest payment of a household increases, households can meet the increased burden through borrowing or through depleting gross financial savings **thereby inducing a reduction in net financial savings**.
- The share of household borrowing in **household (disposable) income** registered a **sharp spike in 2022-23**.
  - This was **associated with a decline** in the physical savings to financial savings ratio.
- In recent period the **financial wealth to GDP ratio** of the household has registered a **sharp decline**
  - along with a rise in leverage of the household as indicated by the **rise in debt to net worth ratio**
- the growth rate in **private final consumption expenditure** during **2023-24** registered a **sharp decline as compared to 2022-23**.

**Implication of higher debt burden for macroeconomy:**

- Debt repayment and financial fragility:** As the interest payments from the households are the interest income of the financial sector.
  - If households fail to meet their debt repayment commitments, then it reduces the income of the financial sector
  - This in turn can have a cascading effect on the macroeconomy if the financial sector responds by reducing their credit disbursement to the non-financial sector.
- Consumption demand:** Reduction in household wealth can lead to lower consumption expenditure as they may attempt to preserve their wealth position by increasing savings.
  - Higher household debt** can also **reduce consumption expenditure** in at least two ways:
    - if **higher household leverage** is perceived as an indicator of **increasing default risk**, then banks may **reduce the credit disbursement**.
    - higher debt** can **reduce consumption expenditure** by increasing the interest burden

### 10. Preparing India for water stress, climate resilience - The Hindu

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

**News:**

- As the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts a hotter summer and longer heat waves from April to June India must also prepare for water stress.
- This Earth Day (April 22) should be a wake-up call.



## Key highlights

- India houses 18% of the world's population on 2.4% of the earth's surface area and has just 4% of global freshwater resources.
- Nearly half its rivers are polluted, and 150 of its primary reservoirs are currently at just 38% of their total live storage capacity.
- Further, it is the largest user of groundwater in the world.
- And three-quarters of India's districts are hotspots for extreme climate events.
- Against this backdrop, India has invested heavily in disaster preparedness, but the nature of climatic shocks will continue to change.

## Water flows through the economy

- Water connects our hydrological, food, and energy systems, impacting millions of people.
- But this sector that employs the most is increasingly climate vulnerable.
- The India Employment Report 2024 shows that agriculture still employs around 45% of the population and absorbs most of the country's labour force.
- At the same time, a Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) study showed that monsoon rainfall is changing patterns in India,
- But this increased rainfall is frequently coming from short-duration, heavy rain, affecting crop sowing, irrigation and harvesting.
- Making the agricultural sector more resilient to climatic and water stresses matters for jobs, growth and sustainability.
- Green hydrogen, seen as a crucial pillar for decarbonising industry and long-distance transport sectors, is produced using water and electricity sourced from renewables.

## Disaster

- According to the UN World Water Development Report 2020, almost 75% of natural disasters in the last two decades were related to water.
- According to CEEW analysis, between 1970 and 2019, the number of flood associated events (such as landslides, thunderstorms and cloud bursts) increased by up to 20 times in India.
- Freshwater, one of the nine planetary boundaries, has been transgressed (2023 study).

## The ingredients of water security

- Attaining this water security will need a mix of the right policies, judicious use of water, including reuse of urban wastewater, and finance for adapting to a changing world.
- First, effective water governance needs policies that recognise its interactions with food and energy systems.
- However, CEEW and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) analysis shows that although India has adopted several policies, most do not recognise this nexus while planning or at the implementation stage.
- The National Water Mission targets increasing water use efficiency by 20% by 2025.
- Similarly, the Atal Mission on Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 calls for reducing non-revenue water, which is lost before it reaches the end user, to less than 20% in urban local bodies.
- Market innovations such as India's Green Credit Programme have the potential to partially bridge the adaptation funding gap by encouraging investment in wastewater treatment
  - desalination plants, and agricultural extension services.
- Considering the investments in India under Corporate Social Responsibility (between 2014-15 and 2020-21), there is a potential to leverage about ₹12,000 crore worth of investments every year.

## Conclusion

- It is possible to make a start by pursuing more coherence in water, energy and climate policies, creating data-driven baselines to increase water savings, and enabling new financial instruments and markets for adaptation investments. A water-secure economy is the first step towards a climate-resilient one.

## Quick Look

### 1. Antihistamine

- Antihistamines are used to treat short-lived allergic reactions, like a sneezing fit or an itch.
- These are common drugs that can be purchased without a prescription.
- Antihistamine drugs act against the activity of the histamine receptor, proteins that bind histamine compound present in body

### 2. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY)

- September 2018, the scheme covers over nearly 40% of the population targeted towards poorest and the vulnerable.
- It was launched as a second component of the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme.
- It aimed to offer medical coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable families.

### 3. National Civil Services Day

- The origin dates back to the speech by the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- On April 21st, 1947, Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Metcalf House in Delhi and referred to the civil servants and the newly created Indian Administrative Service as the steel frame of India.
- The first celebration was held on April 21, 2006, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi and ever since the day has been celebrated.
- This day is celebrated to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and commitment of officials to serve the nation.
- This day is an opportunity to appreciate the civil workers in promoting social justice, maintaining law and order, and ensuring good governance.

### 4. Panhala Fort

- It is located in Maharashtra and occupies a prime place in the history of this state.
- Locally, the site was known as the abode of serpents and traditionally associated with the sage Parashar.
- It is strategically placed in proximity to the trade routes connecting the Sahyadri mountains, the Deccan plateau, and the Konkan coast, the fort became centre of interest for several dynasties.
- The antiquity of the fort goes back to the Shilahara dynasty ruler Bhoja of 11th century CE.

### 5. Bitcoin halving

- The halving refers to an alteration in the foundational blockchain technology of Bitcoin, aimed at decreasing the pace of generating new bitcoins.
- Since its creation by the pseudonymous figure Satoshi Nakamoto, Bitcoin has been structured to possess a finite supply of 21 million tokens.
- The process of halving will persist until 2041, by which time all Bitcoins will have been mined.

## 6. World Heritage Day

- It is also referred to as International Day for Monuments and it is observed on April 18.
- Objective: To raise awareness about monuments and other sites which form a part of our history and culture.
- In 1982, The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) proposed the idea of observing World Heritage Day on April 18 every year. The following year, the proposal was approved at UNESCO's General Conference.
- Theme of 2024: The theme for this year's World Heritage Day is - Discover and experience diversity.

## 7. Longevity India Initiative

- It is a project focused on efforts to extend human 'healthspan' and tackle ageing-related challenges.
- It has also started a large-scale clinical study that will involve researchers from multiple IISc departments, clinicians, industry, philanthropists and civil society.
- It seeks to enhance the understanding of ageing through both fundamental and applied research, and to develop solutions that can improve quality of life.
- It will leverage advanced research to develop interventions that can help manage age-related diseases more effectively, with an emphasis on promoting healthy ageing across India.



## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. Consider the following Statements**

1. First Portuguese fort was established at Cannanore.
2. Goa was captured from the Bijapur Sultanate by Francis de Almeida.
3. Alfonso Albuquerque started The Blue Water Policy (cartage system)

**How many of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q2. Consider the following pairs :**

**Joint Military Exercises : participating countries**

1. **Tiger Triumph:** India and the US
2. **Yudh Abhyas :** India and the US
3. **AUSTRALIND:** India and Australia

**How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q3. Consider the following Statements regarding Green Credit Programme:**

**Assertion:** Individuals, organizations and companies public and private would be encouraged to invest in various sectors to receive green credits.

**Reason:** The Ministry of Commerce will manage the Green Credits of Private Organisations.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

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

**Q4. Consider the following Statements regarding Insurance Sector-**

1. India is projected to be the 6th biggest Insurance Market by 2032.
2. Penetration of the Insurance Sector has been declining in recent years.
3. 76% FDI under automatic route is allowed for Insurance Intermediaries.

**How many of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q5. The Number of Taxpayers and Tax Revenue can be increased by**

1. Decreasing Direct Tax Rates
2. Increasing the Tax Base
3. Ensuring Tax Compliance of People

**How many of the above options is/are correct?**

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

**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding mpox virus:**

1. No sporadic outbreak has been seen in humans.
2. It is a RNA virus belonging to the Poxviridae family.
3. Vaccines and medications for mpox virus has been developed recently.

**How many of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q7. Consider the following about Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)**

1. It is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every 5 years.
2. It is designed to collect information on the consumption of goods and services by households.
3. The data collected in HCES is also utilized for deriving various other macroeconomic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty rates, and Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).

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

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

**Q8. Consider the following statements about coral reefs:**

1. Coral reefs are formed by colonies of marine plants.
2. Warmer sea temperatures and pollution are major threats to coral reefs.
3. Coral reefs provide habitat for a wider variety of marine life than tropical rainforests.

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Q9. Consider the following statements**

1. Net financial savings of the household is the difference between gross financial savings and interest rate.
2. In the last decade, household net financial savings to GDP ratio has been steadily increasing.
3. Private final consumption expenditure during 2023-24 registered a sharp decline as compared to 2022-23.

**How many of the above statement is/are correct?**

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

**Q10. Consider the following statements**

1. India has an ambitious Green Hydrogen Mission that aims to produce 5 million tonnes of the fuel annually from 2030.
2. The technology to use electricity to draw hydrogen from water electrolysis has been around since the 1800s.
3. rare earth minerals, a market dominated by China will play a critical role in scaling up electrolyser production capacity.

**How many of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?**

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

## Prelims Track Answer

### Answer 1 Option D is correct

#### Explanation:

- 1503-First Portuguese fort was established at Cochin (now known as Kochi). **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- 1510- Goa is captured from the Bijapur Sultanate by Alfonso Albuquerque. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Francis de Almeida's dream was for the Portuguese to rule the Indian Ocean. The Blue Water Policy (cartage system) was his policy. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

### Answer 2 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- Yudh Abhyas is an annual bilateral military exercise between the Indian and United States armies.
- It focuses on enhancing interoperability and cooperation in counterterrorism and disaster relief operations.
- Indra is a bilateral military exercise between India and Russia.
- The exercise focuses on joint training in counterterrorism, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance operations. **Hence all options are correct**
- The Indian Armed Forces contingent of 81 personnel departed for Australia today to take part in the second edition of Joint Military Exercise AUSTRALIND-23.

### Answer 3 Option C is Correct

#### Explanation:

- Individuals, organizations and companies public and private would be encouraged to invest in sectors ranging from
  - Afforestation water conservation, stemming air-pollution, waste management, mangrove conservation and in return be eligible to receive 'green credits'. **Hence Statement 1 is correct**
- An autonomous body, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), is in charge of administering the programme. It is under the then Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change. **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.**

### Answer 4 Option A is Correct

#### Explanation:

- India is projected to be the 6th biggest Insurance Market by 2032. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Penetration of the Insurance Sector has been **increasing** in recent years. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- 100% FDI under automatic route is allowed for Insurance Intermediaries. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

### Answer 5 Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

#### The Number of Taxpayers and Tax Revenue can be increased by

- Increasing Direct Tax Rates, which could increase the Tax collection of the Government. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**
- Increasing the Tax Base, to include more people into Paying Taxes. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**
- Ensuring Tax Compliance of People, to make sure the tax is paid in accordance with laws. **Hence Statement 3 is correct**

### Answer 6 Option D is correct.

#### Explanation:

- The virus was previously called 'monkeypox' after a spillover event in a research facility involving monkeys in 1958. However, researchers have identified mpox in many sporadic outbreaks among humans. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Mpox virus is an enveloped double-stranded DNA virus of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Mpox is treated with supportive care. In some circumstances Vaccines and therapeutics developed for smallpox approved for use in some countries can be used for mpox. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

## Answer 7 Option C is correct

### Explanation

- It is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every 5 years.
- It is designed to collect information on the consumption of goods and services by households.
- The data collected in HCES is also utilized for deriving various other macroeconomic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty rates, and Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).
- NITI Aayog has stated that the latest consumer expenditure survey indicated that poverty has come down to 5% in the country.
- The findings of the last HCES, conducted in 2017-18 were not released after the government cited “data quality” issues. **ALL statements are correct**

## Answer 8 Option B is correct

### Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect.** Coral reefs are not formed by plants. They are built by colonies of tiny marine animals called coral polyps, which belong to the phylum Cnidaria. These polyps secrete calcium carbonate to create a hard exoskeleton, which builds up over time to form the reef structure.
- **Statement 2 is Correct.** Rising sea temperatures and pollution are significant threats to coral reefs. Increased water temperature can cause coral bleaching, where the symbiotic algae living within the polyps are expelled, leaving the coral vulnerable and often leading to death. Pollution can also harm coral growth and survival.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** Coral reefs are incredibly biodiverse ecosystems, providing habitat for a vast array of marine life, including fish, invertebrates, algae, and more. The complex structures of coral reefs create a variety of niches for different species, supporting a much wider variety of life than tropical rainforests.

## Answer 9 Option A is correct.

### Explanation:

- Net financial savings of the household is the difference between gross financial savings and borrowing. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The household net financial savings to GDP ratio attained a four-decade low. The sharp reduction in household net financial savings in 2022-23 has been associated with an overall fall in household savings despite marginal recovery in physical savings. **Statement 2 incorrect.**
- Private final consumption expenditure, which is defined as the expenditure incurred by the resident households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) on final consumption of goods and services, whether made within or outside the economic territory, registered a sharp decline during 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23. **Statement 3 is correct.**

## Answer 10 Option D is correct

### Explanation

- India has an ambitious Green Hydrogen Mission that aims to produce 5 million tonnes of the fuel annually from 2030.
- The project aims to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore and avert 50 million metric tonnes of GHG emissions.
- However, several barriers must be overcome before this green fuel becomes commercially viable.
- rare earth minerals — a market dominated by China — will play a critical role in scaling up electrolyser production capacity.
- The technology to use electricity to draw hydrogen from water — electrolysis — has been around since the 1800s. **Hence all statements are correct**



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