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<td>World Bank cuts India’s growth projection to 6%</td>
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<td>‘Foreign’ plastic invades Great Nicobar Island</td>
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<td>@end of the video</td>
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The Hindu News Analysis – 14th October 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram; H - Hyderabad
With nine cases a day, Mizoram becomes State with highest HIV prevalence rate

People aged between 25 and 34 are most vulnerable, followed by those between 35 and 49. Officials say for a long time.

Mizoram, one of the least HIV-affected states, has reported nine positive cases of HIV infection in 2019. Of these, eight are in women, and the ninth case, a man, is the first to be reported in Mizoram.

The positive rate in Mizoram is 0.023%, while the national positive rate is 0.008%.

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I (200 marks)**

- Current events of national and international importance.
  - General Science.

**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-III**

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of social sector services relating to health, education, human resources.

**PAPER-IV**


- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

**PAPER-V**

General Studies-IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.

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**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

* Retroviridae family
* Infect CD4 cells → immunodeficiency
* Most advanced stage - AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)
* Symptoms - 3 stages
  - Acute symptoms
  - Clinical latency
  - Severe symptoms
* Transmission
  - Sexual Contact
  - Blood transfusion
  - From contaminated Syringes
  - From pregnant woman to child

* Tests - ELISA + Western blot test
* Cure
  - No definitive cure
  - Fusion inhibitors
  - Protease inhibitors
  - Anti-retroviral therapy
  - Multi-drug combinations

**News**

- Mizoram: 9 positive cases of HIV/AIDS a day
- HIV Estimation 2017: NACO
  - Total number of people living with HIV: 2.40 lakhs in 2017
- Highest number - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, W.B., P.N., U.P., Bihar
- Highest prevalence - Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland
National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)
* Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
* Formed in 1992

Mizoram - HIV cases 2006 - March 2019
* 67.21% - Sexual transmission
* 28.12% - Intravenous drug users
* Proximity to Golden Triangle

World Bank cuts India’s growth projection to 6%
But it’s likely to recover to 6.9% in 2021

Press Trust of India
Washington
After a broad-based deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal, India’s growth rate is projected to fall to 6%, the World Bank said on Sunday.
However, the bank, in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, said the country was expected to recover to 6.9% in 2021 and 7.2% in 2022 as it assumed that the monetary stance would remain accommodative, given benign price dynamics. The report said India’s growth decelerated for the second consecutive year.
In 2018-19, it stood at 6.8%, down from 7.2% in the 2017-18 financial year.

Continued On > Page 10
**News**

* World Bank → 'South Asia Economic Focus'  
* The Report

**Growth Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>6.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>7.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sector Specific Growth**  
2018-19
- Industries: 6.9%  
- Agriculture: 2.9%  
- Services: 7.5%

**Declining Growth – Why?**
- Sharp decline in private consumption  
- Weakening growth in industry and services

**Headline Inflation**
- 3.4% in 2018-19  
- RBI’s target – 4% (for first half of 2019-20)

**RBI to continue accommodative monetary policy**

**Current Account Deficit**
- 1.8% of GDP in 2017-18  
- 2.1% of GDP in 2018-19  
- Deteriorating trade balance

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**Trends of Capital Flow (FY 2018-19)**
- First half → Capital Outflow  
- Second half → Capital Inflow → Rise in Foreign Exchange Reserve

**Govt. deficit**
- 5.9% of GDP in 2018-19

**Govt. debt**
- 67% of GDP → Stable and sustainable

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**Poverty in India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poverty Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>21.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>13.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rising Risk for Poor**
- Disruptions by GST & demonetisation  
- Stress in rural economy  
- High youth unemployment rate in urban areas
News: Foreign plastic invades Great Nicobar Islands

* Major portion of the plastic is of foreign origin
* 40.5% of the litter is of Malaysian Origin
* Indonesia (23.9%) and Thailand (16.3%)
* Threat mainly from foreign plastic and posing challenge to sustain the marine ecosystem

Reasons: Increasing foreign litter

- Geographical proximity
- Influence of water currents
- Improper handling of the solid waste from fishing or mariculture activity & ship traffic

Geographical details: A & N Islands

Nicobar group of islands: Car Nicobar, Little Nicobar and Great Nicobar

Southeastern point of India → Indira point or Great Papinean point → located in Great Nicobar island

Nearest nation – Myanmar (Andaman Islands) – Indonesia (Nicobar Islands)

Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR) → Galathea National Park & Campbell Bay National Park

Shompens tribes: PVTG
Measures

- Detailed scientific examination of source of origin
- Regional partnership
- Strict enforcement

FastTag

- Device for making toll payments directly - when the vehicle is in motion
  - employs RFID Technology
  - RFID passive tag is used
- Affixed on front windshield
- ID linked to a prepaid/savings/current account
- Vehicle specific
- Part of National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme - developed by NPCI
  - Interoperable nationwide toll payment solution
    - Clearing house services for payment settlement
    - Dispute management
- Can be purchased from member banks of NETC
Mandatory from 1st December 2019 at all National Highway Toll Plazas

FASTag Lane - reserved exclusively for the movement of FASTag users

Rule 6(3), National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008

- non-FASTag users - charged double the fee - if they pass through FASTag lanes

FY 2019-20 → 2.5% Cashback on all Toll payments made at National Highways

Benefits
- reduces congestion
- reduces travel time
- no fuel wastage
- transparency
- less cash economy
- no need to carry change
- pay while in motion

Radio Frequency Identification Technology

- enables tracking the movement of men, materials, vehicles
- Automated data collection technology
  - users radio frequency waves - transfer data b/w reader & moveable item
- Fast
- Does not require any physical sight or contact b/w reader and tagged item
- performs using low cost components
- unique identification given to the object and five backend integration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active RFID Tags</th>
<th>Passive RFID Tags</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Battery powered</td>
<td>* No internal power source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* powered by electromagnetic energy transmitted from RFID Reader</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher storage capacities</td>
<td>lower storage capacities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>longer read ranges</td>
<td>shorter read ranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expensive</td>
<td>Cheaper</td>
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</table>
A tax policy that could work

Ensuring, with political will, that multinational companies actually pay their fair share of taxes is a feasible strategy.

**Tax Revenues**

- Central Government has missed the tax targets in the previous FY, and in Q1, FY 2019-20
  - Poor GST Collections
  - Corporate Tax rate Cuts

**Suggestions**

- Strategy to ensure MNC pay their fair share of taxes, who benefit due to ‘Bank Erosion Profit Shifting’
  - MNC → One entity → Tax

Global profits → Calculated → Apportioned using a formula

↓

Sales Employment Users

⇒ Unitary Taxation

- Common Minimum Tax that can be imposed by all the countries
  - Workable idea if big countries like USA, EU collaborate and decide the tax rate
  - Proposed by Indian Government as well
  - To be considered by OECD BERS Initiative (OECD / G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS)

- India – Member
  (OECD → Non-member)
Concerns:

- Arbitrary separation between ‘Routine’ and ‘Residual’ profits
  - No economic justification
  - No clarity in the definition

- Formula to be used to distribute tax profits
  - OECD → ‘Sales’ → will affect developing countries
  - Combination of sales/users/employment must be used

Way Forward

- India should take clear position at OECD meeting → will increase the revenues

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding ‘HIV Estimation Report – 2017’ by National AIDS Control Organization.

1. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of people living with HIV.
2. Mizoram has the highest estimated adult HIV prevalence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Andaman and Nicobar group of islands are of coral origin.
2. Indonesia is geographically nearest to Andaman islands.
3. Shompen tribes reside in Great Nicobar island.
4. The pristine beaches of Nicobar islands are being polluted because of Indian origin plastic material.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

(a) 2 and 3 only  
(b) 2, 3 and 4  
(c) 3 and 4  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to ‘FASTag’.

1. It is part of National Electronic Toll collection program aimed at reducing congestion, travel time and promoting transparency at toll plazas on National Highways.

2. It is based on RFID technology.

Select the correct option using the codes given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. “Define Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS)”. Do you think that BEPS is the reason for poor tax revenue collections? Suggest suitable measures to tackle BEPS. (150 words, 10 Marks)

Practice Questions – Prelims Answers

14-10-2019

1. Option ‘b’ – 2 only
2. Option ‘c’ – 3 and 4
3. Option ‘c’ – Both 1 and 2

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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