

GOVERNANCE

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

Recently, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was launched by the Prime Minister through a video conference. The nationwide rollout of the project coincides with the National Health Authority (NHA) celebrating the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). Ayushman Bharat is a flagship scheme of India which was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Key Points

About:

- It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.
- The pilot project of the Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2020. The project is being implemented in the pilot phase in six States & Union Territories.

Features of the Mission:

- **Health ID:**
 1. It will be issued for every citizen that will also work as their health account. This health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis.
 2. Health ID is free of cost, voluntary. It will help in doing analysis of health data and lead to better planning, budgeting and implementation for health programs.
- **Healthcare Facilities & Professionals' Registry:**
 1. The other major component of the programme is creating a Healthcare Professionals' Registry (HPR) and Healthcare Facilities Registry (HFR), allowing easy electronic access to medical professionals and health infrastructure.
 2. The HPR will be a comprehensive repository of all healthcare professionals involved in delivering healthcare services across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.
 3. The HFR database will have records of all the country's health facilities.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Sandbox:** The Sandbox, created as a part of the mission, will act as a framework for technology and product testing that will help organisations, including private players intending to be a part of the national digital health ecosystem become a Health Information Provider or Health Information User or efficiently link with building blocks of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Implementing Agency:

- National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

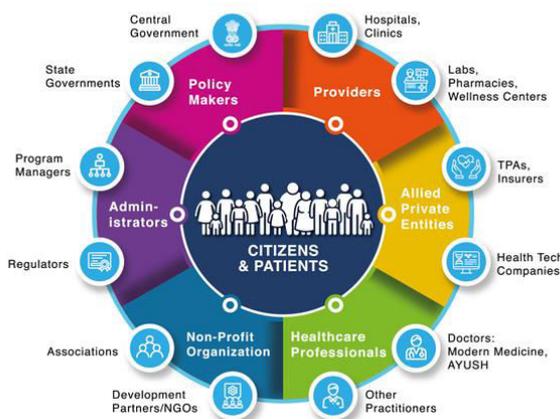
Expected Benefits:

- Ensure ease of doing business for doctors and hospitals and healthcare service providers.
- Enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent.
- Create integration within the digital health ecosystem, similar to the role played by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in revolutionising payments.

Concerns:

- The lack of a data protection bill could lead to the misuse of data by private firms and bad actors.
- Exclusion of citizens and denied healthcare due to faults in the system are also a cause of concern.

THE NDHM ECOSYSTEM



Way Forward

- The NDHM still does not recognize Health as a justiciable right. There should be a push draft at making health a right, as prescribed in the draft National Health Policy, 2015.
- In addition, the failure of a similar National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom must be learnt from and the technical and implementation-related deficiencies must be proactively addressed prior to launching the mission on a pan India scale.
- The standardisation of NDHM architecture across the country will need to find ways to accommodate state-specific rules. It also needs to be in sync with government schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana and other IT-enabled schemes like Reproductive Child Health Care and NIKSHAY etc.

2. Seed Capital Module for SHGs

Recently, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched the Seed Capital Module under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) to help Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Key Points**About:**

- It was launched on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) MIS (Management Information System) Portal for seed capital assistance to members of urban Self Help Groups working in the food processing sector in India.
- The seed capital portal can be accessed for SHGs to avail the seed capital assistance. Seed capital is the money raised to begin developing an idea for a business or a new product.
- SHGs will be sensitized and motivated about the PMFME scheme to avail the benefits of seed capital for purchasing small tools and working capital.

PMFME Scheme

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that was launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Benefits under PMFME Scheme:

- Capital assistance of Rs. 40,000 per SHG member.
- Credit linked subsidy for capital investment up to 35% with a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh.
- Credit linked grant support up to 35% for establishing common infrastructure.
- Handholding support for DPR (Detailed Project Report) preparation.
- Capacity building and training support.

Other Schemes Related to SHGs:

1. Government e-marketplace.
2. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
3. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
4. Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY)
5. North East Rural Livelihood Project.
6. Mahila e-haat
7. Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**PM Speech at United Nations General Assembly**

Recently, the Prime Minister of India (PM) addressed the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The UNGA's theme for this year is "Building Resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations".

The PM spoke about a range of topics from the Covid-19 pandemic, threat of terrorism, India's actions to combat climate change and the need to protect the freedom of navigation in the oceans.

United Nations General Assembly

- The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.
- Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address.

- Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.
 - The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.
1. Recently, the Maldives' Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid was elected the President of the 76th session of the UNGA for 2021-22
 2. The UNGA has also appointed Antonio Guterres as the ninth UN Secretary General (UNSG) for a second term beginning 1st January, 2022 and ending on 31st December, 2026.

Key Points

- **Threat of Terrorism:** The world is facing an increased threat of regressive thinking and extremism and many countries is using "terrorism as a political tool".
 1. He also emphasised to abide by UNSC Resolution 2593.
 2. The resolution demands that Afghan territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists.
- **Importance of India:** Today every sixth person in the world is an Indian. Thus, when Indians progress, it accelerates the development of the world. He regarded India as 'Mother of Democracy' and through democracy many socio-economic problems can be resolved.
- **Developmental Model of India:** Citing the Deen Dayal Upadhaya's Integral Humanism, India's developmental model envisages an all-inclusive, all-pervasive, and universal approach. For example:
 1. Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Jan Dhan Accounts have deepened the financial inclusion.
 2. PM Jan Aarogya Yojana has provided the facility of free treatment in hospitals to over 500 million people and has given them access to quality health services.
 3. Under PM Awas Yojana, nearly 30 million proper homes are being built for many homeless families.
 4. Jal Jeevan Mission envisages to ensure that piped clean water reaches over 170 million homes.
- **Tackling Covid-19:** India has developed the world's first DNA vaccine. This can be administered to anyone above the age of 12.
 1. An mRNA vaccine is in the final stages of development.
 2. Indian scientists are also developing a nasal vaccine against Covid-19.
- **Balancing Economy and Ecology:** India is progressing towards the goal of 450 gigawatts of renewable energy. Also, India is set to be the world's biggest green hydrogen hub.
- **Ensuring Freedom of Navigation:** Highlighting China's expansionism in the Indo-Pacific, PM held that oceans are the lifeline of international trade and must be protected from the race of expansion and exclusion. In this context, the broad consensus reached in the Security Council during India's presidency shows to the world the way forward for maritime security.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUE

China Questions India's Agni V Missile Project

Recently, China has cited a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution to question India's missile programme amid reports of an upcoming test for the Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile. UNSC Resolution 1172 was issued after India's 1998 nuclear tests.

Key Points

About Agni V Missiles:

- Agni-V is the most advanced surface-to-surface indigenously built ballistic missile.
- It is a three-stage, solid fuelled, 17-metre tall missile, and is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead of about 1.5 tonnes.
- Agni-V is a fire and forget missile, which once fired cannot be stopped, except by an interceptor missile.
- It has been developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
 1. IGMDP was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. It was approved by the Government of India in 1983 and completed in March 2012.
 2. The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program: Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, Akash.

Agni Class of Missiles:

- They are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability.
- **Range:**
 1. Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.
 2. Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.
 3. Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km
 4. Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.

5. Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.
6. Agni-P (Prime): It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. It will replace the Agni I missile.
 - The missile has been successfully tested five times and is in the process of induction into the Army.
 - Very few countries, including the US, China, Russia, France and North Korea, have InterContinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM).ICBM is a land-based, nuclear-armed ballistic missile with a range of more than 5,600 km.

About UNSC resolution 1172:

- The resolution, in the aftermath of the 1998 nuclear tests that calls upon India and Pakistan immediately:
 1. To stop their nuclear weapon development programmes,
 2. To refrain from weaponization or from the deployment of nuclear weapons,
 3. To cease development of ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and any further production of fissile material for nuclear weapons,
 4. To confirm their policies not to export equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to weapons of mass destruction or missiles capable of delivering.

Issues in Chinese Claims:

- Agni V has received wide attention in the Chinese press with focus on the detail that the 5,000 km-range nuclear-capable missile would bring many cities in China within range.
- While citing the resolution regarding India's missile programme, China has, in contrast, been aiding the development of Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes.China has been providing enriched uranium and even technology for nuclear-capable missiles.
- Further, in 2018, China had sold Pakistan a tracking system to speed up development of multi-warhead missiles.

Way Forward

- India needs to be far more active in insisting that a comprehensive nuclear dialogue with China is essential for strategic stability across Asia.
- China will be hesitant to enter into such a dialogue, as it wishes to not formally accord recognition to India's nuclear weapons status, even as it peddles nuclear weapons and ballistic missile designs and materials to Pakistan. These transfers to Pakistan are in total disregard of China's responsibilities under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.
- India has been far too defensive and avoided exposing the Sino-Pakistan nuclear/missile nexus in important world capitals. Within Asia, Chinese arrogance would need far closer consultations and dialogue with countries such as Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Lord Nataraj

Recently, as many as 157 artefacts and antiquities were handed over to the Prime Minister by the United States including a bronze Nataraj figure.The list has a diverse set of items bas-relief panel of Revanta in sandstone made in the 10th century, 56 terracotta pieces, several bronze figurines and copper objects, among others which mainly belong to 11th and 14th centuries.

It also includes an 18th-century sword in its sheath, with the inscription mentioning Guru Hargobind Singh in Persian, some historic antiquities comprise figurines relating to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Key Points

- Nataraja (Lord of the Dance), the Hindu god Shiva in his form as the cosmic dancer, is represented in metal or stone in many Shaivite temples, particularly in South India.It is an important piece of Chola sculpture.
- The upper right-hand holds the drum, which signifies the sound of creation. All creations spring from the great sound of the damru.
- The upper left-hand holds the eternal fire, which represents the destruction. Destruction is the precursor and inevitable counterpart of creation.
- The lower right hand is raised in the gesture of Abhay mudra signifying benediction and reassuring the devotee to not be afraid.
- The lower left-hand points towards the upraised foot and indicates the path of salvation.
- Shiva is dancing on the figure of a small dwarf. The dwarf symbolises ignorance and the ego of an individual.
- Shiva is shown as the source of all movement within the cosmos and as the god whose doomsday dance, represented by the arch of flames, accompanies the dissolution of the universe at the end of an eon.

- The matted and flowing locks of Shiva represent the flow of river Ganges.
- In ornamentation, one ear of Shiva has a male earring while the other has a female. This represents the fusion of male and female and is often referred to as Ardhanarishwar.
- A snake is twisted around the arm of Shiva. The snake symbolises the kundalini power, which resides in the human spine in the dormant stage. If aroused, one can attain true consciousness.
- The Nataraja is surrounded by a nimbus of glowing lights which symbolises the vast unending cycles of time.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Implementation of e-governance in local governments will not only improve service delivery at the local level but also takes us a step closer towards achieving broader socio-economic goals. Elaborate. (150 words, 10 marks)

Ans:

Introduction

As India grows more urban, the importance of effective governance and service delivery by city governments becomes central to the well-being of Indians. We hope to live in 'smart cities', where digital systems enable the use of data — generated by people living and working in the city itself — to continuously improve how the city functions. E-governance holds the promise of improving local governance and is actively being promoted across the nation.

Body**Background: e-governance in local governments**

- If the Panchayats and municipal bodies are to perform efficiently and effectively all the mandated tasks, which are increasing day by day, extensive use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is needed.
- Moreover, there is a strong need to build a "digital inclusive society" where large sections of rural population are able to benefit from new technologies; can access and share information and services freely and can participate in the development process more effectively.
- In cities, ease of citizen services is a pre-requisite. For example :BBMP in Karnataka will soon start issuing digitally signed khata certificates in Bengaluru to facilitate registration of properties. It is called e-Aasthi.

Role of e-governance in Local self-governments

- **Transparency:** Government of India formulated E-Panchayat Mission Mode Project for e-enablement of all the Panchayats, to make their functioning more efficient and transparent.
- **Automation of internal workflow processes of Panchayats:** PRIASoft – an online cash-based double entry accounting software that implements the Model Accounting System for PRIs, has been a major success with 1.2 lakh Panchayats on board and about 65,000 Panchayats are making online voucher entries during 2011-2012.
- **Budgeting:** Cities such as Bangalore and Pune have experimented with citizen budgeting receiving many online budgets. This shows the most important issues that need resources from local bodies.
- **Improving delivery of services to citizens:** Citizens can be part of governance and
- Capacity building of Panchayat/Municipality Representatives and Officials: Online materials and training to Panchayat representatives can go a long way in achieving
- **Social Audit:** Social Audit can become much easier, if the information on all the development details are made publicly available.
- **Accountability, Efficiency and RTI compliance of Panchayats:** e-governance in local self-government will lead to better utilisation of funds and decrease the discretionary powers of officials. Thereby reducing scope for any misappropriation.

Conclusion

All the benefits we associate with e-governance the ease of interaction, the gains in efficiency through both performance management and process reform, and the potential for data-driven preventive maintenance of infrastructure, hinge upon adoption of the system by local government employees and citizens themselves.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Which of the following is/are responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) National Medical Commission
- (c) **National Health Authority**
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

Q2. With reference to Rashtriya Gokul Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2014 to boost dairy productivity in India by organizing the livestock market.
2. It is being implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

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**

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Food Systems Summit:

1. It is the annual flagship event of the World Food Programme.
2. It is convened as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about Chang'e-5 probe:

1. It is an unmanned spacecraft by Japan.
2. It is set to return to Earth around December 29, 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

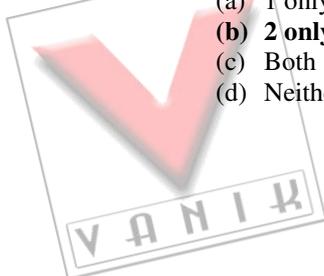
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

Q5. With reference to Beas Conservation Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. It is the second-largest Ramsar Site in India after Sundarbans.
2. It hosts the only known population in India of the endangered Indus river dolphin.

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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