

GOVERNANCE

ACCR Portal & Ayush Sanjivani App

Recently, the Ministry of Ayush launched its Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the third version of Ayush Sanjivani App in a virtual event.

Key Points

Ayush Clinical Case Repository Portal:

- **About:**
 1. It is conceptualized and developed by the Ministry of Ayush as a platform to support both Ayush practitioners and the public.
 2. It welcomes Ayush practitioners from all over the world to enrol and share information about successfully treated cases for the benefit of all.
 3. Cases whose details are posted here will be screened by experts, and will be uploaded for all to read/view subject to their review.
- **Aim:** To portray the strengths of Ayush systems for treatment of various disease conditions.

AYUSH Sanjivani App Third Version:

- **About:**
 1. It is developed by the Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). First version was launched in May 2020.
 2. It targets to reach out to 50 lakh people in the country.
 3. The app intends to generate data on usage of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-rigpa and Homoeopathy) advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of Covid-19.
- **Aim:**
 1. To understand the measures adopted by the public for enhancing immunity and keeping themselves healthy in difficult Covid-19 situations.
 2. Data analyzed will be helpful for the further development of Ayush Systems.

Benefits:

- It will facilitate a significant study and documentation regarding the efficacy of selected Ayush interventions, including Ayush 64 and Kabasura Kudineer medicines in the management of asymptomatic and mild to moderate Covid-19 patients. Ayush 64 is a poly-herbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS). It is useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate Covid-19 infection as an adjunct to standard care. Initially the drug was developed for Malaria in the year 1980 and now is repurposed for Covid-19.
- Kabasura Kudineer is a traditional formulation used by Siddha practitioners for effectively managing common respiratory health.

Related Initiatives:

- National Ayush Mission - Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) through States/UTs for development and promotion of AYUSH system of medicine.
- AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres.
- Recently, government notification listed out specific surgical procedures that a postgraduate medical student of Ayurveda must be practically trained to acquaint with, as well as to independently perform.

2. Mekedatu Project

Recently, the Karnataka government has decided to challenge before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) its decision to appoint a joint committee.

Key Points

Mekedatu Project:

- The Rs. 9,000 crore project aims to store and supply water for drinking purposes for the Bengaluru city. Around 400 megawatts (MW) of power is also proposed to be generated through the project.
- It was first approved by the Karnataka state government in 2017.
- It received approval from the erstwhile Ministry of Water Resources for the detailed project report and is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(MoEFCC). The approval from MoEFCC is crucial because 63% of the forest area of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary will be submerged.

- In 2018, Tamil Nadu approached the Supreme Court (SC) against the project even if Karnataka had held that it would not affect the flow of water to Tamil Nadu.
- In June 2020, during the Cauvery Water Management Authority's meeting, Tamil Nadu reiterated its opposition to the project.

Reasons for Opposition by Tamil Nadu:

- Tamil Nadu is opposed to any project being proposed in the upper riparian unless it was approved by the SC.
- Karnataka has no right to construct any reservoir on an inter-state river without the consent of the lower riparian state i.e. Tamil Nadu in this case. The project is against the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in which the SC held that no state can claim exclusive ownership or assert rights to deprive other states of the waters of inter-state rivers.
- The CWDT and the SC have found that the existing storage facilities available in the Cauvery basin were adequate for storing and distributing water so Karnataka's proposal is ex-facie (on the face of it) untenable and should be rejected outright.
- It has also held that the reservoir is not just for drinking water alone, but to increase the extent of irrigation, which is in clear violation of the Cauvery Water Disputes Award.

Cauvery River Dispute

• River Cauvery (Kaveri):

- It is known as 'Ponni' in Tamil also known as Ganga of the south, and it is the fourth largest river of southern India.
- It is a sacred river of southern India. It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state, flows in a southeasterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls and drains into Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry.
- Some of its tributaries are Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Lakshmana Theertha, Shimsa, Kabini and Harangi.

• The Dispute:

1. Historical Background:

- ✓ As the river originates in Karnataka, flows through Tamil Nadu with major tributaries coming from Kerala and drains into Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry the dispute therefore involves 3 states and one Union Territory.
- ✓ The genesis of the dispute is 150 years old and dates back to the two agreements of arbitration in 1892 and 1924 between the then Madras presidency and Mysore.
- ✓ It entailed the principle that the upper riparian state must obtain consent of lower riparian state for any construction activity viz. reservoir on the river Cauvery.

2. Recent Developments:

- ✓ From 1974, Karnataka started diverting water into its four newly made reservoirs, without the consent of Tamil Nadu resulting in a dispute.
- ✓ To resolve the matter, the CWDT was established in 1990 which took 17 years to arrive at the final order (2007) on how Cauvery water should be shared between the 4 riparian states in normal rainfall conditions.
- ✓ In distress years, a pro-rata basis shall be used, it instructed. The government again took 6 year and notified the order in 2013.
- ✓ This was challenged in SC which directed Karnataka to release 12000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu prompting protests in the State.
- ✓ The final verdict of the SC came in 2018 where it declared the Cauvery a national asset and largely upheld the water-sharing arrangements finalised by the CWDT and also reduced the allocation of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. As per the SC, Karnataka would get 284.75 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft), Tamil Nadu 404.25 tmcft, Kerala 30 tmcft and Puducherry 7 tmcft. It also directed the Centre to notify the Cauvery Management Scheme. The central government notified the 'Cauvery Water Management Scheme' in June 2018, constituting the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee'.

Way Forward

- The states need to shed the regional approach as the solution lies in cooperation and coordination, not in conflict. The planning must be done at the basin level to make the solution sustainable and ecologically viable.
- In the long term, there is a need to recharge the river through afforestation, river linking, etc and increased focus is needed on increasing water use efficiency viz. micro irrigation, awareness in people to prudently use water and water smart strategies.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Currency Swap**

Recently, Bangladesh cleared a USD 200 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka, to help boost its economy.

Key Points**About:**

- The word swap means exchange. A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.
- In the present context, a currency swap is effectively a loan that Bangladesh will give to Sri Lanka in dollars, with an agreement that the debt will be repaid with interest in Sri Lankan rupees.
- Central banks and Governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to meet short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made. For Sri Lanka, this is cheaper than borrowing from the market, and a lifeline as it struggles to maintain adequate forex reserves even as repayment of its external debts looms.
- These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks as transaction terms are set in advance. Exchange rate risk, also known as currency risk, is the financial risk arising from fluctuations in the value of a base currency against a foreign currency in which a company or individual has assets or obligations.

Unusual for Bangladesh:

- Bangladesh has not been viewed so far as a provider of financial assistance to other countries. It has been among the most impoverished countries of the world, and still receives billions of dollars in financial aid.
- But over the last two decades, it has managed to elevate its economy itself majorly, and in 2020, was the fastest growing in South Asia. The country has managed to pull millions out of poverty. Its per capita income just overtook India's.
- This may be the first time that Bangladesh is extending a helping hand to another country, so this is a landmark of sorts.

Sri Lanka's Approach to India:

- In 2020, the President of Sri Lanka requested India for a USD 1 billion credit swap, and separately, a moratorium on debts that the country has to repay to India.
- But India-Sri Lanka relations have been tense over Colombo's decision to cancel a valued container terminal project at Colombo Port, which made India put off the decision.
- Earlier, in July 2020, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended a USD 400 million credit swap facility to Sri Lanka, which the Central Bank of Sri Lanka settled in February. The arrangement was not extended.

RBI's Framework for Swap Facilities for SAARC:

- The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation on 15th November, 2012.
- The revised framework is valid from 14th November, 2019 to 13th November, 2022.
- The RBI can offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion.
- The swap drawals can be made in US dollar, euro or Indian rupee. The framework provides certain concessions for swap drawals in Indian rupee.
- The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements.
- The presumption was that only India, as the regional group's largest economy, could do this. The Bangladesh-Sri Lanka arrangement shows that is no longer valid.

ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY**1. The Climate Breakthroughs Summit**

Recently, world leaders convened at the Climate Breakthroughs Summit to demonstrate progress in critical sectors of the global economy, including steel, shipping, green hydrogen and nature.

Key Points

About:

- This is a collaboration between the World Economic Forum, Mission Possible Partnership, the United Nations Climate Champions, and the United Kingdom (COP 26 Presidency).
- It aims to demonstrate the need for systemic change to accelerate the global transition to a zero-carbon economy. The “Zero carbon economy” refers to the green ecological economy based on low energy consumption and low pollution, where emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases (net-zero).
- One of its key campaigns is the ‘Race to Zero’ campaign that mobilises support of 708 cities, 24 regions, 2,360 businesses, 163 investors, and 624 higher education institutions to move towards zero-carbon recovery for a sustainable future.

Highlights of the Summit:

- The United Nations made a call for coordinated action to secure global net-zero emissions and fulfill its goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels by 2050.
- Maersk, the world’s largest container shipping line and vessel operator, joined Race to Zero with the commitment to halving the emission by 2030.
- As many as 40 health care institutions worldwide have committed to halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. These 40 institutions represent more than 3,000 health care facilities in 18 countries.
- The transitions of individual companies and institutions such as these are being supported by sector-wide plans, reflected in the revised Climate Action Pathways, launched with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. The pathways set out sectoral visions for achieving a 1.5°C resilient world in 2050, providing a roadmap to help countries and non-State actors alike to identify actions needed by 2021, 2025, 2030 and 2040 to deliver a zero-carbon world in time.

Significance:

- Decarbonizing both heavy industry (aluminium, concrete and cement, chemicals, metals and mining, plastics and steel) and light industry (consumer goods, fashion, ICT and mobile, and retail) is technically and economically feasible.
- This can be done through reducing materials and energy use; increasing their productivity; and decarbonising production processes while implementing transitional solutions such as natural climate solutions where direct emissions reduction cannot be achieved.

2. Blackbuck Population Increased in Odisha

Recently, a census carried out by the Odisha State Forest Department revealed that Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years.

Key Points

About Blackbuck:

- The Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), or the Indian Antelope, is a species of antelope native to India and Nepal. It is widespread in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and other areas throughout peninsular India.
- It is considered as the epitome of grassland.
- It is considered to be the fastest animal in the world next to Cheetah.
- The blackbuck is a diurnal antelope (active mainly during the day).
- It has been declared as the State Animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Cultural Importance: It is a symbol of purity for Hinduism as its skin and horns are regarded as a sacred object. For Buddhism, it is a symbol of good luck.

Threats: Habitat Fragmentation, Deforestation, Natural Calamities, Illegal Hunting.

Related Protected Areas:

- Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary - Gujarat
- Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary - Tamil Nadu
- In 2017, the Uttar Pradesh State Government approved the plan of setting up the Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in the trans-Yamuna belt near Prayagraj. It would be the first conservation reserve dedicated to the blackbuck.

Blackbuck in Odisha:

- The blackbuck is known in Odisha as Krushnasara Mruga.
- Blackbucks are confined to Balukhand-Konark coastal plain / wildlife sanctuary in Puri District; Balipadar-Bhetnoi and adjacent areas in Ganjam District.
- As per the latest census, the antelopes numbered 7,358, compared to 2,194 in 2011.
- Improvement of habitats, protection given by the local people and forest staff were some of the reasons for the increase of the population.

Other Antelopes Found in India: Barasingha/Swamp Deer, Chital/Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Sangai/Brow-Antlered Deer, Himalayan Serow, Barking Deer/Indian Muntjac, Nilgiri Tahr/Nilgiri Ibex, Tibetan Antelope, Himalayan Tahr, Nilgai/Blue Bull, Chinkara/Indian Gazelle.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Kaleidoscope Effect

Recently, the death anniversary of Begum Sultan Jahan was observed. She was a Philanthropist, Prolific writer, Feminist, Symbol of Women Empowerment, First female Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.

Key Points

Birth: In 1858 (Bhopal).

Ruler of Bhopal:

- She was the last Begum of Bhopal. Ruled from 1909 to 1926 after which she was succeeded by her son. Fourth female ruler of Bhopal.
- Set up the municipality system, introduced municipal elections and constructed a walled city and a palace for herself.
- Took steps for improving public health, sanitation, and water supply in the walled city and implemented widespread vaccination drives for its residents.

Feminist Icon:

- Her progressive policies for women, at a time when they were shackled by the forces of patriarchy, have made her a feminist icon even today.
- Constructed a Meeting Hall for Ladies in Lahore in 1913.
- Organised an exhibition called 'Numaish Masnunat e Hind' in Bhopal to encourage women and promote handicrafts.

Philanthropist:

- Established the Sultan Jahan Endowment Trust with a corpus of Rs three lakhs for helping needy students.
- Funded a Madrasa in Deoband (UP), Nadwatul Uloom in Lucknow and even Madarsa Sultania in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- Institutions such as Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi and some renowned colleges in Bombay and Calcutta received generous grants from her.

Educationist:

- Authored 41 books, translated a number of English books into Urdu.
- Authored a book, Dars-e-Hayat, about the education and parenting of young girls.
- Revamped the syllabus and added subjects such as English, Urdu, Arithmetic, Home Science and crafts of the Sultania School she started.
- Started a nursing school called Lady Minto Nursing School.
- She was the first women chancellor of AMU (Aligarh Muslim University). During AMU's centenary celebrations in December 2020, the Prime paid tribute to Begum Jahan and her contribution to the historic institution.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement.

Ans:

Introduction

In order to transform India's declining education system, the government of India has launched the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP). Apart from fundamental literacy and numeracy and overall cognitive development, the NEP envisions imparting 21st-century skills, well-rounded character building,

critical thinking, holistic, inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based and analysis-based hands-on learning.

Body

Implementing SDG-4: SDG -4 envisages ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. The NEP through the following provisions strives to achieve these targets.

Significance of NEP

- **Recognizing Importance of Formative years:** In adopting a 5+3+3+4 model for school education starting at age 3, the policy recognizes the primacy of the formative years from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child's future.
- **Multi-Disciplinary Approach:** Another key aspect of school education in the new policy is the breaking of the strict division of arts, commerce, and science streams in high school.
- **Education and Skills Integration:** NEP introduces vocational courses with an internship. This may nudge the vulnerable sections of society to send their children to school.
- **Making Education More Inclusive:** The NEP proposes the extension of the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18.
- **Effective Regulation:** The policy also seeks to establish a super-regulator for education which will be responsible for standards-setting, funding, accreditation and regulation of higher education in India.
- **Allowing Foreign Universities:** The document states universities from among the top 100 in the world will be able to set up campuses in India.

However, on many issues, the NEP falls short in identifying what exactly ails India's Education system.

- **Marks Dominated Education System:** Until marks or grades dominate the education system, it would be challenging to bring transformation as envisaged by NEP.
- **Persistent Inequity & Inequality:** The NEP falls short in addressing the two main problems that plague our society and education system — inequity and inequality.
- **Knowledge-Jobs Mismatch:** There is a persistent mismatch between the knowledge & skills imparted and the jobs available. This has been one of the main challenges that have affected the Indian education system since Independence.
- **Federal Angle:** Though education is a concurrent subject in India's federal structure, yet the NEP approach is suggestive of over-centralization.

Conclusion

Though the NEP 2020 seeks to bring a holistic change in the education system of India, its success depends on the will and way in which it will be implemented.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment, 2020:

1. It seeks to prohibit 'public servants' from receiving any foreign funding.
2. It proposes to reduce the use of foreign funds to meet administrative costs by NGOs from the existing 50 per cent to 10 per cent.
3. It made compulsory for NGOs to open a "FCRA account" at specified branch of State Bank of India in New Delhi.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about the National Register of Citizens (NRC):

1. The NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens.
2. The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India and since then it has not been updated until recently.
3. So far, such a database has only been maintained for the state of Nagaland.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only

- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3**

Q3. The quadrilateral security dialogue includes:

- 1. Japan
- 2. India
- 3. United States
- 4. Australia
- 5. New Zealand

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- b. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only**
- c. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Q4. Consider the following statements about the Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- 1. It is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G20.
- 2. It is a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas.
- 3. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q5. With reference to Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector.
- 2. Under MIDH, financial assistance is provided for setting up of tissue culture units for production of quality seed and planting material.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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