

23 Apr 2023: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis



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A. GS 1 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

B. GS 2 Related

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Hakki Pikki: caught in Sudan's civil war

Syllabus: *Effect of politics of different countries on India's interest.*

Mains: *Effect of Sudan's war on the Hakki Pikki tribe.*

Prelims: *Hakki Pikki Tribe.*

Context: Hakki Pikki (a tribe of bird catchers of Karnataka) is caught in a civil war in Sudan.

Details

- The members of the Hakki Pikki community are caught in the civil war in Sudan. They are stranded in the capital city of Khartoum and in the Darfur region in West Sudan.
 - Hakki Pikki is the nomadic tribe of Karnataka.
 - They **do not** feature in the list of [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#).
- Bird catching is the traditional occupation of the Hakki Pikki community.
- However, with the loss of dense forests, it became difficult for them to survive. They also lack education and vocational training.
- As a result, they migrated to Africa to use their native wisdom to earn a living.
- It should be noted that Africa has its own indigenous medicine and these herbal healers from India found acceptance in the region, especially after the pandemic.
- The representatives from the tribe also visited Gabon and Cameroon (apart from Sudan) to promote forest-based items.
- The Darfur conflict has left millions of people stranded and has destroyed basic utilities like hospitals. This provided a great business opportunity for the Hakki Pikki community to sell herbal solutions.
- As the Sudan crisis is worsening, these members demand relocation from Sudan either back to India or neighboring places like Chad or Ethiopia.

Nut Graf: *The Hakki Pikki tribe that migrated to Sudan in search of better livelihood opportunities is caught in a civil war in Sudan. They demand their safe return to India.*

Category: SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. Stray dog population control is dogged by bad science

Syllabus: *Issues Relating to Development & Management of Social Sector-Children and Health.*

Mains: *Various issues associated with the stray dog crisis in India.*

Prelims: *Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.*

Context: There have been many attacks by stray dogs on people, especially children.

Details

- There is a rise in the number of cases of dog bites among children, especially poor and rural children.
- It is argued that the main culprit behind it is the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2001 which were introduced by the Ministry of Culture. It is now replaced by ABC Rules 2023.
- It should be noted that dogs are incredibly fecund animals, and reproduce at a high rate.
- The hunting behavior of dogs can result in severe injuries and even deaths, specifically among the young and elderly population.
- However, dogs are also a leading cause of harm to wildlife and cause immense biodiversity loss.
- The fear of dogs deprives ordinary citizens of their right to life, free movement, and a safe environment.
- Despite all the negatives, it should also be remembered that having harsh policies to restrict the dog population is also cruel.

ABC programme is destined to fail

The main culprit behind stray dogs attacking/killing people is the Animal Birth Control Rules first introduced in 2001

■ The ABC programme aims to implement a technique called 'catch-neuter-vaccinate-release' to control populations of free-ranging dogs and cats

■ Despite 20 years of this policy and hundreds of crores of rupees being spent, the dog population in India is now more than 65 million

■ In most cases, only a small fraction of the population is sterilised by municipalities, and in many cases, the programme itself is discontinued after a few cycles

■ Studies show that nearly 90% of the dog population needs to be sterilised over a short period of time to achieve a sustained population reduction over a 10-15-year period

■ The ABC Rules 2023 bizarrely require people to feed dogs, wherever they may be. Reckless feeding tends to congregate dogs and leads to pack formation, territoriality and aggression



Flawed: The ABC programme is unimplementable from a scientific, logistic and economic perspective

even amongst sterilised dogs

■ Strict pet ownership laws, a ban on irresponsible feeding in public places, and encouraging adoption and long-term sheltering of homeless dogs will result in win-win solutions

Source: The Hindu

Nut Graf: It is argued that the Animal Birth Control Rule 2023 is backed by bad science and has several flaws. The rules should be revisited keeping in mind the rights of both humans and animals.

C. GS 3 Related

Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. 'Optimistic' space policy lays out plans to privatise sector

Syllabus: Development in the field of Space.

Mains: Indian Space Policy 2023.

Prelims: Indian Space Policy 2023.

Context: Indian Space Policy 2023 was recently launched.

Details

- The Indian Space Policy 2023 has attracted measured optimism from India's private startup sector.
- The policy aims to:
 - Augment space capabilities
 - Enable, encourage, and develop a flourishing commercial presence in space
 - Use space as a driver of technology development and derived benefits in allied areas
 - Pursue international relations, and create an ecosystem for effective implementation of space applications among all stakeholders.
- The private sector participation will be limited to Indian companies, Moreover, [Foreign Direct Investment](#) via automatic route is currently unresolved.
- One of the distinct features of the policy is enabling open data access from [ISRO's](#) remote sensing satellite.
 - According to it, satellite images with a ground sample distance (GSD) greater than five metres would be made freely available.

Four Entities of Indian Space Policy 2023

- **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre)**
 - IN-SPACe is made a "single window" clearance and authorization agency for establishing launch pads, buying and selling satellites, disseminating high-resolution data, authorization agency for space launches, etc.
- **New Space India Limited (NSIL)**
 - [NSIL](#) will be responsible for commercializing space technologies.
 - It will manufacture, lease, and procure space components.

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**

- It will develop standards for the space industry, work with academia to widen the space ecosystem, and maintain an edge in space infrastructure and transportation, human spaceflight, etc.
- It will focus on research in outer space.

- **Department of Space**

- It is the nodal department for developing space technologies and ensuring coordination with different countries.
- It will formulate overall policy guidelines.

Nut Graf: *The New Space Policy 2023 has clearly laid out the roles and responsibilities of all the associated entities. It aims to enhance the private sector participation in space technologies.*

D. GS 4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials

Nothing here for today!!!

F. Prelims Facts

1. ISRO launches PSLV-C55 with two Singapore satellites

Syllabus: *GS 3- Science and Technology.*

Prelims: *PSLV-C55.*

- ISRO's PSLV-C55 took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 22nd April 2023.
- It carried two Singapore satellites TeLEOS-2 as the primary satellite and Lumelite-4 as a co-passenger satellite.
 - TeLEOS-2 carried a Synthetic Aperture Radar payload. It is intended to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies in Singapore.
 - Lumelite-4 is a technology demonstration nano-satellite. It is an advanced 12U satellite built for the technological demonstration of the High-Performance Space-borne VHF Data Exchange System (VDES).
- PSLV-C55 is a dedicated commercial mission of New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- It is the 57th flight of PSLV and the 16th mission using the PSLV Core Alone configuration (PSLV-CA).

- The mission uses the spent PS4 stage as an orbital platform. Notably, this is the third time that PS4 will be used as an experimental platform after satellite separation.

2. To cut at root of narcotics, Centre plans drive against poppy, cannabis

Syllabus: GS2- Polity and Governance.

Mains: Government policies and interventions.

Prelims: Narcotics Control Act.

- In the direction of making India “drug-free” by 2047, the Ministry of Home Affairs intends to link recovery and usage of narcotics and banned substances to the annual appraisal report of a District Superintendent of Police of the area.
- This will fix responsibility and bring accountability.
- As per the [Narcotics Control Bureau \(NCB\)](#), approximately 35592 acres of poppy cultivation and around 82691 acres of cannabis were destroyed in India in the last three years.
- Some of the states where the crops were destroyed are Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, etc.
- Manipur government introduced an alternative livelihood scheme for farmers growing poppy illegally. It also provided cash incentives to destroy illegal crops.
- Moreover, drones were used to analyze the destruction of illegal crops in remote regions.
- About 2412 persons (including 224 foreigners) were arrested by the NCB in the last three years.
- The Union Home Ministry encourages liberal implementation of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act, 1988.
 - It has a provision to detain a person for up to two years without a court’s intervention.
 - The orders can be passed by the Central/State government or any officer of the Central government not below the rank of Joint Secretary.
- Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF) have been created by all the states of the country.
- In 2022, NCB conducted a financial investigation for 33 cases in which property worth ₹17 crores was frozen.
- The National Narcotics Coordination portal highlights the source and destination of the drugs, maintaining information up to the district level.
- NIDAAN database stores the photographs, fingerprints, court orders, information, and details of all suspects and convicts arrested under the [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances \(NDPS\) Act](#).
- Moreover, special training is provided to public prosecutors to deal with such cases.

G. Tidbits

1. Pushkaralu festival returns to the Ganga after a gap of 12 years

- The Pushkaralu festival began in Varanasi on 22nd April 2023.
- It is a twelve-day festival celebrated by Telugus in which pilgrims worship the Ganga and their ancestors.
- It is being organized after a gap of 12 years.
- A large number of Telugus will visit Varanasi. Special trains have been arranged for the easy conveyance of the pilgrims from South India.

2. Bhoota Kola

- *Kola or Nema* is a fierce dance accompanied by drums, music, and other rituals.
- It is performed to invoke the spirit of nature as Tuluvas (people who speak the Tulu language) believe in animism.
- The traditional right to perform the kola belongs to the Nalike and Parava tribes of the region.
- A Bhoota Kola season begins in January and extends to May.
- Boota Kola is performed in the open air. It is a ritual performance that begins at the night and is carried on till the early hours of the morning.
- It comes in the forms of Panchuruli, Kallurutti, Koragajja, etc.
- It is originally from the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka and the northern parts of the Kasaragod district, Kerala.
- It is similar to Kerala's [Theyyam](#).
- The trained performer of Bhoota Kola in a possessed state is revered as the manifestation of God.
- Costume of Boota Kola:
 - It is not as strikingly colorful as those of the Theyyam.
 - It is made of intricately woven palm leaves.
 - The face painting is elaborate (similar to Theyyam).
- The performance gained popularity from a movie named *Kantara*.



Source: The Hindu

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. With respect to Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), which of the following statements is/are correct? (Level-Moderate)

1. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals of the Ministry of Health.
2. Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras are opened to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.
3. A medicine is priced on the principle of a maximum of 25% of the average price of the top three brands of the said medicine.

Options:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is not correct: It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Janaushadhi Kendras or dedicated outlets are opened under the scheme to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.
- Statement 3 is not correct: The procured generic medicines are sold at 50% to 90% lesser prices as compared to the market prices of branded medicines.

Q2. Which of the following statements is/are correct? (Level- Easy)

1. The Indian Ballistic Missile Defence Program is an initiative that was launched after the Kargil War.
2. Exo-atmospheric interception means the missile fired by Indian testing agencies had destroyed the incoming enemy ballistic missile within the Earth's atmosphere.

Options:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both
- D. None

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: It was launched in 2000 after the Kargil War.
- Statement 2 is not correct: Endo-atmospheric interception means the missile fired by Indian testing agencies had destroyed the incoming enemy ballistic missile within the Earth's atmosphere. Whereas exo-atmospheric interception means outside the Earth's atmosphere at a higher altitude.

Q3. Consider the following statements: (Level- Difficult)

1. Tamralipta was a port city located on the coast of the Arabian Sea.
2. During the Gupta dynasty, Tamralipta was the main emporium, serving as a point of departure for trade with Ceylon, Java, and China.
3. The Chinese pilgrim Faxian visited the city in the 5th century CE, and Xuanzang visited it in the 7th century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is not correct: Tamralipta or Tamralipti was a port city located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.
- Statement 2 is correct: During the Gupta dynasty, Tamralipta was the main emporium, serving as a point of departure for trade with Ceylon, Java, and China.

- Statement 3 is correct: The Chinese pilgrim Faxian visited the city in the 5th century CE, and Xuanzang visited it in the 7th century.

Q4. What is Anorexia nervosa? (Level- Difficult)

- A. It is a complex, chronic disease with abnormal or excessive fat accumulation.
- B. It involves getting up and walking around while in a state of sleep.
- C. It is an eating disorder that causes people to weigh less.
- D. It is a condition when the thyroid gland doesn't make enough thyroid hormone.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Anorexia nervosa is an eating disorder causing people to obsess about weight and weigh less.

Q5. Which one of the following is also called Stranger Gas? (Level- Easy)

- A. Argon
- B. Neon
- C. Xenon
- D. Nitrous oxide

Answer: C

Explanation:

Xenon is called the stranger gas because it belongs to the noble gas group, whose elements do not react with anything to form compounds.

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. [The Indian Space Policy 2023 has been approved by the Indian Cabinet Committee on Security. What do you understand by mean open space policy? Discuss its advantages and potential drawbacks.](#) (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-3; Science and Technology]
2. [India's proximity to the two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same?](#) (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-3; Internal Security]