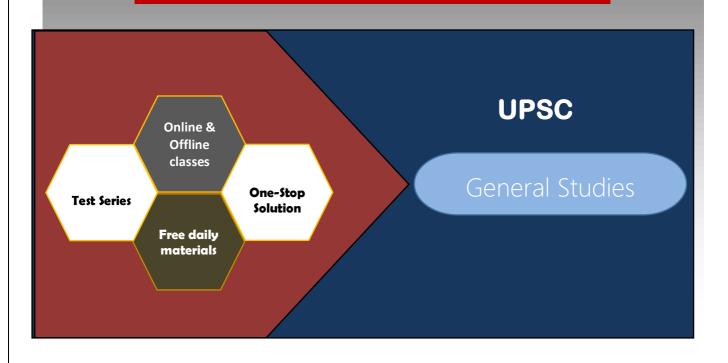**VISHNU IAS**
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GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1.Diabetes

In News : A first-of-its kind report of long-term survivors of Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) from India, a multi-centric study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Diabetes Technology and Therapeutics.

Diabetes

- Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.
- **Type I diabetes**: It mostly affects children of age 14-16 years. This type occurs when the body fails to produce sufficient insulin. They must take artificial insulin daily to stay alive.
- **Type 2 diabetes**: While the body still makes insulin, unlike in type I, the cells in the body do not respond to it as effectively as they once did. The population with 45 and above age group is the most affected with it.
  - o This is the most common type of diabetes and it has strong links with obesity.
- Diabetes affects the five major organs – Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).
- **Responsible factors**: Unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, overweight/obesity, tobacco use, etc.

- Individuals with T1D have increased morbidity and excess premature mortality compared to those without diabetes
- Their life expectancy is reduced by an estimated 15-20 years, even with the life-saving insulin to their assistance**.**
- India is home to more than 95,000 children with T1D, reported to be the highest in the world, according to the 9th International Diabetes Federation Atlas.

2. 2nd phase of SBM-U and AMRUT Mission

The PM has launched the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.

Missions

[A] Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0

The Mission will focus on ensuring complete access to sanitation facilities to serve additional populations migrating from rural to urban areas in search of employment and better opportunities over the next 5 years.

- **Complete liquid waste management** in cities in less than 1 lakh population to ensure that all wastewater is safely contained, collected, transported, and treated so that no wastewater pollutes our water bodies.
- **Source segregation-** Under Sustainable Solid Waste Management, greater emphasis will be on source segregation.
- **Material Recovery Facilities** and waste processing facilities will be set up, with a focus on phasing out single-use plastic.
- **Construction & demolition waste processing** facilities will be set up.
- **Mechanical sweepers** deployed in National Clean Air Programme cities and in cities with more than 5 lakh population.
- **Remediation of all legacy dumpsites** will be another key component of the Mission.

[B] AMRUT 2.0

- **Water management:** It will build upon the progress of AMRUT to address water needs, rejuvenate water bodies, better manage aquifers, reuse treated wastewater, thereby promoting circular economy of water.
- **Water supply:** It would provide100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 ULBs.
- **Sewerage:** It will provide 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities.
- **Rejuvenation of water bodies and urban aquifer management:** It will be undertaken to augment sustainable fresh water supply.
- **Recycle and reuse of treated wastewater:** It is expected to cater to 20% of total water needs of the cities and 40% of industrial demand.
- **Pey Jal Survekshan:** It will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies.

3. Shringla begins four-day visit to Sri Lanka today

In News :

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla is in Colombo for a four-day visit to Sri Lanka.

Details:

- The visit of the Foreign Secretary will provide an opportunity to:
    - review the bilateral ties
    - review the progress of ongoing bilateral projects
    - build on the ongoing cooperation to tackle COVID-related disruptions.
- The visit is being seen as an attempt to reset ties that have been under a strain over:
    - The Sri Lankan decision to cancel an MoU with India and Japan for Colombo's East Container Terminal.

- Slow progress in a number of other proposals, including the Trincomalee oil farms, the Sampur power project (which is being converted to a solar project), and the development of the northern part of the island nation.

- In particular, India has been concerned by the perception that while Indian projects have taken inordinately long to be cleared, projects by China have been cleared even during the pandemic.
    - Example: The Sri Lankan government's Parliament vote to facilitate the $1.4 billion China-backed Colombo Port City development.
    - The ruling Rajapaksa administration passed a Bill, titled 'Colombo Port City Economic Commission', in Parliament, outlining proposed laws for the $1.4 billion Port City being built on reclaimed land at Colombo's seafront.
    - It is touted by the government as an investment hub for foreign capital.

Agenda:

- Assessing progress on a number of infrastructure and energy projects, and Sri Lanka's need for economic assistance will be at the top of the agenda.
- He is expected to raise concerns about the reconciliation process and promises of devolution of power to northern Sri Lanka, which have remained unfulfilled more than a decade after the end of the war on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

4. CJI for forming special panels to probe 'atrocities' by police

In News :

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has expressed his strong reservations about the conduct of police officers and bureaucracy in the country.

Details:

- Chief Justice of India has said that he is in favour of forming standing committees headed by the Chief Justices of the High Courts to investigate complaints received from the common man of atrocities committed by the bureaucracy, especially police officers.
- Some police officers are in the spotlight for committing serious crimes.
    - Recently, police officers in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, have been accused of causing the death of a businessman during a raid in a hotel.
    - In Tamil Nadu, the CBI chargesheeted nine policemen for the custodial deaths of father-son duo P. Jayaraj and J. Benicks.
    - There have been instances of district administration officers caught on video manhandling citizens during the lockdown.
- The Supreme Court had raised the issue of nexus between politicians in power and police officers.
- Also, earlier, the Supreme Court had orally referred to a disturbing trend, where police officials, who had sided with the party in power, are later targeted when another political dispensation comes to power.

5. No clean sweep

In News :

The Prime Minister of India has announced the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), with a fresh promise to make India's cities clean.

Issues:

- The goal of scientific waste management and full sanitation that Mahatma Gandhi emphasised even a century ago remains largely aspirational today.

- It is evident from the recent regret of the Principal Economic Adviser on dirty, dysfunctional cities.
- According to him, urban India is unable to match cities in Vietnam that has a comparable per capita income.
- The current model of issuing mega contracts to big corporations has left segregation of waste at source a non-starter.
- On sanitation, the impressive claim of exceeding the targets for household, community and public toilets thus far conceals the reality that without water connections, many of them are unusable.
- He spoke about the lack of urban management capacities in India in spite of the Swachh Bharat programme enjoying tremendous support.

Swacch Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0:

- SBM-U 2.0, with a ₹1.41-lakh crore outlay, aims to focus on garbage-free cities.
- It ventures into urban grey and black water management in places not covered by AMRUT.
- In its first phase, the Mission had an outstanding balance of ₹3,532 crore, since the total allocation was ₹14,622 crore while cumulative releases came to ₹11,090 crore.

Way Forward:

- India aims to address two main challenges through SBM 2.0.
    - Being able to process 1.4 lakh tonnes of solid waste generated per day. (At present, only about 1 lakh tonnes is processed.)
    - To transition to a circular economy that treats solid and liquid waste as a resource.
- Capability and governance play a major role in this regard.
- Raising community involvement in resource recovery calls for a partnership that gives a tangible incentive to households.
- Decentralised community-level operations could be considered for the segregation of waste.
- In the absence of a scaling up of operations, which can provide large-scale employment and the creation of matching facilities for material recovery, SBM-U 2.0 cannot keep pace with the tide of waste in a growing economy.
- State and municipal governments, which do the heavy lifting on waste and sanitation issues, should work to increase community ownership of the system.
- It is a long road to Open Defecation Free plus (ODF+) status for urban India, since that requires no recorded case of open defecation and for all public toilets to be maintained and functioning.

- The high ambition of achieving 100% tap water supply in about 4,700 urban local bodies and sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities depends crucially on making at least good public rental housing accessible to millions of people.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology,Environment

6. GST collections hit 5-month high

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues crossed ₹1.17 lakh crore in September, hitting a five-month high.

What is the news?

- September's revenues were 23% higher than a year ago and 27.3% more than collections in the pre-pandemic month of September 2019.
- Revenues from import of goods were 30% higher while indirect tax collected on domestic transactions, including the import of services, were 20% higher in September, compared to the same month in 2020.
- Among the major States, GST revenues grew 29% in Karnataka, 28% in Gujarat, followed by 22% in Maharashtra and 21% each in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- Telangana recorded a 25% surge in revenues, while Odisha saw a sharper 40% rise.

Significance

- This clearly indicates that the economy is recovering at a fast pace.
- Coupled with economic growth, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers have also been contributing to the enhanced GST collections.
- It is expected that the positive trend in the revenues will continue and the second half of the year will post higher revenues.

Issues underlying

- Though GST revenues are picking up pace after the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, revenue buoyancy under GST is being seen as a concern.
- This is especially after the legally mandated compensation to states for revenue shortfall from the GST implementation comes to an end in June 2022.

7. What is Computer Tomography?

The first computed tomography image – a CT scan – of the human brain was made 50 years ago, on Oct. 1, 1971.

About Computer Tomography (CT)

- A CT scan is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to get detailed images of the body noninvasively for diagnostic purposes.
- The multiple X-ray measurements taken from different angles are then processed on a computer using reconstruction algorithms to produce tomographic (cross-sectional) images (virtual "slices") of a body.

How does it work?

- They use a narrow X-ray beam that circles around one part of your body. This provides a series of images from many different angles.
- A computer uses this information to create a cross-sectional picture. Like one piece in a loaf of bread, this two-dimensional (2D) scan shows a "slice" of the inside of your body.
- This process is repeated to produce a number of slices.
- The computer stacks these scans one on top of the other to create a detailed image of your organs, bones, or blood vessels.
- For example, a surgeon may use this type of scan to look at all sides of a tumor to prepare for an operation.

Its development

- Since its development in the 1970s, CT has proven to be a versatile imaging technique.
- While CT is most prominently used in diagnostic medicine, it also may be used to form images of non-living objects.
- The 1979 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to South African-American physicist Allan M. Cormack and British electrical engineer Godfrey N. Hounsfield "for the development of computer-assisted tomography".

Threats

- CT scans use X-rays, which produce ionizing radiation.
- Such radiation may damage your DNA and lead to cancer.
- The risk increases with every CT scan we get.
- Ionizing radiation may be more harmful in children.

8. Ethanol production

In News   Almost two million tonnes (MT) of sugar were diverted for ethanol production during the last sugar season (October 2020 to September 2021).

About Ethanol and its production

- Ethanol can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content.
- In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.
- Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends.
- As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution.
- Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, ethanol is also considered as renewable fuel.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. Do we need to count caste in census?

- A continuous and unabated push towards including caste in the forthcoming census enumeration has finally ended with the Union government position into the Supreme Court.
- The Centre had decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise population other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Existing issue: Delay in the Census itself

- That a decadal exercise has faced discontinuation with the pandemic is damaging enough, which will require reconstruction for the year 2021.

- We are also not sure how the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, who could not conduct the census on time, will be able to add any other additional questions including enumeration of caste.
- The Election Commission did its job in conducting elections during Covid-19 but not the Census Commissioner.

Why caste cannot be included at this hour?

- In the midst of an uncertain environment, conducting a census is unavoidable since it is not an overnight exercise.
- Imposing the collection of caste information may dilute the exercise at the very least and send wrong signals regarding its purpose.

Why we should let the Census go its way?

There need to be sincere efforts towards putting systems in place in context to the Census.

(a) Population Enumeration

- There is a need conduct the population enumeration at the earliest and providing an update of India's population dynamics in comparable terms to be read against the past.
- The absence of population enumeration and its discontinuation can have implications for gauging the evolving changes as well as its prospects.

(b) Age-sex composition

- Census offer some tentative clues towards the age-sex composition of the population under varying sets of assumptions.
- Besides, it offers more detailed information — on households, assets, marital status, education, migration etc since the last census of 2011.
- Moreover it would provide accurate data about India's large chunk of population which is ageing.

(c) Impact of the Pandemic

- A decade of rapid fertility declines and rising mobility needs serious assessment in terms of its impact on the population dynamics.
- In the absence of any clue regarding population, together with a pandemic with its devastating course of fatalities, the need for a population enumeration is all the more urgent.
- Estimated and projected numbers can serve as approximations to the extent of the assumptions being realistic and accurate.

(d) Planning for the next FYP

- A 14th five-year plan being in the offing makes it a crucial year to have the real numbers towards making the planning exercise effective.
- Preparing our human capital of quality and adaptability to the emerging labour market is the need of the hour, and at the same time.

Impediments created by including Caste

An attribute like caste being obtained in a census exercise makes matters complex on multiple grounds such as:

- **Caste within Caste:** Given the differences in caste hierarchies across various regions of the country, a comparative reading along with generating a common hierarchy may be a challenge.
- **Caste over occupation linked predicaments:** Further, caste linked deprivation or adversity may not be as common as occupation linked predicaments, which become easier to compare across states/regions.
- **Anonymity and bias:** An intimate and personalised attribute like caste may have its differential exposition between urban and rural residents. Urban residents' need for anonymity can always bias the reporting on caste.
- **Identity crisis:** Above all, recognition and adherence to caste identity is to a large extent shaped by progressive ideals, cosmopolitanism and education, which has its own regional divide in the country between the north and the south.

Other concerns

- **Accuracy of reporting:** With such complexities associated with divulging caste identity, one cannot be sure of its accuracy in reporting on the one hand and the possible bias linked to other attributes on the other.
- **Existing status-quo:** The attributes obtained in the census like age, sex, residence, occupation and religion in themselves have not received adequate exploration to add to the understanding of differential population dynamics.
- **Non-intervention:** Considering caste with its wide-ranging count as another fresh attribute may not be of worth as neither will it offer sensible outcome differences nor facilitate identification for intervention.

Way forward

- The census enumeration should be a priority and the proposed digital enumeration should become more effective in generating required data of quality and accuracy.

- The upcoming census is certain to reveal interesting realities of population dynamics that go beyond the narrow and regressive outlook of the caste count to help gauge the transformation in human capital.

Conclusion

- In fact, attributes like caste and religion that are not modifiable should be less important compared to modifiable attributes like education, occupation and other endowment linked attributes.
- Hence, the moral lies in rising above ascribed attributes in defining outcomes to that of achieved ones.
- Such an approach has a dual advantage of gauging distribution across attributes as well as their response to outcomes.

2. Renunciation of Indian citizenship

Context The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has simplified the process for Indians who want to renounce their citizenship.

- Provisions have been made for applicants to upload documents online, with an upper limit of 60 days for the renunciation process to be completed.

About Citizenship

- In India, Articles 5 – 11 of the Constitution deals with the concept of citizenship. The term citizenship entails the enjoyment of full membership of any State in which a citizen has civil and political rights.
- Termination of citizenship is possible in three ways according to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- **Renunciation**: If any citizen of India who is also a national of another country renounces his Indian citizenship through a declaration in the prescribed manner, he ceases to be an Indian citizen.
- **Termination**: Indian citizenship can be terminated if a citizen knowingly or voluntarily adopts the citizenship of any foreign country.
- **Deprivation**: The government of India can deprive a person of his citizenship in some cases. It is applicable only in the case of citizens who have acquired the citizenship by registration, naturalization, or only by Article 5 (c)

3. PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme

Context The existing Mid-Day Meal scheme, which provides hot meals to students, has been renamed as the National Scheme for PM Poshan Shakti Nirman.

Key propositions in the PM POSHAN Scheme

- **Supplementary nutrition**: Supplementary nutrition for children in aspirational districts and those with high prevalence of anaemia.
- **States to decide diet**: It essentially does away with the restriction on the part of the Centre to provide funds only for wheat, rice, pulses and vegetables. Currently, if a state decides to add any component like milk or eggs to the menu, the Centre does not bear the additional cost. Now that restriction has been lifted.
- **Nutri-gardens**: They will be developed in schools to give children "firsthand experience with nature and gardening".
- **Women and FPOs:** To promote vocals for local, women self-help groups and farmer producer organisations will be encouraged to provide a fillip to locally grown traditional food items.
- **Social Audit**: "Inspection" by students of colleges and universities for ground-level execution.
- **Tithi-Bhojan**: Communities would also be encouraged to provide the children food at festivals etc.
- **DBTs to school**: States will be asked to do direct benefit cash transfers of cooking costs to individual school accounts, and allowances to the bank accounts of cooks and helpers.
- **Holistic nutrition**: Use of locally grown traditional foods will be encouraged, along with school nutrition gardens.

About the Mid-Day meal scheme

- The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1995.
- Objective: To enhance enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improve nutritional levels among children.
- In 2001 it became a cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- The Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarsas/ maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- It is the largest school feeding programme in the world.
- It is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology,Environment

4. Challenges facing Khadi

Context

The Prime Minister has repeatedly stressed his support for khadi, cottage industries, crafts and handlooms.

About Khadi

- Genuine khadi or khaddar is woven from short-stapled organically grown cotton.
- The beauty is in its uneven texture and colours, as cotton bolls are not all pure white in every region.
- Fabrics being made today in the name of khadi are modified spin-offs that look more like handloom fabric, with mill-produced yarn, screen printed and often mixed with mill-made polyester.

Issues

- **Restriction of scope:** According to the **Khadi Mark Regulations (KMR) of 2013**, no textile can be sold or otherwise traded by any person or institution as khadi or a khadi product in any form if the khadi mark tag issued by KVIC is missing.
- **This restricts the scope of trade** to a few approved entities, thereby creating recognisable barriers to enter the market for khadi.
- **Restrictive certification process:** The certification process described in Chapter V (Clause 20 (a)) of the KMR requires accredited agencies to perform an on-site verification of hand-spinning and hand-weaving processes."
- Yarn must be procured only from KVIC depots or the Cotton Corporation of India, **descriptions of mechanisation and electrification are ambiguous.**
- There are so many restrictions that most producers have no incentive and many small bodies are unable **to pay Rs 50,000 for certification.**
- **Multiple authorities:** Hand-spinning and weaving are also part of craft skills. Only the hand-spun part is additional in khadi.
- But today KVIC, on its website and in its catalogue, has visibly non-hand-spun silk-printed saris, polyester fabrics and others that seem clearly machine-printed.
- The KVIC online catalogue has products like industrially-made suitcases, bags and wallets which are under MSME, but with a "khadi" label.

- This points to the need for bringing khadi and all handicrafts together in one ministry.

Conclusion

Gandhi did not intend to create a police state for the khadi sector, full of acts and rules that put production in a straitjacket. Perhaps, some courageous producers can try circumventing all this by using the word "khaddar" on their labels instead.

5. Species in news: Adi Cascade

Making of check dams on streams and removal of boulders may wipe out the local population of Adi cascade frogs (Amolops adicola), a recently discovered species in Arunachal Pradesh, scientists claimed.

About Adi cascade

- The species was discovered while revisiting a century-old Adi expedition in 2018 and named after the land of the Adi tribe where the frogs dwell, particularly post-monsoon.
- The call of the frog is quite unique with continuous notes almost like a cricket.
- They are delivered at very short intervals, not long call groups — giving an impression of being continuous: A typical call lasts 485.2 milliseconds.
- The species is predominantly found in open riverine landscapes and human-inhabited rural areas.
- Males were mostly observed on tree saplings, fern fronds, and banana plants in and around the cultivated land.
- Locally known as Juri (stream) Tatik (frog) — is considered a local delicacy.

What are Cascade Frogs?

- The nomenclature 'cascade frogs' draws on their preference for small waterfalls.
- Cascade frogs, in general, depend on the flow of water.
- Both adults and tadpoles of Adi cascade frogs, the species in question, are particularly adapted to fast flowing sections of stream.

Rich biodiversity of Arunachal

- Arunachal, a biodiversity hotspot, is home to many endemics, endangered and threatened species as well as to indigenous people who depend on its biological resources.

- The Forest Survey of India in 2019 estimated that Arunachal had 66,688 sq km of forests — 79.6 per cent of the state's area.
- Global Forest Watch, however, estimated the forests cover at 74 per cent of its total land area.

6. Landslide and Flood Early Warning System

In News CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has launched an 'Environmental Seismology' group to develop a 'Landslide and Flood Early Warning System' for the Himalayan region based on real-time monitoring with dense seismological networks, coupled with satellite data, numerical modelling and geomorphic analysis.

- This would enable a crucial warning several hours prior, which will save precious human lives and property in future during such events.

Climate change – Cause of landslides and floods

- Landslides are common in India's northern Himalayan region, particularly in the current monsoon season when heavy rains lead to subsidence of earth and rocks.
- The situation is exacerbated by climate change making the monsoon more erratic and melting glaciers higher in the mountains.
- Roads in the region are also often poorly maintained.

About landslide and flood

- A landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.
- A high water level that overflows the natural banks along any portion of a stream is called a flood. Thus, Floods are commonly associated with a stream or river.

Do you know?

- The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) is a constituent research laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- It was established in 1961 with the mission to carry out research in multidisciplinary areas of the highly complex structure and processes of the Earth system and its extensively interlinked subsystems.

7. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

In News: Chacha Chaudhary declared Mascot for Namami Gange Programme.

- Content to be designed with the objective of bringing about behavioral change amongst children towards Ganga and other rivers.

Proposal for conserving and sustainably managing Gangetic floodplain wetlands in Bihar:

- Major components of the project will be Wetland inventory and assessment, Wetland management planning, Wetland's monitoring, and Capacity development and outreach.
- Aims at creating a knowledge base and capacities for effective management of floodplain wetlands in the 12 Ganga districts in Bihar to ensure sustained provision of wetlands ecosystem services and securing biodiversity habitats.

Kalpvas: Simariya Ghat is popular for Kalpvas, an ancient tradition in which devotees live on ghats, sing and meditate during the Magh Mela.

Prelims Practice Questions

1. Which of the following are included in the State List of the Indian Constitution?

1. Dispensaries
2. Hospitals
3. Medical education
4. Drug administration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A 1 and 2 only
B 3 and 4 only
C 1, 2 and 3
D 1, 2 and 4

Answer : A

Explanation

Public Healthcare in India

- Policy making in the country's health sector is shaped by its federal structure and the Central-State divisions of responsibilities and financing.
- **State List:** Public health and sanitation, **hospitals and dispensaries are state subjects,** which means the primary responsibility of their management and service delivery lies with the states.
- **Union List:** The Centre also invests in health services through Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the National Health Mission (NHM) and Ayushman Bharat.
- **Concurrent List:** The Centre plays an important role in vital statistics, **medical education, and drugs administration,** among others, **which are subjects in the Concurrent List,** as also in planning, policy making, and funding for public health at state and national levels.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

2. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

1. Aurang: In-charge of treasury of the State
2. Banian: Indian agent of the East India Company
3. Mirasidar: Designated revenue payer to the State

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Aurang is a Persian term for a warehouse – a place where goods are collected before being sold. The word also refers to a workshop for finished goods.
- The term banian is the Anglicised form of the Sanskrit and Bangla word banik (merchant). In Anglo-Indian society and among the natives too, a banian

was one who was engaged by an individual western merchant or a firm to work for them as a broker, interpreter and agent.

- Mirasidar is a designated revenue payer to the State.

3. With reference to the 'DigiSaksham Programme', consider the following statements:

1. It is jointly launched by the Union Labour Ministry and Microsoft India.
2. It will provide digital skills training to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 only
B 2 only
C Both 1 and 2
D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

Explanation

- Recently, the **Union Labour Ministry and Microsoft** India have jointly launched a **digital skilled platform — DigiSaksham — to enhance youth employability. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This joint initiative is an extension of the ongoing programs to support the **youth from rural and semi-urban areas.**
  - **Free of cost training in digital skills** including basic skills as well as advanced computing, will be provided to more than 3 lakh youths in the first year.
  - **Priority will be given** to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to **Covid-19** pandemic. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - Training would be conducted at the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC) **for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs)** across the country.
- **It will be implemented by** Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I).

o AKJRSP-I is a **non-denominational, non-government development organization.** It works as a catalyst for the betterment of rural communities by providing direct support to local communities.

4. It is the largest Nuclear Power station in India and is operated by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. It is the result of an inter-governmental agreement between India and Russia.

The Nuclear Power generation facility being talked about is:

a. Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant
b. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant
c. Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant
d. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Kudankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- The plant is scheduled to have VVER-1000 reactors built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). Know more about the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in the link.

5. With reference to the 'one sun, one world, one grid', consider the following statements:

1. The idea behind the concept is a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe.
2. It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 only
B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2
D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

Explanation

- India and the UK are likely to announce a joint declaration on **"one sun, one world, one grid" — or OSOWOG** at the upcoming **Conference of Parties (COP26).**
- The **UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26,** is scheduled to be held between 31ˢᵗ October and 12ᵗʰ November in Scotland.
- The concept of OSOWOG is what the British have called a **green grid.**
- The idea behind the concept is a **trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power** across the globe. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The vision behind the **OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets'** and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
  - This is by far **one of the most ambitious schemes** undertaken by any country (India) and is of global significance in terms of sharing economic benefits.
  - It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the **World Bank. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - The OSOWOG plan may also leverage the **International Solar Alliance (ISA),** co-founded by India that has 80 countries as members.
  - With India in the middle, the **solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones,** which are:
    - Far East including countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia etc.
    - Far West covering the Middle East and the Africa Region.

6. C.K. Mishra Committee sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for?

- a. To recommend an approach towards development of a Sustainable Finance Hub
- b. To inquire hardships faced by journalists and to improve their condition of services
- c. To study the impact of journalism in daily lives and recommend a foundation for ethical journalism
- d. None of the above

Answer : a

C.K. Mishra Committee

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has been established as a unified regulator to develop and regulate financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India.
- IFSCA, in its endeavour to develop the required eco-system has constituted an Expert Committee to recommend approach towards development of Sustainable Finance Hub and provide road map for the same.
- The expert committee is being chaired by Shri C.K. Mishra, Former Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- The committee consists of leaders across the sustainable finance spectrum, including international agencies, standard setting bodies, funds, academia, and consultancies.

Mains Practice Questions

1Q. Indigenous people are one of the most vulnerable sections facing climate change, however, they can act as change agents, towards mitigating and adapting to climate change. Discuss. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly defining Indigenous people, highlight their vulnerability/problems face due to Climate Change.
- Highlight how they can act as change agent in mitigation as well as adaptation efforts with example.
- In conclusion, highlight some challenges for becoming a change agent and some measures to overcome them.

2Q. Putting the citizen first is the guiding principle of good governance. Discuss. (250 words)

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about Good Governance.
- Discuss how "Citizen first" is the guiding principle of good governance.
- Give a conclusion.