



Civils Cafe

IAS Study Circle

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Lead by IAS, IPS, IPoS officers

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 12

- INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME
- GLOBAL SODIUM BENCHMARK
- LUMPY SKIN DISEASE
- ONE PLANET SUMMIT 2021
- FIAT MONEY
- LEGAL TENDER MONEY
- GANGA GHATS IN VARANASI
- EK BHARAT SHRESHTA BHARAT



SCAN TO EXPLORE





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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS
FOR PRELIMS - XII
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SOCIAL JUSTICE**1) INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME**

IN NEWS: - The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme has been activated as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

ABOUT INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

- The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a nationwide disease surveillance system in India incorporating both the state and central governments aimed at early detection and long-term monitoring of diseases for enabling efficient policy decisions.
- It was started in 2004 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the assistance of the World Bank.
- A central surveillance unit has been set up at the National Centre for Disease Control in Delhi. All states, union territories, and district headquarters of India have established surveillance units.
- Weekly data is submitted from over 90% of the 741 districts in the country.
- With the aim of improving digital surveillance capabilities, the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) was launched in a number of states in November 2019.
- The IDSP portal is a one stop portal which has facilities for data entry, view reports, outbreak reporting, data analysis, training modules and resources related to disease surveillance.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Which among the following statements regarding Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme are correct?

1. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme is launched By the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 2. A central surveillance unit has been set up at the National Centre for Disease Control in Delhi.
- a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2) GLOBAL SODIUM BENCHMARK

IN NEWS: - The World Health Organization (WHO) has set its sights on reducing salt in food products around the globe through new global benchmarks.

ABOUT GLOBAL SODIUM BENCHMARK

- It suggests the benchmarks for sodium levels in more than 60 food categories will “help countries reduce salt intake and save lives”.
- WHO said most people consume double its recommended 5g of daily salt intake, putting themselves at greater risk of heart disease and strokes that kill an estimated three million people each year?
- Its new Global Sodium Benchmarks for Different Food Categories is a guide for countries and the industry to reduce the sodium content in different categories of processed foods, the consumption of which is a “rapidly increasing source of sodium.
- The benchmarks target a wide range of categories of processed and packaged foods, which the WHO says significantly contribute to overly salty diets.

- These include processed and packaged bread, savoury snacks, meat products and cheese.

3) LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

IN NEWS: - Recently, a Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) has been infecting India's bovines. The disease is being reported for the first time in India.

ABOUT LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

- It is caused by the pox virus which affects cattle and buffalo and is spreading through blood transmission by mosquitoes, houseflies, and lice.
- Humans are not at risk of developing LSD.
- The disease has various implications like decreased milk production causing significant economic loss to farmers.
- The disease, currently, has no treatment. Hence, prevention by vaccination is the only effective means to control the spread.
- The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has declared it as a notifiable disease
- LSD is endemic to Africa and parts of West Asia, where it was first discovered in 1929.
- In Southeast Asia the first case of LSD was reported in Bangladesh in July 2019.
- In India it was first reported from Mayurbhanj, Odisha in August 2019.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Which among the following statements regarding Lumpy Skin Disease are correct?

1. It is a bacterial disease
 2. Prevention by vaccination is the only effective means to control the spread of the disease
- a. 1 only

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

Answer: - b

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

4) ONE PLANET SUMMIT 2021

IN NEWS: - One Planet Summit was organised by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.

ABOUT ONE PLANET SUMMIT 2021

- The summit focuses on four major topics
 1. protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems; promoting agro ecology
 2. more sustainable way to grow food
 3. increasing funding to protect biodiversity and
 4. identifying links between deforestation and the health of humans and animals.
- Theme: “Let’s act together for nature!”.
- At least 50 countries committed to protecting 30% of the planet, including land and sea, over the next decade to halt species extinction and address climate change issues. However, the officials of the US, Russia, India and Brazil were absent at the summit.
- The summit also launched a program called PREZODE which is an international initiative to prevent the emergence of zoonotic diseases and pandemics

- The summit also focused on investment for Africa's Great Green Wall project, which involves gigantic efforts to stop the Sahara Desert from spreading further south.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Which among the following statements are correct?

1. The One planet Summit was organised by the UNFCCC
 2. The theme of this year's One Planet Summit is "Let's act together for nature!".
- a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

ECONOMY

5) FIAT MONEY

IN NEWS: - The Supreme Court has struck down a ban on trading of Virtual Currencies (VC) in India, which was imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April 2018.

ABOUT FIAT MONEY

- Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not backed by a physical commodity, such as gold or silver, but rather by the government that issued it.

- The value of fiat money is derived from the relationship between supply and demand and the stability of the issuing government, rather than the worth of a commodity backing it.
- Most modern paper currencies are fiat currencies, including the U.S. dollar, the euro, and other major global currencies.

ABOUT VIRTUAL CURRENCIES

- There is no globally accepted definition of what exactly is virtual currency. Basically, virtual currency is the larger umbrella term for all forms of non-fiat currency being traded online.
- Virtual currencies are mostly created, distributed and accepted in local virtual networks.
- Virtual Currencies also includes cryptocurrencies.
- Cryptocurrencies have an extra layer of security, in the form of encryption algorithms.
- Most cryptocurrencies now operate on the blockchain or distributed ledger technology, which allows everyone on the network to keep track of the transactions occurring globally.
- Popular forms of cryptocurrencies include Bitcoin, Ethereum, etc.
- Satoshi Nakamoto, widely regarded as the founder of the modern virtual currency bitcoin and the underlying technology called blockchain, defines bitcoins as “a new electronic cash system that’s fully peer-to-peer, with no trusted third party (central regulator)”.

6) LEGAL TENDER MONEY

- The 'Legal tender' is the money that is recognised by the law of the land, as valid for payment of debt.
- It must be accepted for discharge of debt. The RBI Act of 1934, which gives the Central Bank the sole right to issue bank notes, states that "Every bank

note shall be legal tender at any place in India in payment for the amount expressed therein".

- The recognition or cancellation of the legal tender status is important because paper money derives all its value from the Government's recognition of it.
- Also, for a piece of paper to function as a medium or exchange and store of value, it needs to enjoy unquestioning acceptance from the public. This can only be ensured by declaring such paper currency notes as 'legal tender' through a fiat, with the RBI or the Centre promising to 'pay the bearer' an equivalent sum if the currency note is presented to them.

Non-Legal Tender-Money: It is a form of money, which is generally accepted, but legally is not bound to accept it. Such as cheques, bank drafts, bills of exchange, postal orders etc. are not legal tenders and are accepted only at the option of the creditor, lender, or seller.

- It is also called the optional money because it does not have legal backing and their acceptance is optional.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following statements

1. Cheques, bank drafts, bills of exchange, postal orders etc. are legal tenders
2. The 'Legal tender' is the money that is recognised by the law of the land, as valid for payment of debt.

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - b

HISTORY AND CULTURE

7) GANGA GHATS IN VARANASI

IN NEWS: - Six sites including Ganga ghats in Varanasi have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.

ABOUT GANGA GHATS IN VARANASI

- Ghats in Varanasi are riverfront steps leading to the banks of the River Ganges.
- The city has 88 ghats. Most of the ghats are bathing and puja ceremony ghats, while two ghats are used exclusively as cremation sites
- Most Varanasi ghats were rebuilt after 1700 AD when the city was part of the Maratha Empire.
- The patrons of current ghats are Marathas, Shindes (Scindias), Holkars, Bhonsles, and Peshwes (Peshwas).
- Varanasi's riverfront mainly falls "into the second category of cultural properties, i.e: groups of buildings, groups of separate or connected buildings because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science.
- The Ganga River with its riverfront ghats also fulfil the criteria of Cultural Landscapes as designated in Article 1 of the Convention and specifically that of a cultural landscape "that retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following statements

1. Six sites including Ganga ghats in Varanasi have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.
2. Most Varanasi ghats were rebuilt after 1700 AD when the city was part of the Maratha Empire.

Which among the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: - c

8) EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” was announced by the Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The key aim is to promote the Indian ideology of “Unity in Diversity” in India. It aims to build the interest of people in their neighbouring states and UTs, also encourage them to promote their culture
- Through this innovative measure, the knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different States & UTs will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between the States, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.
- All States and UTs will be covered under the programme.
- There will be pairing of States/UTs at national level and these pairings will be in effect for one year, or till the next round of pairings.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**❖ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:**

- It was launched in January 2015 with the aim to address sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Objectives:
 - Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
 - Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
 - Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
 - Protecting rights of Girl children.
- Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has improved by 16 points from 918 (2014-15) to 934 (2019-20), as per the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): GER of girls in the schools at secondary level has improved from 77.45 (2014-15) to 81.32 (2018-19) as per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) provisional data.
- Toilet for girls: Percentage of schools with functional separate toilets for girls has shown improvement from 92.1% in 2014-15 to 95.1% in 2018-19.

★ POSHAN Tracker

- Poshan Tracker is a mobile based application for ensuring real-time monitoring of stunting, wasting, underweight prevalence among children and last mile tracking of nutrition services delivery.
- To promote the nutritional status of women and children, a transparent and enabling environment is being created that nurtures health, wellness and immunity.
- Tracking of services to the end beneficiary at a click of a button ensures Services like Take Home Ration (THR) and Hot cooked Meal (HCM), vaccination for Infants and Pregnant Women.
- Tracking of nutritional status is done by Anganwadi workers under Poshan Abhiyan Scheme.

★ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- The Scheme envisages providing cash incentive amounting to ₹ 5,000/- in three installments directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother (PW&LM) in DBT Mode during pregnancy and lactation.
- It is a measure for women empowerment through wage compensation and promotion of health seeking behavior.

★ One Stop Centres

- For women affected by violence and in need of assistance, a range of integrated services are being provided under one roof, including facilitation with police, medical and legal aid and counseling and psycho-social counseling through One Stop Centers or Sakhi Centers across 34 States/UTs.
- Also, emergency/non-emergency help is provided through toll-free women helpline (181).

★ Expansion of Childline:

- Childline 1098, a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service, is a nation-wide initiative for rescuing and assisting children in need of aid.
- Childline has also started Childline Services at Bus Stands in addition to its presence in railway stations.

★ Poshan Vatikas

- Literally translating to nutri-gardens, the ministry plans to set up Poshan Vatikas across all anganwadi centres with the aim to provide a fresh supply of fruits, vegetables and even medicinal plants, especially in aspirational districts.
- Main objective of introducing Poshan Vatikas is to encourage community members to grow local food crops in their backyards and secure them with an inexpensive, regular and handy supply of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Nutri-gardens by themselves represent an exemplary global best practice which has the potential to address the multiple goals of diet diversity, nutrition security, agri-food cultivation, local livelihood generation and environmental sustainability.

★ POSHAN Pakhwada

- POSHAN Pakhwada was celebrated from 16th March through 31st March, with the theme of "Addressing Nutritional Challenges

through Food Forestry". To implement the theme, objectives revolved around the promotion of

- planting at least four saplings of plants that are high in nutritional value per Anganwadi Centre (AWC) under the local panchayat and the District Magistrate (DM)/District Collector (DC) by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH
- knowledge dissemination on nutrition through Jan Andolan activities, and
- support the allied services of nutrition.
- Major thrust was on implementing the activities through POSHAN Panchayats, that is, ensuring maximum participation by local panchayats for health and nutrition promotion in communities.
- Poshan Pakhwada was dedicated around the following themes.
 - Addressing nutritional challenges through Food Forestry
 - Poshan Panchayat
 - AYUSH for Well being
 - Food and Nutrition Forestry and Plantations: India@75
 - Back to Basics – Yoga for Health
 - Poshan Vatika

- Poshan ke Paanch Sutra
- Traditional Recipes for Health – My Kitchen My Dispensary
- AYUSH Application for Nutritional Support: India@75

★ **Rastriya Poshan mah**

- The objective of the Poshan Maah is to ensure community mobilization and bolster people's participation for addressing malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.
- It focuses on four key themes, ie, Plantation activity on “Poshan Vatika”, Yoga and AYUSH for Nutrition, Nutrition Kits Distribution to Anganwadi beneficiaries in High Burden Districts and Identification of SAM children (Severe Acute Malnutrition)

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