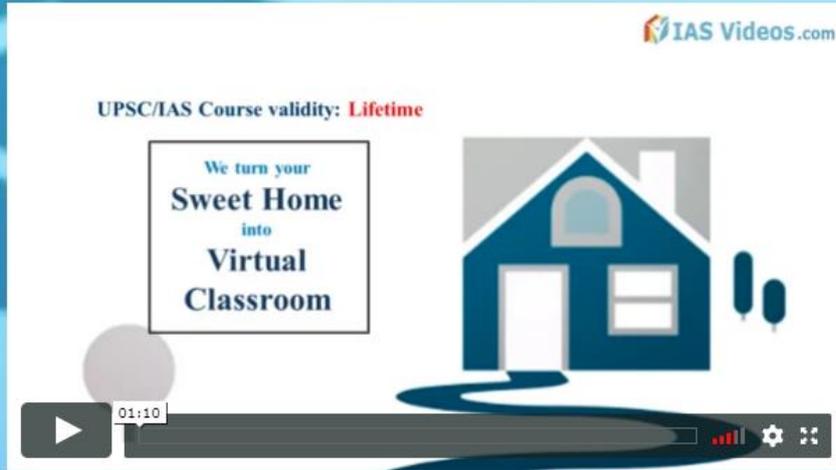
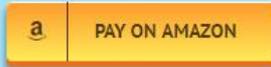


# October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

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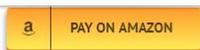


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## **1. The data submitted to Delhi HC on oxytocin shows, how it is being misused.**

- What is oxytocin? What is its significance?**
- Why did govt. ban the production of oxytocin by private companies?**
- What could be the implications of ban on oxytocin?**

**GS paper 2 (Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation)**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Deepak Patel. ( 2018, October , 30). What the data on oxytocin ‘misuse’ show. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-the-data-on-oxytocin-misuse-show-5422536/>

**What is the context about?**

- Data submitted in Delhi High Court by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) showed that it had not seized a single ampoule of oxytocin in 2016-17 and 2017-18.**
- This came amid repeated assertions by the central government that there has been “rampant misuse” of oxytocin in India.**

- ❑ The government earlier this year notified a ban on production by private companies for domestic use.

### **What is oxytocin? What is its significance?**

- ❑ Oxytocin is a naturally secreted hormone that is also used as a drug.
- ❑ It is chemically synthesised and sold by pharmaceutical companies across the world, and used as a drug during childbirth because it can contract the uterus and induce delivery, control bleeding, and promote the release of breast milk.
- ❑ On various grounds including health concerns the government earlier this year notified a ban on production by private companies for domestic use.

### **Why did govt. ban the production of oxytocin by private companies?**

#### **Misuse in dairy industry:**

- ❑ Oxytocin is a naturally-occurring hormone that causes uterine contractions during labour and helps new mothers lactate. However, the drug is misused in the dairy industry where livestock is injected with Oxytocin to make them release milk at a time convenient to farmers.
- ❑ Oxytocin is also used to increase the size of vegetables such as pumpkins, watermelons, eggplants, gourds, and cucumbers.

- ❑ The high court observed that there is large-scale clandestine manufacture and sale of the drug Oxytocin leading to its misuse.

### **What could be the implications of ban on oxytocin?**

**The drug is very critical in maternal health :** World Health Organization recommends it as the drug of choice in postpartum haemorrhage. 45,000 of women die due to causes related to childbirth each year.

**Ill effects on cattle are not known clearly:** A 2014 study by researchers at the National Institute of Nutrition concluded that oxytocin content in buffalo milk did not alter with injections.

**Hike in drug prices:** If only a single public sector unit manufactures the drug, as the government plans, this could lead to drug shortages and price hikes. Monopolising production will remove the low-price options from the market.

**Rural areas will be affected the most:** Ban on retail sale of the drug could affect its availability in hospitals and clinics in rural areas, where more women were likely to bleed to death post-partum in labour rooms.