

**GOVERNANCE****Framework For Telemedicine Use**

Recently, Union Health Minister released the Framework for Telemedicine use in Management of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke in India.

**Key Points**

- Telemedicine with its components of tele-consultation, tele-monitoring, tele-triage can be integrated to build continuum of care model for major Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
- The increasing burden of NCDs in India requires multipronged interventions that can address promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative aspects of NCD care and management.
- Telemedicine can bridge and link all these aspects.
- It can be adapted and used by medical practitioners from primary to tertiary health care level in India, through the national teleconsultation network and other similar platforms.”

**INDIAN ECONOMY****Cost of issuing green bonds remains higher than other bonds**

A study by RBI noted that the cost of issuing green bonds has generally remained higher than other bonds in India, largely due to asymmetric information.

**Key Points**

- The average coupon rate for green bonds issued since 2015 with maturities between 5 to 10 years have generally remained higher than the corporate and government bonds with similar tenure.
- For the US dollar-denominated green bonds with tenure of more than or equal to 10 years, the coupon rate was lower than the corporate bonds.
- Most of the green bonds in India are issued by the public sector units or corporates with better financial health.
- Green bonds constituted only 0.7% of all the bonds issued in India since 2018,
- Developing a better information management system in India may help in reducing maturity mismatches, borrowing costs and lead to efficient resource allocation in this segment.

**Important value additions**

- A green bond is a fixed-income instrument designed specifically to support specific climate-related or environmental projects.
- Green bonds typically come with tax incentives to enhance their attractiveness to investors.
- The World Bank issued the first official green bond in 2009.
- Around \$157 billion worth of green bonds were issued in 2019.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATION****50 Years of India Bangladesh Relations**

Commemorating 50 years of the 1971 India-Pakistan war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh, a 122-member contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces has recently participated in the 72nd Republic Day parade.

This year, India and Bangladesh are also celebrating 50 years of the establishment of their ties.

**Key Points**

- This is the third time the Republic Day parade in India has witnessed the participation of a military contingent from abroad.
- Previously French troops marched in 2016 and UAE troops in 2017.
- Bangladesh War of Independence: Vijay Diwas is observed on 16th December every year to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- The Government of India, on 3rd December 1971, declared that it would go for war with Pakistan to save Bengali Muslims and Hindus.
- This war was fought between India and Pakistan for 13 days.
- On 16th December 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces with 93,000 soldiers had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini in Dhaka.
- Mukti Bahini refers to the armed organizations that fought against the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh Liberation War. It was a guerrilla resistance movement.
- Bangladesh was born on this day. Hence, Bangladesh celebrates its independence day (Bijoy Dibos) on 16th December every year.

**India-Bangladesh Relations**

India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971. Their relationship is broad based spanning over

- Defence Cooperation
- Cooperation over Rivers
- Economic Relations
- Cooperation in Connectivity
- Cooperation in Power Sector
- Partnership on Multilateral forums

**Recent Development:**

- Recently, India and Bangladesh signed seven agreements and also inaugurated three projects to deepen their partnership.
- The use of the Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India, particularly from Northeastern India.
- Use of Bangladesh's Feni river for drinking water supply in Tripura.
- Resolve the refugees (Rohingyas) crisis.

**During Covid 19:**

Reiterating the highest priority India attaches to Bangladesh under India's Neighbourhood First policy, India assured that vaccines for Covid-19 would be made available to Bangladesh as and when produced in India.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****PM2.5 and Anaemia**

A recent study by IIT Delhi has tried to establish the association between ambient PM 2.5 exposure and occurrence of anaemia among children under the age of 5 years of age in India.

- PM2.5 refers to particles that have diameter less than 2.5 micrometres (more than 100 times thinner than a human hair) and remain suspended for longer.
- These particles are formed as a result of burning fuel and chemical reactions that take place in the atmosphere. Natural processes such as forest fires also contribute to PM2.5 in the air. These particles are also the primary reason for occurrence of smog.

**Key Points**

- Extended periods of exposure to PM 2.5 can lead to anaemia among children under the age of 5 years. About 63% of the included children were found to be anaemic.

**Children at Risk:**

- Young Children: Children with lower age had higher vulnerability of being anaemic.
- Poverty: Children from lower wealth index levels had higher percentages of anaemia.
- Maternal Anaemia: Children born to anaemic women have higher chances of developing anaemia.

**Intensity:**

- Higher PM2.5 levels exposure, decreases the average haemoglobin levels in children.

**Significance:**

- The study is important because so far anaemia has been looked at through the prism of nutrition deficiency, specifically that of iron.
- Exposure to air pollution, especially PM 2.5, has been shown to induce systemic inflammation.
- Over time, chronic inflammation may have a negative impact on tissues and organs.
- Current Scenario: According to the India National Family and Health Survey 2015–2016 (NFHS-4), 53.1% of women in India with 15–49 years of age and 58.5 % of children under five were anaemic.
- A 'Lancet Global Health report' also revealed that 23% of Indian men suffer from anaemia.

**Anaemia**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines anaemia as a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiological needs.

**Way Forward**

- Emphasis must be laid on to curb PM 2.5 levels, especially in urban areas. A holistic health strategy is required to effectively address the issue of anaemia. Also, there is a need to bridge the gap between policy and practice.

- The mother's health needs to be addressed as anaemia in mothers and premature delivery can also lead to childhood anaemia.

### **SOCIAL ISSUE**

#### **National Non-Communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)**

Union Health Minister released the 'National Non-communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)', the largest comprehensive national Survey on risk factors and health systems preparedness of NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (NCDs).

#### **Key Points**

- While two in five adults have three or more risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCD) in India, the status of health system in responding to the disease burden is also underscored.
- Overweight or obese: More than 1 in every 4 adults and 6.2% adolescents
- Raised blood pressure: Almost 3 out of 10 adults
- Raised blood glucose: 9.3%.
- Insufficient physical activity: More than 2 in 5 adults and 1 in 4 adolescents
- One in every three adults and more than one-fourth proportion of men used any form of tobacco and consumed alcohol in past 12 months respectively.

#### **Do you know?**

- Conducted during the period of 2017–18, the purpose of the survey was to collect reliable baseline data on key indicators (risk factors, select NCDs and health systems response) related to the National NCD monitoring framework and NCD Action Plan.
- This is the first of its kind of a comprehensive survey on NCDs using standardised tools and methods, covering the age groups of 15-69 years, males and females residing in urban and rural areas of the country.

### **INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE**

#### **Tributes being paid to Indian Bodo social activist**

Tributes are being paid to Shri Upendra Nath Brahma by opening an institute in his name.

#### **Key Points**

- Upendranath Brahma (1956 – 1990) was an Indian Bodo social activist and the former president of All Bodo Students' Union.
- The title of Bodofa (Guardian of Bodos) was posthumously conferred upon Brahma on 8 May 1990 in recognition of his vision and leadership.
- His life is celebrated each year on the anniversary of his death, which is now called Bodofa Day.

#### **Bodos**

- The Bodo is the largest ethnolinguistic group in the Assam.
- They are concentrated mainly in the Bodoland Territorial Region of Assam.
- The Bodo are a Tibeto-Burmese-speaking ethnic group.
- The Bodo people speak the Bodo language, a Tibeto-Burman language recognized as one of twenty-two scheduled languages in the Indian Constitution.
- The Bodo people are recognized as a plains tribe in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

### **BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT**

#### **The Indian Sunderbans home to 428 species of birds: ZSI**

A recent publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) states that the Indian Sunderbans, which is part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, is home to 428 species of birds.

- Of the 428 birds listed, some, like the masked finfoot and the Buffy fish owl, are recorded only from the Sunderbans.
- The area is home to nine out of 12 species of kingfishers found in the country and rare species such as the Goliath heron and the spoon-billed sandpiper.

#### **Important Facts**

- The Indian Sunderbans also includes the Sunderban Tiger Reserve.
- It is home to about 96 royal Bengal tigers as per the last census in 2020.
- It is a world heritage site and a Ramsar site.

#### **The masked finfoot**



- The masked finfoot or Asian finfoot is an aquatic bird from the fresh and brackish wetlands of the eastern Indian subcontinent, Indochina, Malaysia and Indonesia.

**The buffy fish owl**



- The buffy fish owl, also known as the Malay fish owl, is a fish owl in the family Strigidae.
- It is native to Southeast Asia and lives foremost in tropical forests and wetlands.
- Due to its wide distribution and assumed stable population, it is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List since 2004

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**

**Padma Awards 2021**

This year the President has approved conferment of **119 Padma Awards**. Important ones are listed below.

**Padma Vibhushan** – Second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna

- Shinzo Abe (Japan) – Public Affairs
- S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous) – Art
- Belle Monappa Hegde – Medicine
- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan – Others: Spiritualism

**Padma Bhushan** – Third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan and followed by the Padma Shri

- Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra – Art
- Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous) – Public Affairs
- Chandrashekhar Kambara – Literature and Education
- Sumitra Mahajan – Public Affairs
- Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous) – Others: **Spiritualism**

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)’ is the transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times. Discuss.**

Ans:

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, the USA, Japan, and Australia. The Quad was established, primarily as a strategic bloc, to counter China’s aggressive stance in the South China Sea.

- However, Quad’s shared objective to support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region, could also form the basis of a trade agreement and turn it into a major trade bloc.

**Transformation of Quad into a Trade Bloc:**

- **Complex Interdependence:** In the world of complex interdependence whereby nations have trade dependency over each other or collective responsibility of global commons, a military bloc reminiscent of the cold war era seems quite outdated.
- In this context, it is more plausible that Quad member countries envision themselves from a geo-economic prism.
- Also, a military bloc may bring all great powers (US, China, India, Russia) to the brink of a war, which is not in the interest of these countries and global peace.
- **Inclusive Indo-Pacific Region:** Quad member countries agreed that a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region will serve the long-term interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large.
- Quad also envisages addressing the common challenges of terrorism and proliferation linkages impacting the region, as well as on enhancing connectivity.
- **Blue Dot Network:** It is a multi-stakeholder initiative (led by the US along with Japan and Australia) to bring together governments, the private sector, and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development.
- It could directly counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Tackling Global Challenges:** Challenges emanating from Covid-19 highlighted the need for improving the resilience of supply chains and self-sufficiency also.
- In this context, the transformation of Quad into a trade bloc can help tackle future global challenges more effectively.

### Way Forward

- **Need For Clear Vision:** The Quad nations need to better explain the Indo-Pacific Vision in an overarching framework with the objective of advancing everyone's economic and security interests.
- This will reassure the littoral States that the Quad will be a factor for the regional benefit, and a far cry from Chinese allegations that it is some sort of a military alliance.
- **Integration of Projects:** The connectivity projects of Quad member countries (the US' Indo-pacific economic corridor, Japan's Asia-Africa Economic Corridor, India's Project Mausam) should be integrated to be more proactive in pushing ahead the vision of connectivity.
- **Expanding Quad:** The Quad should focus on building a robust regional consultation mechanism and coordinate with ASEAN nations on issues of regional importance.

### Conclusion

If ever a Quad trade agreement were to become a reality, a reduction in trade costs would go a long way towards fulfilling the economic potential of the alliance. However, there is a need to put the military component and the economic component together. This will help Quad to emerge as a very strong alliance as without military muscle all other fields cannot be excelled.

### DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Risa is a handwoven cloth worn by tribals communities of Tripura
2. Garia Puja is celebrated as a harvest festival by the ethnic tribes in Tripura.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 no 2

2. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the President's veto power?

- a) The President has the power to either sign off or withhold his consent on a bill under Article 111.
- b) The President cannot exercise his suspensive veto in relation to Money Bill.
- c) The President cannot exercise any veto power in relation to constitutional amendment bills.
- d) **The bill is kept pending by the President for an indefinite period by exercising absolute veto.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. In a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) each partner is responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence.
2. In a partnership firm every partner is not liable jointly for all acts of the firm done while he is a partner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to the Green Bonds, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a debt instrument with which capital is being raised to fund green projects.
- 2. The green bonds have been crucial in increasing financing to sunrise sectors.

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

5. Consider the following statements:

- 1. ShramShakti portal aims to collect data related to tribal migrant workers and link them with the existing welfare schemes.
- 2. Pradhan Manti Van Dhan Yojana aims to strengthen the Self help groups into Tribal Producer Companies.

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



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