



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 05-01-2024

GS-2

1. VVPATs
2. SMART 2.0 (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals)
3. Direct Benefit Transfer

GS-3

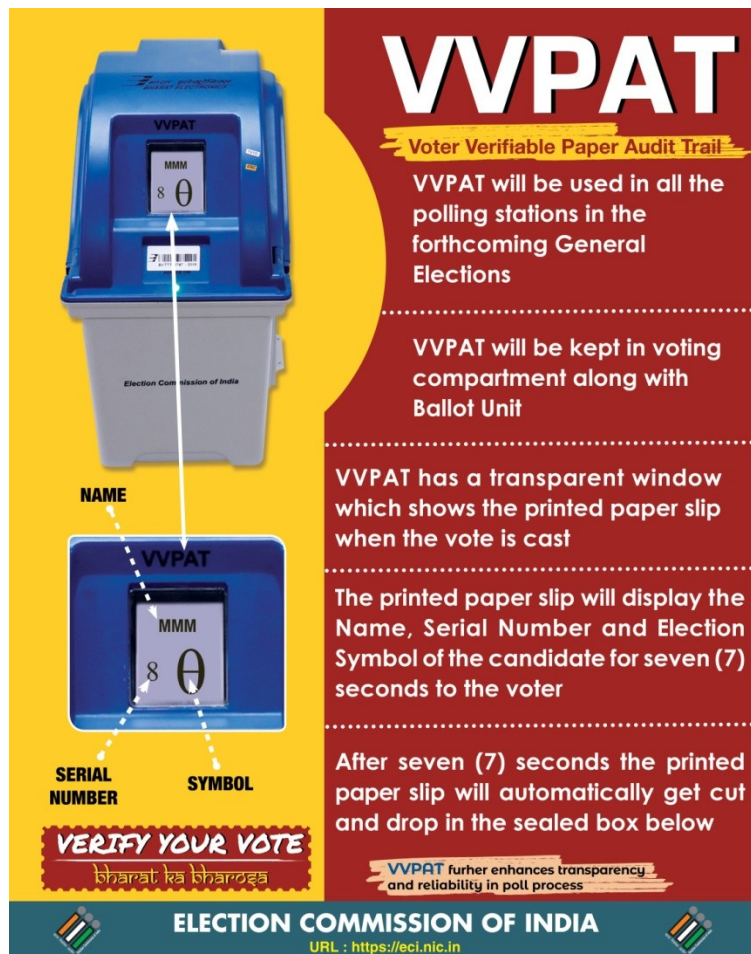
4. PMI
5. Indian Science Congress

VVPATs

Syllabus: GS-2; Elections

Context

- Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh has written to **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar** requesting that a delegation of Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) be given an appointment so that they can forward their views on voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips.



VVPAT
Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

VVPAT will be used in all the polling stations in the forthcoming General Elections

VVPAT will be kept in voting compartment along with Ballot Unit

VVPAT has a transparent window which shows the printed paper slip when the vote is cast

The printed paper slip will display the Name, Serial Number and Election Symbol of the candidate for seven (7) seconds to the voter

After seven (7) seconds the printed paper slip will automatically get cut and drop in the sealed box below

VVPAT further enhances transparency and reliability in poll process

VERIFY YOUR VOTE
Bharat ka Bharosa

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
URL : <https://eci.nic.in>

What are VVPATs?

When a vote is cast, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machine, which is attached to the **ballot unit (BU)** of the **Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)**, prints out a slip of paper with the voter's choice indicated on it.

Though it remains behind glass, the printed slip is visible for seven seconds so the voter can see that the vote has been recorded correctly, before it falls into a box underneath.

Background

- *The idea of the VVPAT machine first emerged in 2010, when the EC held a meeting with political parties to discuss the EVM and ways to make the polling process more transparent. After discussing the idea, the EC referred the matter to its **Technical Expert Committee**.*
- *A prototype was prepared by the two PSUs that **manufacture EVMs - Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL)**.*
- *Subsequently, field trials were held in Ladakh, Thiruvananthapuram, Cherrapunjee, East Delhi and Jaisalmer in July 2011.*
- *Finally, after fine-tuning the design, holding more trials and taking feedback from political parties, the expert committee approved the design of the VVPAT in February 2013.*

Constitutional Provisions

- ***The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961** were amended in 2013 to allow for a printer with a drop box to be attached to the EVM.*
- *The VVPAT was used for the first time in all 21 polling stations of the Noksen Assembly constituency of Nagaland in 2013, after which the EC decided to introduce VVPATs in a phased manner.*
- *From June 2017, 100% of VVPATs began to be used in polls, and the 2019 Lok Sabha elections became the first general election to have 100% of EVMs being attached to VVPATs.*

SMART 2.0 (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals)

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, Health

Context

- *'SMART 2.0' launched for Ayurveda Teaching Professionals*



More to know

- *The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) along with National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) has launched 'SMART 2.0' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals) program to promote robust clinical studies in priority areas of Ayurveda with Ayurveda academic institutions/hospitals across the country through mutual collaboration.*

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

- *CCRAS is an apex organization for the formulation, co-ordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda, functioning under the Ministry of Ayush.*
- *The objective of 'SMART 2.0' is to generate a tangible evidence to demonstrate efficacy and safety of Ayurveda interventions using interdisciplinary research methods and translating it into public health care.*
- *Under the 'SMART 1.0', around 10 diseases were covered with the active participation of teaching professionals from 38 colleges.*

Significance

- *SMART 2.0 is a program that aims to legitimize Ayurveda through research.*
- *This evidence will then be used to improve public healthcare practices.*

Direct Benefit Transfer

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, GS-3; Economy

Context

- *As part of 5T initiative for maintaining transparency, the Department of Finance facilitated smooth disbursement of Rs 18,708 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode under different schemes and programs.*

About

- *The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2013.*
- *The scheme aims to transfer subsidies directly to people's bank accounts.*
- *The primary goal of the scheme is to increase transparency and stop the misappropriation of funds.*
- *The DBT process includes the following steps:*
 - *Registration with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS)*
 - *Eligibility examination of the beneficiary*
 - *Verification of the beneficiary's bank account*
- *To avail benefits, one must enroll in the scheme through the relevant implementing authorities in their area. Authentication is done using Aadhaar, as per the scheme's requirements.*
- *The DBT scheme is being implemented in all states to promote the use of farm mechanization.*

Some DBT schemes

- *Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Others*
- *Centrally Sponsored Scheme Of Post Matric Scholarships To The Students Belonging To Scheduled Castes For Studies In India*

Advantages

- **Reduces corruption**
 - *DBT eliminates corruption by transferring benefits and subsidies directly to citizens.*
- **Increases transparency**
 - *DBT ensures end-to-end transparency of subsidy and transfer of benefits from the government to the beneficiaries.*
- **Empowers the unbanked**
 - *DBT accelerates financial inclusion.*

- **Increases confidence in governance**
 - *DBT boosts good governance objectives of the government, which instills confidence in citizens.*

PMI

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy

Context

- *The pace of growth in **India's manufacturing activity** fell to an 18-month low in December 2023 as output growth and new orders softened, a private survey.*



Purchasing Managers' Index

[ˈpər-ˌtʃæs-ɪŋ ˈmɑ-ni-ˌjərs ˈɪn-,dɛks]

An index that measures the month-over-month change in economic activity within the manufacturing sector.

What Is the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)?

- *The Purchasing Managers Index is a **measure of the prevailing direction of economic trends in manufacturing.***
- *The PMI is based on a monthly survey of **supply chain managers**, covering both upstream and downstream activity.*
- *The value and movements in the PMI and its components can provide useful insight to business decision makers, market analysts, and investors, and is a leading indicator of overall economic activity in the U.S.*

What Is the Global PMI?

- *The Global PMI is an economic indicator that is derived from questionnaires sent to manufacturing and services companies in more than 40 different countries.*

Indian Science Congress

Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Tech

Context

- *The Indian Science Congress, the largest gathering of scientists and students of science in the country and a permanent annual fixture in the calendar of the participant group for more than a century, has been postponed.*



Background

- *Barring a few exceptions **since Independence, Prime Ministers** have traditionally inaugurated the Indian Science Congress on January 3 each year, making it the only congregation of scientists headlined by the country's topmost political office.*
- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi too attended most of the Congresses since 2015, with the last one being held in Nagpur in 2022.*

Why is it postponed?

- The DST has alleged “**financial irregularities**” and a “**unilateral decision**” by a few ISCA office bearers, without government approval, to shift the venue of the 2024 session from Lucknow University to Lovely Professional University at Jalandhar as the reasons for dissociating with the 2024 edition of the Congress.
- After the DST’s withdrawal as the main funding agency, LPU expressed its inability to host the show, two weeks before the commencement of the event. The university cited “unforeseen challenges,” making it unfeasible for the institution to host the event.

Indian Science Congress Association

- Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) is a premier **scientific organisation of India with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal.**
- The association started in the year 1914 in Kolkata and it meets annually in the first week of January. It has a membership of more than 30,000 scientists.
- The first Indian Science Congress was held in 1914 at the **Asiatic Society in Calcutta.**
- Several prominent Indian and foreign scientists, including Nobel laureates, attend and speak in the congress.

Objectives

The Association was formed with the following objectives :

- To advance and promote the cause of science in India;
- To hold an annual congress at a suitable place in India;
- To publish such proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications as may be considered desirable;
- To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of Science including the rights of disposing of or selling all or any portion of the properties of the Association;
- To do and perform any or all other acts, matters and things as are conducive to, or incidental to, or necessary for, the above objects.