

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

(IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, IRMS, IFoS & Other Civil Services)

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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

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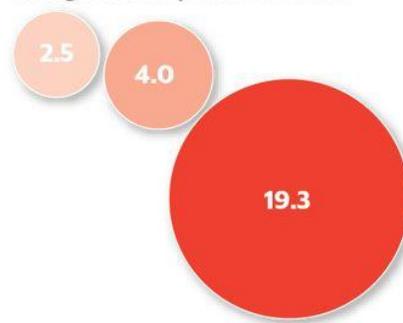
GS 3**❖ ECONOMY****Q) Assess the issues and impact of India's ban on the export of wheat.****Context:**

The Union commerce ministry was preparing to send delegations abroad to boost the country's wheat exports, when the government abruptly banned its exports on 14 May.

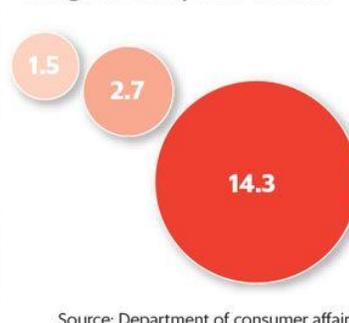
The export ban came after food inflation in April soared to a record 8.38%.

Change in % Over 1 week Over 1 month Over 1 year

Change in retail prices of wheat:



Change in retail prices of atta:



Source: Department of consumer affairs

India ban on the export of wheat:

- Record retail inflation has punctured India's export hopes.
- While wheat prices are up nearly 20%, prices of essential food items such as flour have risen nearly 15% last year.
- Prices of other food items that use wheat, like bread and biscuits, have surged, too.
- Heatwaves in the latter part of March, especially in northwest India, impacted the production of foodgrains.

Is India staring at a food shortage?

- India's grain stocks are well above the buffer levels and the decision to regulate wheat exports was taken largely to check prices and curb hoarding.
- The public distribution system in the country would be run smoothly.
- However, the government has replaced wheat with rice in the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana scheme for 2022-23.
- The effort clearly is a response to the reduced availability of wheat.

Global reaction to the ban:

- Agriculture ministers from G7 condemned India's decision to withhold wheat exports amid a global grain shortage.
- India is the world's second-largest wheat producer and was expected to fill the gap created because of the Ukraine war.
- However, wheat exports will be allowed in cases where an irrevocable letter of credit has already been issued.

How will the ban affect India's neighbours?

1. The export control will help India guide wheat trade in a certain direction.
2. Even with the ban, there is a window open for neighbouring countries.
3. The export will be allowed to other countries "based on the request of their governments".
4. This window is crucial for Sri Lanka because the country is facing an economic crisis.
5. Also, Bangladesh and Nepal have traditionally relied on Indian wheat.

Impact on farmers and traders:

- The ban has deprived Indian wheat traders the opportunity to gain from the global grain shortage.
- It may have an unfavourable impact on wheat farmers too.
- Market prices of wheat had soared past the minimum support price (MSP) in recent months.

Issues with the ban:

1. This ban has impacted the credibility of India as a reliable supplier of anything in global markets.
2. It conveys that we don't have any credible export policy as it can turn its back at the drop of a hat.
3. More interestingly, it also reflects a deep-rooted consumer bias in India's trade policies.
4. It is this consumer bias that indirectly becomes anti-farmer. This ban deprives farmers from profit-making.
5. It only shows the hollowness of agri-trade policies and dreams of doubling agri-exports.
6. The export ban also reflects poorly on India's image in playing its shared global responsibility amid the Russia-Ukraine war.

Way forward

- ✓ It may be recognised that inflation is a global phenomenon today caused by excessive liquidity injected by central banks and loose fiscal policies around the world.
- ✓ India's wheat export ban will not help tame inflation at home.
- ✓ The Government could have announced a bonus of Rs 200-250/quintal on top of MSP to augment its wheat procurement.
- ✓ The govt. could have calibrated exports by putting some minimum export price (MEP).

❖ SECURITY**Q) What are the functions and duties associated with the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?****Context:**

The Union government is reassessing the concept of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) leading to a delay in the appointment to the post. The post of CDS has also been lying vacant since the demise of Late. Gen. Bipin Rawat.

Office of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):

- The CDS is a high military office that oversees and coordinates the working of the three Services, and offers seamless tri-service views and single-point advice to the Executive.
- On long-term it provides for defence planning and management, including manpower, equipment and strategy, and above all, “joint manship” in operations.
- In most democracies, the CDS is seen as being above inter-Service rivalries and the immediate operational preoccupations of the individual military chiefs.
- The role of the CDS becomes critical in times of conflict.

Duties and Functions of the CDS:

The Ministry of Defence has outlined various functions and duties for the post of CDS:

1. To head the Department of Military Affairs in Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.
2. To act as the Principal Military Advisor to Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Service matters.
3. To function as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
4. To administer the Tri-Service organizations/agencies/commands.
5. To be a member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Raksha Mantri.
6. To function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
7. To bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services.
8. To implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans, as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan.
9. To bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services with the aim to augment combat capabilities of the Armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.

Need of CDS:

- Tri-services coordination: The creation of the CDS will eventually lead to the formation of tri-service theatre commands intended to create vertical integration of the three forces.
- Single-point military advisory: The CDS will be a single-point military adviser to the government and synergise long term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three Services.
- Efforts saving: This is expected to save money by avoiding duplication between the Services, at a time of shrinking capital expenditure within the defence budget.
- Military diplomacy: This is today supporting conventional diplomacy. That can't be done by different Services.

Source: The Hindu

❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q) “A protein to dissolve aggregates in the neurons”. Explain the significance of the study.

Context:

Researchers at IISc Bangalore have identified a protein in yeast cells that dissolves RNA-protein complexes, also known as RNA granules.

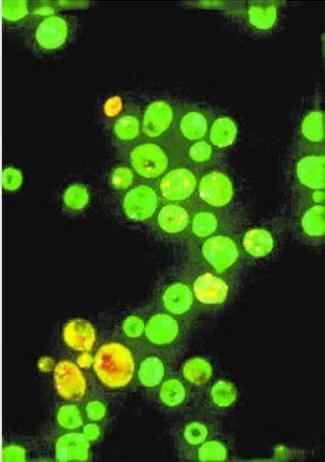
mRNA:

- Messenger RNA (mRNA) is a single-stranded RNA (Ribo Nucleic Acid) molecule that is complementary to one of the DNA strands of a gene.
- The mRNA is an RNA version of the gene that leaves the cell nucleus and moves to the cytoplasm where proteins are made.
- During protein synthesis, an organelle called a ribosome moves along the mRNA, reads its base sequence, and uses the genetic code to translate each three-base triplet, or codon, into its corresponding amino acid.

A protein to dissolve aggregates in the neurons

Knowledge obtained from yeast is very often applicable to humans

- Researchers at IISc Bangalore have identified a protein in yeast cells that dissolves RNA-protein complexes, also known as RNA granules
- This finding is critical for many neurodegenerative disorders such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)
- These neurodegenerative disorders are characterised by the accumulation of aggregates that resemble RNA granules. These aggregates are believed to contribute to the disease



- In yeast cells, a protein (Sbp1) promotes the disintegration of RNA granules. The protein dissolves only the P-bodies
- The study found that the Sbp1 protein helps in reducing the aggregates of human proteins involved in neurodegenerative disorders
- The next step is to experimentally test the effect of repeat sequences in genetically engineered mice
- This study once again suggests that knowledge obtained from yeast is very often applicable to humans

Naked: Unlike other structures in the cell, the RNA granules are not covered and confined by a membrane.

RNA granules:

- Inside the cytoplasm of any cell there are structures made of messenger RNA (mRNA) and proteins known as RNA granules.
- Unlike other structures in the cell (such as mitochondria), the RNA granules are not covered and confined by a membrane.
- This makes them highly dynamic in nature, thereby allowing them to constantly exchange components with the surrounding.
- RNA granules are present in the cytoplasm at low numbers under normal conditions but increase in number and size under stressful conditions including diseases.

Why are they unique?

A defining feature which does not change from one organism to another (conserved) of the RNA granule protein components is the presence of stretches containing repeats of certain amino acids. Such stretches are referred to as low complexity regions. Repeats of arginine (R), glycine (G) and glycine (G) — known as RGG — are an example of low complexity sequence.

Functions of RNA granules:

1. Messenger RNAs are converted to proteins (building blocks of the cell) by the process of translation.
2. RNA granules determine messenger RNA (mRNA) fate by deciding when and how much protein would be produced from mRNA.
3. Protein synthesis is a multi-step and energy-expensive process.
4. Therefore, a common strategy used by cells when it encounters unfavourable conditions is to shut down protein production and conserve energy to deal with a stressful situation.
5. RNA granules help in the process of shutting down protein production.
6. Some RNA granule types (such as Processing bodies or P-bodies) not only regulate protein production but also accomplish degradation and elimination of the mRNAs, which in turn helps in reducing protein production.

What is the recent study?

- Researchers concluded that low complexity sequences which normally promote granule formation, in this case promote the disintegration of RNA granules in yeast cells.
- They observed that the identified protein Sbp1 is specific for dissolving P-bodies and not stress granules which are related RNA granule type also present in the cytoplasm.

Significance of the study:

- ✓ This study has highlighted the potential of amino acid repeats (RGG) as a therapeutic intervention.
- ✓ The study may help analyze the effect of repeat sequences in genetically engineered mice that accumulate insoluble pathological aggregates in brain cells.
- ✓ This could possibly help in treating neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS**GS 1****Q) What are the works of Devasahayam Pillai?****Context:**

Pope Francis canonised Devasahayam Pillai as a Catholic Saint during an event in St Peter's Basilica.

Devasahayam Pillai:

Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712 in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district, and went on to serve in the court of Marthanda Varma of Travancore. After meeting a Dutch naval commander at the court, Devasahayam was baptised in 1745, and assumed the name 'Lazarus', meaning 'God is my help'.

His works:

1. While preaching, he particularly insisted on the equality of all people, despite caste differences.
2. His conversion did not go well with the heads of his native religion.
3. False charges of treason and espionage were brought against him and he was divested of his post in the royal administration.
4. On January 14, 1752, Devasahayam was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest.
5. Since then, he is widely considered a martyr, and his mortal remains were interred inside what is now Saint Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Kottar, Nagercoil.

Other canonized saints in India:

- ✓ Of the eleven, Gonsalo Garcia, born in India to Portuguese parents in Mumbai in 1557, is considered to have been the first India-born saint.
- ✓ In 2008, Kerala-born Sister Alphonsa was declared as the first woman Catholic saint from India.
- ✓ Mother Teresa had a fast track to sainthood when she was canonized in 2016.

Source: Indian Express

Q) The Forests of this National Park have been traditionally inhabited by the two indigenous tribes of Gonds and Baigas. This place is known for its conservation efforts with respect to the hard ground Barasingha. The above description is in respect to which of the following National Parks?

- a. Kanha National Park
- b. Simlipal National Park
- c. Dudhwa National Park
- d. Gorumara National Park

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Which of the following statements with regard to the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) is incorrect?

- a. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched NDAP.
- b. NDAP aims to democratize access to public government data.
- c. External Affairs and Finance related data is also available on NDAP.
- d. Security and Defence data access is not provided on NDAP.

Answer: a

Explanation

- NITI Aayog has launched the NDAP for open public use.
- The platform aims to democratize access to public government data by making data accessible, interoperable, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform.
- It hosts foundational datasets from various government agencies, presents them coherently, and provides tools for analytics and visualization.
- NDAP follows a use-case-based approach to ensure that the datasets hosted on the platform are tailored to the needs of data users from government, academia, journalism, civil society, and the private sector.
- All datasets are standardized to a common schema, which makes it easy to merge datasets and do cross-sectoral analysis.

Types of datasets available:

1. Internal & External Affairs
2. Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry
3. Socio-Economic development
4. Power & Natural Resources
5. Industries
6. Finance
7. Health

8. Human Resources Development
9. Science and Technology
10. Consumer Affairs
11. Transport
12. Housing
13. Culture and Tourism
14. Communications

Significance of such data:

The rise of data and digital technologies are rapidly transforming economies and societies, with enormous implications for governments' daily operations. NDAP is a critical milestone – which aims to aid India's progress by promoting data-driven disclosure, decision making and ensuring the availability of data connecting till the last mile.

UPSC - CSE**OUR PROGRAMS TARGETING 2022 – 23****OFFLINE / ONLINE****COURSES OFFERED****GS RAPID REVISION ONLINE COURSE FOR PRELIMS 2022**

- POLITY + GEOGRAPHY MODULE FROM 2nd May to 9th May 2022
- SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MODULE FROM 10th May to 12th May 2022
- HISTORY MODULE FROM 10th May to 20th May 2022
- CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE FROM 13th May to 19th May 2022

GS WRAP - UP PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2022

- BOTH OFFLINE AND ONLINE
- STARTS FROM 03rd APRIL 2022

ANTHROPOLOGY OPTIONAL COURSES

- OFFLINE COMPREHENSIVE & FOUNDATION COURSE FROM: 22nd JUNE 2022
- COMPREHENSIVE COURSE FROM: 4th MAY 2022 (ONLINE)
- FOUNDATION COURSE 4th MAY 2022 (ONLINE)
- ANTHROENHANCE TEST SERIES FROM 2nd JULY 2022 (OFFLINE/ONLINE)