

**Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day**

- ❖ The Governor plays a crucial role in the Indian federal structure as a bridge between the Union and the States. Critically analyze the constitutional role of the Governor and its implications for federalism in India. Discuss recent controversies related to the Governor's role and suggest measures to strengthen cooperative federalism. [BPSC General Studies II Section I: 38 marks]
- ❖ Critically analyze the socio-economic backwardness of Bihar. Discuss the key initiatives undertaken by the state government in recent years to address these challenges. Highlight the areas of progress and the persistent issues that require further policy attention. BPSC General Studies Section II [19+19 marks]

**Bihar Special**

**Prakash Utsav**

**Why in the news?**

Prakash Utsav will be held from 4th January to 6th January, 2024 at Takht Shri Harimandir Sahib in Patna City of Bihar.

- ❖ Objective: To mark the 358th birth anniversary of the 10th and last Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.
- ❖ The Takht Shri Harimandir Sahib is the birthplace of the founder of the Khalasa Panth Guru Gobind Singh.



**National Affairs**

**Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025**

**Why in the news?**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 on 4th January, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.

- ❖ It will be held from 4 to 9 January, 2025.
- ❖ Theme: 'Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047'
- ❖ Motto: "गांव बढ़े, तो देश बढ़े".



❖ Objective of Mahotsav:

- To celebrate Rural India's entrepreneurial spirit and cultural heritage.
- To promote economic stability and financial security among rural populations, with a special focus on North-East India, by addressing financial inclusion and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

**About the Mahotsav:**

- ❖ It aims to enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and foster innovation within rural communities through various discussions, workshops and master-classes.
- ❖ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, under the aegis of Department of Financial Services, is organizing this mega conclave cum exhibition

**Economy**

**Revision of WPI Base Year**

**Why in the news?**

The Government of India has decided to constitute a Working Group for base revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from base 2011-12 to 2022-23.

- ❖ The 18-member working group will be headed by NITI Aayog Member Ramesh Chand.

- It has been asked to submit its final report to the Office of the Economic Adviser within 18 months of issue of this notification.

❖ Reason for revision in base year:

- The revision of the base year helps in presenting a more realistic picture of the price situation in the country.

❖ Terms of Reference of the Working Group:

- To suggest the commodity basket of WPI and PPI with base year 2022-23 in the light of structural changes in the economy.
- To review the existing system of price collection and suggest changes for improvement.
- To decide on the computational methodology to be adopted for WPI/PPI.
- To examine the methodology for compilation of PPI approved by Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices & Cost of Living and suggest further improvement in compilation and presentation and recommend a roadmap for switching over from WPI to PPI.

- To examine the method of computing the linking factor adopted so far and suggest appropriate changes in the method of computing the linking factor, if necessary.
- To suggest any other improvements as may be necessary for enhancing the reliability of WPI/PPI.

#### Facts Point

- ❖ At present, WPI index has a total of 697 items, including primary articles (117), fuel and power (16), and manufactured products (564).
- ❖ **WPI revision** is a periodic exercise. Two major indices are used for tracking price movement -- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** and **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.
  - While the WPI measures the price movement of goods in wholesale markets, the CPI tracks inflation at the retail level and also includes certain services.
- ❖ WPI is a **key indicator to measure the average change in prices of a fixed set of commodities** at the initial stage of a commercial transaction over a given period of time with reference to a base year.

- ❖ Ever since the introduction of the WPI in 1942 with the base year 1939, seven revisions have taken place introducing new base years - 1952-53, 1961-62, 1970-71, 1981-82, 1993-94, 2004-05 and 2011-12.
- ❖ The current WPI base year **2011-12** series was launched in May 2017.

#### Environment And Geography

##### Graded Response Action Plan

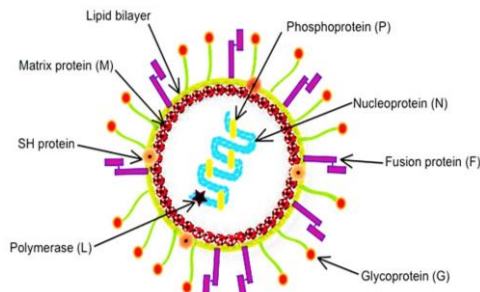
##### Why in the news?

The Commission for Air Quality Management has invoked the Graded Response Action Plan, GRAP-3, across the National Capital Region.

- ❖ **Objective:** To prevent further deterioration of air quality.
- ❖ Under the GRAP-3:
  - A ban is being implemented on non-essential construction work and Road construction activities.
  - There will also be restrictions on the plying of BS -3 petrol and BS - 4 four-wheeler diesel vehicles in Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar.

## Science And Technology

### Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)



#### Why in the news?

China is witnessing a concerning rise in respiratory illnesses, with Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV).

#### What is Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)?

- ❖ It is a respiratory virus that causes mild infections similar to that caused by a common cold.
- ❖ First identified in 2001, it belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, closely related to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
- ❖ The virus typically causes mild upper respiratory symptoms such as cough, runny nose, and sore throat.

## Sports

### Kho Kho World Cup

#### Why in the news?

The trophies and mascots for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup to be held in India were unveiled in New Delhi on 3rd January, 2025.

- ❖ It will be held from January 13 to 19, and will feature 21 men's teams and 20 women's teams from 24 countries.



#### Trophy:

- The men's championship trophy is blue, symbolising trust and determination, while the women's trophy is green, representing growth and vitality.

#### Mascot:

- The mascots, gazelles named Tejas and Tara, embody speed, agility, and teamwork.

## Persons In News

### Suhas Subramanyam

#### Why in the news?

Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam has been sworn into the 119th US Congress.





- ❖ He is the first Indian-American and South Asian to represent Virginia's 10th Congressional District.
- ❖ He became the sixth member of the 'Samosa Caucus'; the informal name for the group of Indian American lawmakers.
- ❖ Before joining Congress, he served as a Policy Advisor to former President Barack Obama.
- ❖ He was elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019.

#### News in Short

- ❖ Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer has been appointed as the director general of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ❖ The National Lawn Balls Championship was held in Delhi from 26 December 2024 to 2 January 2025. Given below are winners from Bihar:
  - Chandan Kumar Singh won the bronze medal in Senior Men's Singles.
  - Jameel Ahmed of Bihar also won the bronze medal in Under-25.

- Anamika Kumari, Payal Preeti Singh, Khushboo Kumari, Nikhat Khatoon won bronze medals in Senior Women's Four.
- ❖ Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated the 'Know Your Army' Mela at the historic Golconda Fort in Hyderabad.
  - It was organized by the Artillery Centre, Hyderabad under the aegis of Headquarters TASA.
  - The event is aimed at highlighting the strength, valour and technological advancements of the Indian Army.
- ❖ Air India, India's leading global airline recently announced it has rolled out Wi-Fi internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights operated by Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9 and select Airbus A321neo aircraft.
  - This makes Air India the first to offer in-flight Wi-Fi internet connectivity on flights within India.



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