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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -    
 - Quiz IAS
 -     
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - UPSC CSAT Paper 2
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal HPAS
- Himachal News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
- Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (Hindi/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal
 - Himachal
 - Himachal Himachal
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Himachal Himachal Himachal
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - UPSC CSAT Paper 2
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Himachal Himachal Himachal
 - HCS Quiz
 - Himachal Himachal Himachal
 - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (Hindi/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Himachal Himachal Himachal Himachal
 - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

- [Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
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 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
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 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

- Geography Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
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 - E-Magazine for HPAS
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 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
 - Test Series Planner
- About US
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- Login
- facebook 

- instagram 
- youtube 

MENU

Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

Topics Covered



- Summary:
- What is the news?
 - What is Monkeypox?
 - Symptoms of Monkeypox:
- The Origin and History of Monkeypox
 - Discovery of the Virus
 - First Human Case
 - Spread and Transmission
 - Increasing Global Concern: 2022 Monkeypox Outbreak
- Key Milestones in Monkeypox's History
- The Importance of WHO's Approval of a Diagnostic Test
 - Significance of Diagnostic Testing
 - The approval of a dedicated diagnostic test will allow for more:
 - Features of the New Test
- Global Efforts to Combat Monkeypox
 - Vaccination Efforts
 - Public Health Interventions
- Conclusion:
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:

- Question 1:
- Model Answer:
- Question 2:
- Model Answer:
- Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
 - Prelims:
 -
 - Mains:

Summary:

- **WHO Approves Test:** The World Health Organization has approved the first diagnostic test for monkeypox.
- **Monkeypox:** A viral disease similar to smallpox, causing fever, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and a rash.
- **Impact:** The test will improve detection, surveillance, and treatment globally.

What is the news?

- In a significant breakthrough for public health, the World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the first-ever diagnostic test for monkeypox, a zoonotic viral disease that has emerged as a

global health concern.

- The new diagnostic test promises faster detection, aiding in timely isolation and treatment to prevent the spread of the virus. As monkeypox gains attention due to its increasing cases in both endemic and non-endemic regions, it's essential to understand the virus's history, its impact, and how this new test will change the landscape of its management.

What is Monkeypox?

- Monkeypox is a zoonotic viral disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which is part of the Orthopoxvirus genus. Zoonotic diseases are infections transmitted from animals to humans. While monkeypox is related to smallpox, it is generally less severe, though still capable of causing significant outbreaks.

Symptoms of Monkeypox:

- The symptoms of monkeypox are similar to, though milder than, smallpox. The disease starts with fever, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes, followed by the appearance of a rash. The rash typically begins on the face and then spreads to other parts of the body, including the palms and soles. It eventually turns into lesions that scab over before falling off. The symptoms last for 2

to 4 weeks, and while most cases resolve without severe complications, monkeypox can be deadly in some instances, especially among children and immunocompromised individuals.

The Origin and History of Monkeypox

Discovery of the Virus

- Monkeypox was first discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in monkeys kept for research in Copenhagen, Denmark. Although it was initially observed in monkeys, the primary reservoir of the virus is thought to be rodents, not primates. The virus's name, "monkeypox," is a misnomer derived from this initial discovery among laboratory monkeys.

First Human Case

- The first recorded case of monkeypox in humans occurred in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), during the era when smallpox eradication efforts were underway. A young child was diagnosed with a smallpox-like illness, but laboratory tests confirmed it was a separate viral infection—monkeypox. Since then, most human cases of monkeypox have been concentrated in Central and West African countries, especially in rural areas

with close human-animal interactions.

Spread and Transmission

- Monkeypox is primarily transmitted to humans through direct contact with infected animals, such as rodents and non-human primates, or through consumption of bushmeat. Human-to-human transmission occurs through respiratory droplets, direct contact with body fluids, and contaminated materials like bedding and clothing.
- The virus's geographic spread was mostly limited to Africa until 2003, when an outbreak occurred in the United States, marking the first instance of monkeypox in the Western Hemisphere. The outbreak was linked to infected prairie dogs that had been in contact with imported Gambian rats from Ghana. This incident underlined the virus's potential for global transmission through the wildlife trade.

Increasing Global Concern: 2022 Monkeypox Outbreak

- Monkeypox remained relatively obscure outside Africa until the unprecedented 2022 outbreak. Starting in May 2022, cases of monkeypox were reported in Europe, North America, and other regions where the virus was previously not endemic.

- The WHO declared the 2022 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in July, urging countries to take action. Over 80 countries reported cases, totaling more than 50,000 infections globally. This outbreak exposed gaps in public health systems' readiness to contain zoonotic diseases that have the potential for cross-border transmission.

Key Milestones in Monkeypox's History

- 1958: Monkeypox virus discovered in laboratory monkeys in Denmark.
- 1970: First human case reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- 1980s-1990s: Sporadic cases reported in Central and West Africa, with increasing concerns over animal reservoirs.
- 2003: First outbreak outside Africa occurred in the U.S. due to infected pet prairie dogs.
- 2022: Largest global outbreak, leading to the WHO declaring monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

The Importance of WHO's Approval of a Diagnostic Test

Significance of Diagnostic Testing

- Diagnosing monkeypox has been a significant challenge, particularly in non-endemic areas where healthcare providers may not be familiar with the disease. Until the WHO's approval of the new diagnostic test, healthcare professionals had to rely on less specific methods such as PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing for orthopoxviruses, which detect a broader range of viruses, including smallpox and cowpox.

The approval of a dedicated diagnostic test will allow for more:

- Accurate and early detection: Faster identification of monkeypox cases allows for timely isolation and treatment, curbing the spread of the virus.
- Improved surveillance: Enhanced testing capacities will provide better epidemiological data, helping public health officials understand and respond to outbreaks.
- Efficient resource allocation: By distinguishing monkeypox from other diseases with similar symptoms, resources can be better directed to treat the disease effectively.

Features of the New Test

- The new diagnostic test, while not fully detailed in the WHO's announcement, is expected to offer enhanced sensitivity and specificity for monkeypox. This marks a leap forward in the global response to monkeypox, ensuring that health workers can rapidly and accurately diagnose the infection, particularly in outbreak scenarios.

Global Efforts to Combat Monkeypox

Vaccination Efforts

- Although there is no specific vaccine for monkeypox, vaccines developed for smallpox (such as Jynneos and ACAM2000) offer protection against monkeypox, as both diseases are caused by similar viruses. During the 2022 outbreak, some countries ramped up vaccination efforts to control the virus's spread.

Public Health Interventions

In response to the 2022 outbreak, many countries strengthened public health interventions, including:

- Isolation of infected individuals to prevent human-to-human transmission.

- Public awareness campaigns to inform communities about symptoms, transmission, and prevention.
- Travel advisories to reduce the risk of international spread.

Conclusion:

- The WHO's approval of the first diagnostic test for monkeypox is a landmark event in the fight against the disease, representing a crucial tool for curbing future outbreaks. Monkeypox, once confined to remote parts of Africa, has now become a global health issue. With a history spanning over six decades, the virus has evolved from a rare zoonotic infection to a disease with significant pandemic potential. Enhanced diagnostic capabilities, combined with improved surveillance and vaccination efforts, will be key in preventing monkeypox from becoming a long-term global health threat.
- As global health authorities continue to monitor and respond to monkeypox outbreaks, the development of specific diagnostic tools marks an important step towards improving our preparedness for zoonotic diseases in an increasingly interconnected world.



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Read the Below Instructions Carefully:

- Click on - Start Quiz
- Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)

- After Attempting Last Question.
 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

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1 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Which of the following are valid transmission routes for the monkeypox virus?

- Direct contact with infected animals.
- Respiratory droplets from an infected person.
- Consumption of contaminated water.
- Contact with contaminated materials like bedding.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2, and 4 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3, and 4

Prev

Finish

Next

2 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Which of the following best describes the significance of the World Health Organization's recent approval of a diagnostic test for

monkeypox?

- It enables the development of a vaccine specifically for monkeypox.
- It ensures faster and more accurate detection of monkeypox cases.
- It confirms the eradication of monkeypox as a global health threat.
- It allows the WHO to declare an end to monkeypox outbreaks.

Prev

Finish

Next

3 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Which of the following statements regarding monkeypox is/are correct?

Monkeypox is caused by a virus belonging to the Filovirus family. The first human case of monkeypox was reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The primary reservoir of monkeypox is thought to be rodents.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Prev

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Next

4 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

The 2022 global outbreak of monkeypox led the

World Health Organization (WHO) to take which of the following actions?

- Declaring monkeypox a pandemic
- Issuing travel bans to and from endemic regions
- Declaring monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
- Developing a specific monkeypox vaccine

Prev

Finish

Next

5 / 5

Category: **General Science**

In which year did the first monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa occur?

- 1958
- 2003
- 2007
- 2022

Prev

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Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

Please Rate!

Send feedback

Mains Questions:



**Below Mains
Question**

Write in Comment Section

Question 1:

Discuss the historical origins of monkeypox, its transmission routes, and how the World Health Organization's recent approval of a diagnostic test marks a significant development in global public health. (250 words)

Model Answer:

- Monkeypox, first discovered in 1958 in laboratory monkeys, is a zoonotic viral disease caused by the monkeypox virus, belonging to the Orthopoxvirus genus. The first human case was reported in 1970

in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Primarily found in Central and West Africa, it is transmitted from animals to humans through contact with infected wildlife like rodents and non-human primates. Human-to-human transmission occurs via respiratory droplets, bodily fluids, or contaminated materials such as bedding.

- Historically, monkeypox cases were sporadic, with occasional outbreaks in endemic areas. The virus gained international attention in 2003 when an outbreak occurred in the United States. However, it wasn't until 2022, with an unprecedented global outbreak, that monkeypox became a public health emergency. Cases were reported in Europe, North America, and other regions, highlighting gaps in global health preparedness and surveillance.
- The World Health Organization's approval of the first specific diagnostic test for monkeypox in 2024 is a significant milestone. Accurate and rapid diagnosis is critical to controlling the spread of the virus. The test will enhance detection, allowing healthcare systems to manage outbreaks more effectively. It will also improve surveillance, providing critical epidemiological data to monitor the virus's spread. This development is a vital step towards improving global health security, especially in response to emerging zoonotic diseases like monkeypox.

Question 2:

Evaluate the role of zoonotic diseases, like

monkeypox, in global health challenges. How do they impact public health systems, and what measures can be taken to improve preparedness and response? (250 words)

Model Answer:

- Zoonotic diseases are infections transmitted from animals to humans, and they pose significant challenges to global public health. Monkeypox, caused by the monkeypox virus, exemplifies the complexity of zoonotic diseases. Originating from animal reservoirs, particularly rodents, it can jump to humans through direct contact, leading to outbreaks with significant public health implications. With increasing human-animal interactions, zoonotic diseases have the potential for widespread outbreaks, as demonstrated by the global monkeypox outbreak in 2022.
- Zoonotic diseases impact public health systems by overwhelming healthcare infrastructure, especially when they spread rapidly in non-endemic regions. They demand quick identification, isolation of cases, and robust surveillance mechanisms, all of which strain healthcare resources. Additionally, zoonotic diseases often spread in areas with limited healthcare access, complicating containment efforts.
- Preparedness and response to zoonotic diseases require multi-faceted strategies. First, strengthening healthcare systems to improve early detection and response capabilities is crucial. WHO's approval of the first diagnostic test for

monkeypox is a major step in improving response efficiency. Second, public awareness campaigns about zoonotic diseases can help mitigate transmission risks. Third, fostering global collaboration for research into zoonotic viruses, vaccines, and treatments will ensure a more coordinated response. Finally, controlling wildlife trade and regulating human encroachment into animal habitats are essential to prevent zoonotic spillovers, reducing the likelihood of future outbreaks.

- These measures, combined with a proactive public health approach, are vital for managing the growing threat of zoonotic diseases.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **General Studies Paper 1 (GS1):** Current events of national and international importance:
- Recent outbreaks of monkeypox, especially the global attention it garnered in 2022, make it a relevant topic. Questions can be framed around international health issues, the role of WHO, and zoonotic diseases.
- **General Science:**
- Basic scientific knowledge about viruses, zoonotic diseases, and their transmission mechanisms can be tested. Monkeypox as a viral disease fits under this area, with questions focusing on its origin, spread, and scientific aspects of disease management.

Mains:

- General Studies Paper II & III
- The topic of monkeypox and the WHO's role connects with multiple themes in the UPSC Mains syllabus, particularly under GS Paper II (Governance, International Relations) and GS Paper III (Science and Technology, Environment, and Disaster Management):
- **General Studies Paper II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International Relations**
- Important International Institutions, Agencies, and their Mandates:
- The role of WHO in global health, its response to the 2022 monkeypox outbreak, and the approval of diagnostic tools for emerging

diseases can be included in questions that test candidates' understanding of the functioning of global institutions. Government Policies and Interventions for Health:

- The public health implications of monkeypox, international collaboration for disease control, and the government's response to such outbreaks fall under this section.



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Quiz Time

The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3



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- Punjab Current Affairs
- PPSC Quiz
- Punjab Mindmaps
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- Punjab E-Magazine
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- PPSC Prelims Test Series

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- Haryana Current Affairs
- HCS Quiz
- HCS Editorials
- HCS Mindmaps
- HCS E-Magazine
- HCS Free Mock Test
- HCS Prelims Test Series

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