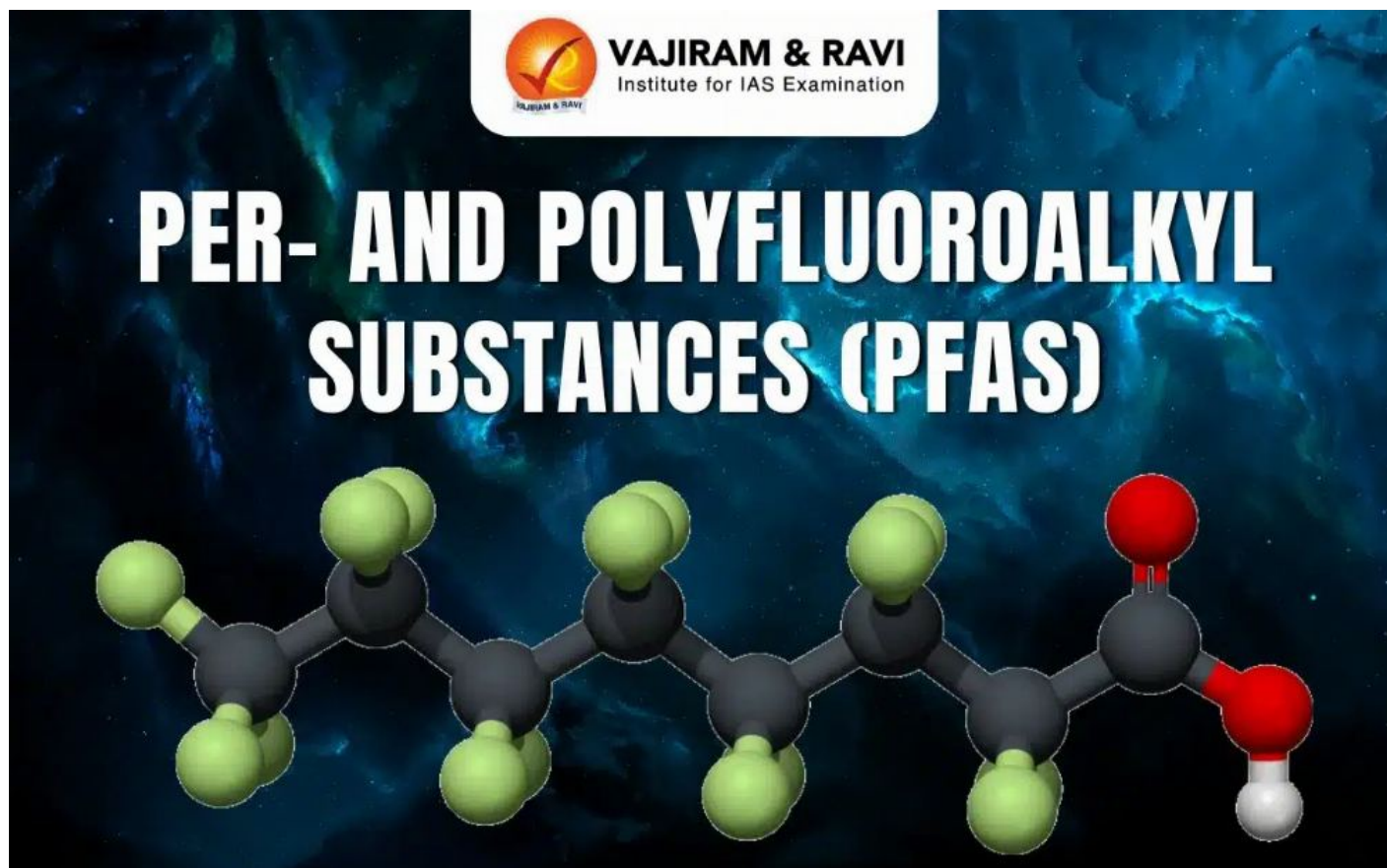


Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

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Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Latest News

Recently, the European Union (EU) Parliament approved updated EU water pollution standards and added Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) into the pollutants list which needs to be monitored.

About Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

- These are toxic, **man-made, hazardous chemicals**.
- These are also **known as the Forever Chemicals**, are a large chemical family of over 4,700
- They are a **large family of fluorinated chemicals** that have partially or completely fluorinated carbon chains of varied lengths.
- Because the carbon-fluorine bond is one of the strongest, these chemicals **do not degrade easily in the environment**.
- **Subgroups:** Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- These subgroups are currently listed under the **Stockholm Convention as industrial POPs**.

- **How Are People Exposed to PFAS?**

- They are ingredients in various everyday products. For example, PFAS are used to keep food from sticking to packaging or cookware, make clothes and carpets resistant to stains
- PFAS are used in the **aerospace, automotive, construction**, and electronics industries. Over time, PFAS may **leak into the soil, water, and air**.
- People are most likely exposed to these **chemicals by consuming PFAS-contaminated water** or food, using products made with PFAS, or breathing air containing PFAS.
- **Impacts of PFAS on Human Health:** Decreased fertility, developmental effects in children, interference with body hormones, increased cholesterol levels, and increased risk of some cancers.
- **Regulation:** The Stockholm Convention has listed some PFAS, such as Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), as persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-are-forever-chemicals/>

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