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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 09

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SCAN TO EXPLORE





IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

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STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES

- India is one of the largest importers of Crude Oil. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has certain rules which says that each member of there grouping should maintain emergency oil reserves equivalent to at least 90 days of net imports.
- Therefore, to ensure energy security and to follow guidelines of IEA, India planned for a strategic crude oil reserve. 1st goal was to achieve 15 days storage capacity for oil imports.



- Presently the crude oil storages are located at three locations i.e **Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur** The total reserve of SPR is currently estimated to supply **approximately 9.5 days of India's crude requirements.**
- These crude oil storages are constructed in underground rock caverns and are located on the East and West coast of India. Oil from this storage can be supplied to the Indian Refineries by pipelines and ships.
- Other than these strategic reserves, Indian refiners maintain 65 days of **non-strategic, commercial crude storage.** The ISPR (Indian strategic petroleum reserve limited) says that India has 87 day's worth of reserves. This satisfies IEA guidelines on

E- WAY BILL WITH FASTAG

- Electronic Way bill is for the movement of goods. A GST registered person cannot transport goods in a vehicle worth above Rs. 50,000 without an e-way bill.
- This system is to ensure that goods being transported obey the GST Law.
- E-Way Bills are compulsory for both goods movement within a State and Inter-state.

- This is not applicable for the movement of Goods which are exempted under GST.
- Previously in VAT, traders had to visit the offices to get the delivery notes issued. This process has been eliminated by E-way bill. This has helped in reducing corruption in trade related government offices which in order has bettered Ease of Doing Business.
- In E-way bill trader gives the identification of the buyer trader who will also account the transaction automatically.
- This decreases the congestion at check posts and hence ensure faster movement of Goods leading to reduction in travel time and costs.
- 1st Jan 2021 onwards FASTag has been integrated with the e-way bill system and a transporter is required to have **RFID (radio-frequency identification) tag** in his vehicle and details of the e-way bill generated for goods being carried by the vehicles are uploaded into the RFID system.
- Vehicle while passing the check post enables the RFID reader to scan the tag on that vehicle, the details collected is documented in government portal. The information collected can be later harvested to quantify the trade done by each GST registered person.

INSACOG

- INSACOG (The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium) is a group of 10 labs throughout the country aimed to scan COVID-19 samples from the patients. They alert if there is an increase in the presence of any variants that has high transmission internationally.
- They are combinations of laboratories such as laboratories of the Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) was coordinating the initiative of collection of samples from the States. They also keep record of disease surge which comes with the COVID mutations.

INSACOG is important as the main function is genome sequencing:

- Sequencing of the genomes is important as it lets know the cause of such an outbreak and its rate of mutation. Thus, makes us prepared from upcoming variants before its spread.

- Sequencing is to know the exact sequence of occurrence of the four nucleotide bases—A, C, G and T, which are the first letters of the names of four bio-molecules.
- Every mutation is caused by a change in the genome sequence. Thus, knowing the sequences helps in damage control caused by mutations.
- Genome sequencing can provide information on mutations or genetic variants that cause the disease or can increase the risk of disease in a person.

PROTEIN ANTIBODY CONJUGATES (PAC)

- This is to attach a protein to the antibody for example for colon cancer. Target cells are known but there were no mechanisms to produce drug which could bind. But with proteins, now molecules can be produced that will bind to the target.
- PAC is like **addressed envelope containing the drug**. The **antibody plays the role of the address** and commands the cell where the drug should precisely be delivered.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- Recently West Bengal Government has decided to set up a Legislative Council.
- Article 171 of the Constitution of India provides for Composition of the Legislative Councils.

- Legislative Council also referred as Vidhan Parishad is the second house of discussion depicting bicameralism at the state level. but, every state in India does not have Legislative Council and can be created or abolished as per constitutional provisions.
- Some states with Legislative Councils are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- A second chamber in states provides as an **institution of check and balances** on every Bill as it stops hussle tussle, defective, careless and ill-considered legislation made by the lower house. They send it for revision and amendment of proposed bills.
- It allows representation of eminent professionals and experts who cannot face direct elections. The governor **nominates one-sixth members of the council to provide representation to such people**

ANTICIPATORY BAIL

- Recently the Supreme Court while considering compassionate grounds has held that an accused denied anticipatory bail can, in exceptional circumstances, can still be given protection from immediate arrest if the person is the sole bread earner for his family. This will allow the accused to arrange to make

arrangements (financial or otherwise) for his family before surrendering in the trial court.

- The older version of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 had no provisions for the Anticipatory Bail or Pre-Arrest bail.
- The idea of anticipatory bail or pre-arrest bail was first recommended to Parliament only in the context of the 41st Law Commission report, which included the provision of Anticipatory bail / pre-arrest bail in Chapter 33 of the new Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 under section 438.

When can it be granted?

- When there is ample space to assume that the applicant may be detained for unreasonable grounds.
- When the allegations are made with ill intent to cause humiliation in society.
- When the arguments made the subject are ambiguous.
- When the name of the accused is not mentioned in the FIR.
- When the Court take it in confidence that the subject is from a respectable background, and would not abscond from the Court's proceedings and would cooperate with the investigative and judicial proceedings.
- A plaintiff is an influential individual against the defendant who is a weak person or if a case is brought against a political rival.

When can anticipatory bail be refused?

- When there is a risk that the applicant may abscond if released on bail or if the when the court has issued a warrant of arrest.
- The applicant has previously been imprisoned for any cognizable offense on conviction.
- Where the applicant can influence the investigation to his advantage.
- When the evidence produced sufficiently points that the accused is guilty of crime.

CHIEF SECRETARY

- Recently a tussle between government of Bengal and Central Government led to resignation of chief secretary of Bengal.
- Chief Secretary is at the apex of the administrative hierarchy of a state and **is the head of the State Secretariat**. He is in charge of General Administration Department which forms part of portfolio of Chief Minister.
- Chief Secretary is the Chief or head of all the Secretaries of the State and is also called the **“Kingpin of the Secretariat”**.
- The functions of Chief Secretary are defined under the Rules of Business (Article 166 - Conduct of business of the Government of a State) which each state government frames for itself. Some

of the functions are performed by customs and conventions over years of evolution in governance.

- **Article 166(3)** states that the Governor of particular state shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of the State, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business in so far as it is not business with respect to which the Governor is by or under this Constitution required to act in his discretion.

COMPULSORY LICENSING DURING NATIONAL

- Patents are granted to encourage inventions and to secure that the inventions are worked in India on a commercial scale under Indian Patent Act, 1970.
- But patents granted do not in any way prohibit Central Government in taking measures to protect public health.
- **Section 84 of Indian Patents Act, 1970** provides for Compulsory Licensing.

When is it imposed or used?

- When there is a reasonable requirement of the public with respect to the patented invention have not been satisfied
- When the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price,

- when the patented invention is not worked in the territory of India.
- Where compulsory licenses are granted to address a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency - certain requirements are waived in order to hasten the process, such as that for the need to have had prior negotiations obtain a voluntary licence from the patent holder.
- TRIPS refers to some of the possible grounds (such as emergency and anticompetitive practices) for issuing compulsory licenses, it leaves Members full freedom to stipulate other grounds, such as those related to non-working of patents, public health or public interest.
- Under Doha Declaration, each Member has the right to grant compulsory licenses and the **freedom to determine the grounds on which such licenses are granted.**
- TRIPS also allows for compulsory licensing of drugs to produce generic version of life saving drugs required to meet public health challenges.

TEMPLES OF KANCHIPURAM:

- It is situated on the banks of River Vegavathi. This historical city

- once had 1,000 temples, of which only 126 (108 Shaiva and 18 Vaishnava) now remain.
- Its legacy has been attributed to the Pallava dynasty, which made the region its capital between the 6th and 7th centuries and lavished upon its architectural gems that are a fine example of Dravidian styles.



- Six new UNESCO world heritage sites have been added which are Satpura tiger reserve, Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada valley, Maharashtra military architecture, Hire Benkal megalithic sites, Ganga ghats of Varanasi and temples of Kanchipuram.

YUSUF CHAK

- He was the last native ruler of Kashmir who belonged to the Chak dynasty. He succeeded his father Ali Shah as the ruler of Kashmir and ruled from 1579-1586 A.D.

- He was imprisoned by Mughal ruler Akbar and later exiled to Bihar where he was given land in Nalanda district and permitted to maintain a cavalry of 500 soldiers.
- This place where Yusuf settled in Bihar is known as Kashmir Chak. He died in 1592 in Odisha but he was brought back to Bihar where he was buried.
- The people of this dynasty belonged to Gurez in Kashmir. They were predominantly Sunni Muslims. Kashmir was later annexed under the Mughal empire by Akbar in 1589

Prelim's question:

Q.1 Consider the following statement

1. India is NOT a member country of IEA.
2. India has strategic petroleum reserves since 1993.

Which among the following are correct answer?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: A

Q.2

1. A GST registered person cannot transport goods in a vehicle worth above Rs. 40,000 without an e-way bill.

2. E-Way Bills are compulsory only for Inter-state goods trade.
3. E- Way bill is not applicable for the movement of Goods which are exempted under GST.

Which among the following are correct answer?

- a. 1,2 and 3
- b. 1 and 2
- c. 2 only
- d. 3 only

Ans: D

Q.3

1. INSACOG is a group of 10 labs across globe aimed to scan COVID samples.
2. They are operational aim is to monitor the mutations in COVID virus.

Which among the following are correct answer?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Ans: B

Q.4

1. Protein antibody conjugates is like mail box which contains drug.
2. Protein antibody conjugates detaches it from drug so that the targeted cells do not get compromised.

Which among the following are not correct answer?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Ans: C

Q.5

1. Article 171 of the Constitution of India provides for Composition of the Legislative Councils.
2. Some states with LC are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Which among the following are correct answer?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Ans: A

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