

**HEALTH**

**DRAFT BILL FOR A NEW NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LAW**

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other Government departments started the process of finalising various provisions of the draft Bill for a new national public health law. It will be placed in the public domain for consultation before being sent to the Union Cabinet.

With the third Covid wave ebbing across the country, the National Public Health Bill is expected to be introduced in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. produce nearly 34,600 metric tonnes of solar PV waste.

**Highlights**

- The proposed National Public Health Act has been in the works since 2017 and, once enacted, will replace the 125-year-old Epidemic Diseases Act, of 1897.
  - ❖ It will also cover public health emergencies caused by bioterrorism, natural disasters, chemical and nuclear attacks or accident

**Four-tier health administration architecture**

- The draft Bill proposes a four-tier health administration architecture, with “multi-sectoral” national, state, district and block-level public health authorities who will have “well defined” powers and functions to deal with “public health emergencies”.
  - ❖ The national public health authority is proposed to be headed by the Union Health Ministry, and be chaired by health ministers of states.
  - ❖ District Collectors will lead the next tier, and block units will be headed by Block Medical Officers or Medical Superintendents.
  - ❖ These authorities will have powers to take measures for the prevention of non-communicable diseases and emerging infectious diseases.
- The proposed law also provides for the creation of public health cadres at national and state levels
- The draft Bill has defined various measures such as isolation, quarantine and lockdown, which have been extensively invoked by the Centre and states for Covid management.
  - ❖ It defines a lockdown as a “restriction with certain conditions or complete prohibition of running any form of transport” on roads or inland water.
  - ❖ The definition of a lockdown covers “restrictions” on the movement or gathering of persons in any place whether public or private.
  - ❖ It also includes “prohibiting or restricting” the working of factories, plants, mining or construction or offices or Educational institutions or market places.

**Further Steps taken by India for improving the health sector:**

- Union Budget 2021-22, announced Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with an outlay of about ` 64,180 crores in the next five years to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases.
  - ❖ Besides, Union Budget 2021-22 provided an outlay of Rs 35,000 crore towards COVID-19 vaccination.
- **The National Health Policy, 2017** envisaged increasing the government’s health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025.
  - ❖ In keeping with this objective, Central and State Governments’ budgeted expenditure on the health sector reached 2.1 per cent of GDP in 2021-22, against 1.3 per cent in 2019-20.
- **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs):** The vision of Ayushman Bharat is to achieve universal health coverage. It adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising of two interrelated components
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY):** The second component of Ayushman Bharat is PM-JAY; it is being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) in partnership with state governments. The scheme provides a health cover of ` 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crores of poor and vulnerable families in the bottom 40 per cent of the Indian population.
- **PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)** is a mission to develop the capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to the detection and cure of new and emerging diseases.
- **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)** is being implemented to correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable reliable tertiary healthcare services and to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**, erstwhile National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), was announced on 27th September 2021 with the aim to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.

- **e-Sanjeevani:** In wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare upgraded the eSanjeevani application to enable patient-to-doctor teleconsultation to ensure the continuum of care and facilitate health services to all citizens in the confinement of their homes free of cost. Telemedicine services have been rolled out in 36 States/UTs.
- **National Health Mission-** The mission was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the National Rural Health Mission and the National Urban Health Mission. It was further extended in March 2018, to continue till 2020.
- **National Nutrition Mission-**It is the government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the nodal ministry for implementation.
- **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** –It aims to develop the necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.
- **Poshan Abhiyan** –It is the flagship programme that aims at improving nutritional outcomes among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children by reducing the level of stunting, underweight, anaemia and low birth weight by 2022.

#### **Challenges in Health Sector**

- Poor expenditure on the health sector
- India lacks affordable health care services for the marginalised sections.
- Lack of robust public health infrastructures like hospitals, primary health centres.
- Lack of number of Doctors and Specialists as per the population of the country.
- Lack of awareness among the people.

#### **Advancement**

- More emphasis should be on quick and hassle-free delivery of medical services to the marginal section.
- There is a need for an increase in expenditure on health so that India can improve existing facilities as well as add more of them.
- Focus should be on healthcare infrastructure and healthcare R&D

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

#### **14TH INDIA-JAPAN ANNUAL SUMMIT, New Delhi**

Recently, the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi.

#### **Key Points**

- India presents limitless possibilities for Make in India for the world.
- Japan's cooperation in India's flagship projects such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail has been remarkable.
- Both India and Japan understand the importance of a secure, trusted, predictable and stable energy supply.
- It is imperative to achieve the goal of sustainable economic growth and tackle the problem of climate change.
- India-Japan Clean Energy Partnership will prove to be a decisive step in this direction.
- The Prime Minister expressed happiness that Japan will raise its investment target in India to 5 trillion Yen or 3.2 lakh crore rupees over the next five years.
- The world is still grappling with Covid-19 and its side effects. There are still hurdles in the process of global economic recovery.
- Both of them expressed their views and talked about the military operation of Russia in Ukraine.
- The Japanese Prime Minister emphasised a peaceful solution on the basis of international law.
- The relationship between the two countries stands on a strong foundation and added that both stand to benefit from it.

#### **India- Japan Relations**

##### **Diplomatic:**

- The friendship between India and Japan has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilization ties dating back to the visit of Indian monk Bodhisena in 752 AD.
- India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952. In the first decade after diplomatic ties were established, several high-level exchanges took place, including the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to India in 1957.
- Japan was among the few countries that bailed India out of the balance of payment crisis in 1991.
- The Act East Forum, established in 2017, aims to provide a platform for India-Japan collaboration under the rubric of India's "Act East Policy" and Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision".

##### **Projects and Investments:**

- Recently, India and Japan signed four agreements under which Tokyo is to support health care projects funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) scheme in India.

- ❖ The “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)” supports development projects designed to meet the diverse basic human needs of the people in developing countries.
- Japan has invested ₹1,600 crores in development projects across India’s northeastern states and is also working closely with India on infrastructure projects in third countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- India and Japan also signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) last September for reciprocal provision of supplies and services between their defence forces.

**Economic and Commercial relations:**

- Japan is regarded as a key partner in India’s economic transformation.
- Japan’s interest in India is increasing due to a variety of reasons including India’s large and growing market and its resources, especially the human resources.
- The bilateral trade between India and Japan for FY 2019-20 (April – December) totalled US\$ 11.87 billion.
  - ❖ India’s exports from Japan amounted to US\$ 3.94 billion while India’s imports from Japan amounted to US\$ 7.93 billion.
  - ❖ India’s primary exports to Japan have been petroleum products, chemicals, elements, compounds, non-metallic mineral ware, fish & fish preparations, metalliferous ores & scrap, clothing & accessories, iron & steel products, textile yarn, fabrics and machinery etc.
  - ❖ India’s primary imports from Japan are machinery, electrical machinery, iron and steel products, plastic materials, non-ferrous metals, parts of motor vehicles, organic chemicals, manufacturers of metals, etc.

**Defence:**

- India-Japan Defence and Security partnership has evolved over the years and forms an integral pillar of the bilateral ties.
- Our exchanges have strengthened due to growing convergence on strategic matters and its significance is growing from the common outlook on issues of peace, security and stability of the Indo-Pacific Region.
- During Prime Minister Singh’s visit to Japan in October 2008, two leaders issued “the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India”.
- There are also various frameworks of security and defence dialogue between Japan and India including the “2+2” meeting, annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue and Coast Guard-to-Coast Guard dialogue.
- India and Japan defence forces organise a series of bilateral exercises namely, JIMEX, SHINYUU Maitri, and Dharma Guardian. Both countries also participate in the Malabar exercise with the USA.

**Science & Technology:**

- Bilateral S&T cooperation was formalised through an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in 1985.
- India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) was launched during the visit of PM Modi to Japan in October 2018 furthering existing areas of cooperation as well as new initiatives within the scope of cooperation in S&T/ICT, focusing more on “Digital ICT Technologies”
- Recent initiatives include the establishment of three India-Japan Joint Laboratories in the area of ICT (AI, IoT and Big Data); Initiation of the DST-JSPS Fellowship Programme for young researchers.

**Healthcare:**

- India’s AYUSHMAN Bharat Programme and Japan’s ASHWIN, both sides had been consulting with each other to identify projects to build the narrative of ASHWIN for AYUSHMAN Bharat.

**Indian Community in Japan:**

- In recent years, there has been a change in the composition of the Indian community with the arrival of a large number of professionals, including IT professionals and engineers working for Indian and Japanese firms as well as professionals in management, finance, education, and S&T research.

**Quad alliance:**

- Both India and Japan have been expanding cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region bilaterally as well as under the framework of the Quad grouping.
  - ❖ Quad is an informal strategic dialogue between India, the USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**

**THE 1985 ASSAM ACCORD**

- Recently, the Assam government informed the Assembly that nearly 1.44 lakh illegal foreigners had been identified in the state until January 31 this year based on the 1985 Assam Accord. Around 30,000 of them had been deported to their country of origin.
- ❖ The government added that definitions of phrases mentioned in the Accord such as 'Axomiya janagan' (Assamese people), 'khilonjia' (indigenous) and 'adi basinda' (original inhabitants) were yet to be determined.

#### **Assam Accord**

- The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 by the Centre and the Assam government with the All Assam Student Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, which had spearheaded the 1979-85 Assam Movement against migration from Bangladesh.
- To implement the various Clauses of Assam Accord a new Department has been established in the name of "Implementation of Assam Accord Department" during the year 1986.
- The Accord set March 24, 1971, as a cut-off. Anyone who had come to Assam before midnight on that date would be an Indian citizen, while those who had come after would be dealt with as foreigners.
- The same cut-off was used in updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

#### **Expressions for which the definitions have not been determined**

- The context is Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which promises "constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people", but doesn't provide clear cut definitions to identify who would be the "Assamese people".
- ❖ Clause 6 is important because many felt the 1971 cut-off was inadequate.
- The Assam Movement had demanded 1951 as the cut-off.
- ❖ Given that the cut-off for the rest of India is 1948, many noted that the Assam Accord would grant citizenship to a section of migrants who would be counted as foreigners elsewhere in the country.
- Clause 6 was, therefore, seen as a protective provision that would guarantee certain benefits to the Assamese people, while excluding some sections among those granted citizenship on the basis of the 1971 cut-off.

#### **Why is the definition difficult?**

- Because Assam's demography has been shaped by decades of migration.
- ❖ Many of the migrants had settled here during the colonial era. While they might not be native speakers of an indigenous language, such as Assamese or Bodo or Karbi, the question was whether the definition of "Assamese" could exclude someone, for example, whose family might have lived in Assam for 100 years.
- Axomiya or Assamese is a contested phrase and there is no specific universal definition to it. Many feel people whose ancestors were living in Assam before 1826, when Assam was merged with British India, are Axomiya.
- ❖ Others feel the word 'Axomiya' means anyone who was a permanent resident of Assam before 1951 when the first NRC was drawn up.
- ❖ Still, others feel anyone speaking Assamese (or any other indigenous language) is an Axomiya.
- ❖ Those from Barak Valley, where Bengali is the local language, would want Bengali-speaking residents of Assam to be included as "Assamese".

#### **Other terms for which no definition has been finalised**

- **Khilonjia:** In common parlance, khilonjia refers to all indigenous communities. The question is who would be considered indigenous. One line of argument has been that the definition should include various communities whose history in Assam dates back before the 1826 annexation with British India, but others contest this because of the groups that would be excluded.
- **Adi Basinda:** 'Original inhabitants', as the phrase suggests, would mean the tribes who have lived for generations in Assam. Some in Assam want this to extend to tribal communities settled by the British during colonial rule, but even this is not a settled definition.

### **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Q1. 5G technology is poised to usher a new era in India's digital revolution but challenges regarding its large-scale implementation in India especially with respect to allocation of spectrum must be done in a transparent manner. Discuss. (250 words)**

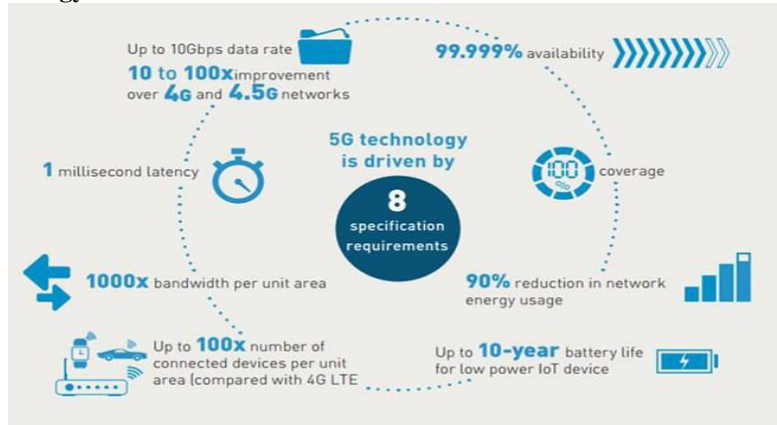
#### **Introduction**

5G is the fifth generation mobile network. It's a unified platform which is much more capable than previous mobile services with more capacity, lower latency, faster data delivery rate and better utilisation of spectrum. The standards for the usage of 5G are defined and driven by 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).



**Body**

**Benefits of 5G technology:**



**Industry 4.0:**

- The manufacturing industry is going through a digital revolution.
- Within the context of Industry 4.0, manufacturers are becoming more efficient through the application of automation and data exchange to their existing factory processes to enable better integrated workflows and smarter manufacturing.
- Industrial IoT technologies are streamlining and simplifying many manufacturing processes in revolutionary ways.

**Mixed reality (MR) applications:**

- The MR Apps comprise augmented reality (AR) plus virtual reality (VR) apps.
- Beyond the consumer market (think Pokémon Go), interesting applications are also likely to be found in industrial and medical contexts.
- Remote medical procedures, engineering, public safety and field-service applications are all strong use case opportunities for the application of low latency 5G services.

**Sports and entertainment:**

- A combination of VR and AR with ultra-high-fidelity enabled by 5G could transform the way fans interact in these events.
- Motorsports is ideal for VR in particular: equipped with their mobile device or headset, fans could be served information like lap or technical information about cars as they race on the track in a sport like Formula 1

**Fixed wireless access:**

- Fixed wireless access could also be used to bring high bandwidth digital services to under-served rural areas.
- Mobile operators will then be able to compete with wireline, satellite and cable companies, offering new revenue streams and faster RoI.

**Autonomous vehicles:**

- The idea that much of the car, if not all of it, is controlled not by the driver but by technology.
- 5G is critical to realize this as it will offer the connectivity and speed needed to deliver vast amounts of data to one another as well as other objects simultaneously.
- 5G can provide a completely seamless mobile experience is a must so that cars can stay constantly connected.

**Challenges wrt Spectrum**

- Expensive spectrum: Indian spectrum prices are some of the highest in the world and the allocated quantity is well below global best practices, while 40% of the spectrum is lying unsold.
- The government in recent times, has had two failed auctions. The latter failed to attract any bids in the 5G spectrum.
- Lack of various approvals around spectrum such as uncertainty around auctions, high reserve price of spectrum, inadequate and poor development of test cases, low reach of optical fibre across India, and deficient back-haul capacity.
- Local Regulatory Issues: Many of the local rules and regulations are prohibiting the rapid and cost-effective roll-out of small cells in city centres where Fifth Generation (5G) is initially expected to be most in demand.
- Lesser Government Subsidies: A low likelihood of government subsidies is expected, given the history of high reserve prices set by the governments for spectrum auctions amid ongoing fiscal deficits.

### Conclusion

The World Economic Forum predicts that by 2023 there will be a staggering 9.1 billion mobile subscriptions. 5G will act as the catalyst for Digital India—a watershed moment in digital transformation. India is at the cusp of a next generation of wireless technology 5G. It provides an opportunity for industry to reach out to global markets, and consumers to gain with the economies of scale. It can help in better service delivery, faster access to services and deeper penetration of digital services.

### DAILY QUIZ

Q1. With reference to Daylight Saving Time , consider the following statements:

1. It is the practice of resetting clocks ahead by an hour in spring, and behind by an hour in autumn (or fall).
2. India does not follow daylight saving time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q2. With reference to Disaster Management Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. Every Ministry of the Government of India shall prepare a Disaster Management Plan.
2. Crisis Management Plan deals with response, whereas Disaster Management Plan is a holistic one including preventive strategies.

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. With reference to Section 498A of IPC, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The definition of cruelty covers both physical and mental abuse.
2. The Malimath Committee has recommended making the law compoundable to prevent the possibility of settlement or compromise in the cases.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q4. Filariasis is a parasitic disease, caused by:

- (a) *Wuchereria bancrofti*
- (b) *Entamoeba histolytica*
- (c) *Babesia microti*
- (d) *Trypanosoma cruzi*

Q5. Consider the following statements

1. The Collegium System is prescribed in the constitution.
2. It consists of the Chief Justice of India with two senior most judges.
3. National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was brought to replace commission.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2