

CURRENT AFFAIRS**AB-PMJAY and COVID treatment****Reference News**

Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), the Union government's health insurance scheme, approximately 20.32 lakh COVID-19 tests and 7.08 lakh treatments were authorised from April 2020 to July 2021.

- The cover allowed beneficiaries to avail free testing and treatment across all empanelled hospitals - both public and private.
- Besides this, State governments were provided with the flexibility of modifying the Ayushman packages as per the local requirements.

**About Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
(AB PM-JAY)**

- This scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme with some Central sector components.
 - PMJAY offers a sum insured of 5 lakh per family for secondary care (which doesn't involve a super specialist) as well as tertiary care. For the beneficiaries, this is a free scheme.
 - It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.
 - Individuals can walk into any empanelled hospital that can process cashless payments.
 - Once identified by the database, the beneficiary is considered insured.
 - The insurance cost is shared by the centre and the state mostly in the ratio of 60:40.
 - There are about 1,400 packaged rates for various medical procedures under the scheme.
 - These packaged rates also mention the number of average days of hospitalization for a medical procedure and supporting documents that are needed.
 - Under no circumstances can hospitals charge the beneficiary. The scheme also has prescribed a daily limit for medical management.
 - National Health Agency has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PMJAY in alliance with state governments.
- * This includes formulation of PMJAY policies, development of operational guidelines, implementation mechanisms, coordination with state governments, monitoring and oversight of PMJAY amongst other.

Operation Blue Freedom

Reference news-

Recently, The Government of India has permitted a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier. The team of people with disabilities trained by 'Team CLAW' a team of Armed Forces veterans.

- The selected people with disabilities from across the country will undertake an expedition till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier) to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.
- The successful execution of this pioneering expedition, 'Operation Blue Freedom', shall firmly place India on the global stage as a leader in empowering Divyangjan and set a benchmark for other nations to emulate.

Team CLAW

- o Team CLAW: Team CLAW (Conquer Land Air Water) is a team of ex-Indian Special Forces commandos.
- Generally, all are either from Indian Army Para Commandos or the Naval Marine Commandos, also known as the MARCOS.
- These veterans have multiple specialisations - not just in combat but also in other elite skills such as skydiving, scuba diving, mountaineering, emergency medical response and all-terrain survival amongst others.
- The initiative was taken by Major Vivek Jacob, a Para (Special Forces) officer.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

Reference News:

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry chaired a meeting for the review of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

What is ONDC?

Open Network for Digital Commerce christened ONDC is globally first-of-its-kind initiative that aims to democratise Digital Commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.

- As UPI is to the digital payment domain, ONDC is to e-commerce in India.



- ONDC will enable, buyers and sellers to be digitally visible and transact through an open network, no matter what platform/application they use.
 - ONDC will empower merchants and consumers by breaking silos to form a single network to drive innovation and scale, transforming all businesses from retail goods, food to mobility.
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Import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean allowed

Reference news:

The Union government has decided to allow the import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean, which is a major ingredient of poultry feed.

What necessitated this move?

The poultry industry has been crushed by multiple disasters over the last year and a half.

- In January 2020, a false rumour that COVID-19 could be spread by eating chicken meat led to a crash in demand.
- A year later, avian flu cases led to another crash, followed by a crippling rise in the prices of poultry feed.
- Besides, over the last three to four years, soy meal has been available at an average cost of ₹34 to 36/kg. This month, it shot up to ₹96/kg (Soy meal is the main protein ingredient in the feed).

Concerns/criticisms:

1. Environmental activists have raised concerns about the permission given for something derived from a genetically modified plant to enter the human food chain, given that India's regulatory system has yet to approve GM foods.
2. Besides, the 1989 rules of the Environment Protection Act applied not just to GM organisms, but also products and substances thereof.

What are genetically Modified crops?

- A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- GM crop can contain a gene(s) that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.

Approval Process for GM crops in India:

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that

allows for commercial release of GM crops.

- Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India.

Status of GM Soybean and soyabean seeds in India:

India allows the import of GM soybean and canola oil. Import of GM soya bean seeds was so far not approved in India.

DAILY TOPIC

COP25: Longest climate talks end

Referene News:

- The 25th annual talks under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), referred to as the Conference of Parties (COP), was recently held in Madrid.
- It ended without any outcome.
- It was the 15th meeting of the parties for the Kyoto Protocol (CMP15), and also, it was the second meeting of the parties for the Paris Agreement.
- The prime objective of the conference is to complete the rule-book to the 2015 Paris Agreement that will become effective in 2020 to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol (comes to an end in 2020).



Conference of Parties (COP)

- The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention.
- All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.
- The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995.

Kyoto Protocol 1997

- The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty which extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that com-

mits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that (part one) global warming is occurring and (part two) it is extremely likely that human-made CO₂ emissions have predominantly caused it.

- That protocol legally bound developed countries to emission reduction targets.
- However, the agreement was widely believed to be ineffective because the world's two top carbon dioxide-emitting countries, China and the United States, chose not to participate

Paris Agreement, 2015

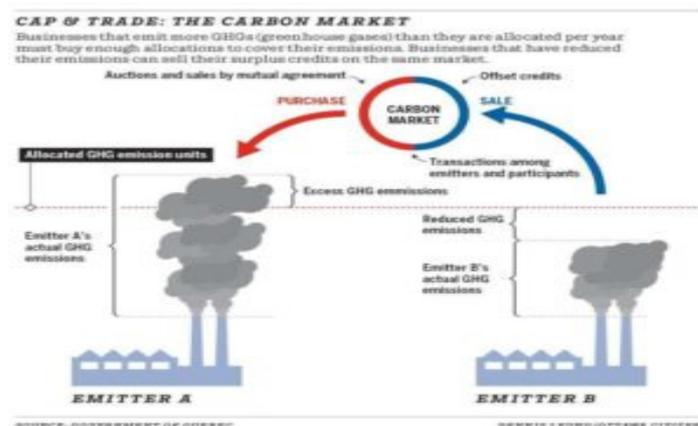
- Paris Agreement or COP21 was adopted in December 2015.
- It aimed to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming.
- The Paris Agreement also aimed at replacing the Kyoto Protocol (to strengthen emission reductions, in 1997)

Aims of Paris Agreement

- The aim of the agreement is to decrease global warming, enhancing the implementation of the UNFCCC through:
- Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels .
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development
- This strategy involved so-called 20/20/20 targets, namely the reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 20%, the increase of renewable energy's market share to 20%, and a 20% increase in energy efficiency.

COP 25: Focus

- Ambitions for this conference were limited because many countries were focused on narrow technical details such as the workings of the global carbon markets.



- It was hoped that countries would resolve to work on more ambitious carbon targets needed to fulfil the goals of the 2015 Paris agreement.

Why CoP25 failed?

- The failure of the talks underlined starkly the massive gap between what scientists say the world's nations need to do on climate change, and what the most powerful political leaders on the planet are prepared to even discuss.
- According to scientist, talks focused on some of the rules for implementing the 2015 Paris agreement, but the overriding issue of how fast the world needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions has received little official attention.
- Countries agreed in Paris in 2015 to revisit their climate pledges by 2020. But many countries were pushing this year for a clear call for all countries to submit more ambitious climate pledges next year.
- But countries such as China and Brazil opposed placing any obligation on countries to submit enhanced pledges next year, arguing it should be each country's own decision. They instead argued the focus should be on pre-2020 action by developing countries to meet their previous pledges
- There was a recognition that tougher carbon targets are needed globally, but few countries came up with any and the resolve to come back next year with more ambitious plans was worded too weakly to satisfy most campaigners.

India's stance:

- India played a mixed role at the recently concluded 25th Conference of Parties (CoP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Madrid.
- On the question of markets, India emphasised the transition of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) credits earned under the Kyoto Protocol to the Paris Agreement.
- Pointed out that that excessively cheap emissions reductions enabled by the CDM as well as the possibility of double counting could corrupt the process.
- India played a strong role in critiquing the developed world's continuing poor record on climate action.
- It argued that unless a stocktaking exercise of the fulfilment of various pre-2020 commitments by developed countries, India would not raise its cli-

mate ambition for its next round of Paris Agreement targets due in 2020.

- India also took a lead in calling for more finance for developing countries for climate action, (“not even 2 per cent” of the promised “\$1 trillion in the last 10 years” had been delivered)

Way forward

- It is entirely appropriate for countries such as India to insist on not taking on an even more unfair share of the global mitigation burden unless developed countries deliver on the minimal parameter of fulfilling their existing promises.
- It is crucial that India continue to push developed countries in this fashion as the entire global climate action framework has been put in jeopardy by the inaction of big polluters.

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1. Which among the following Congress sessions was known for concession of separate electorates for the Muslims by the Congress Party?
[A] 1913 Karachi Session
[B] 1915 Bombay Session
[C] 1916 Lucknow Session
[D] 1917 Calcutta Session
Answer: C
2. Who was the president of INC at the time of independence?
[A] Gandhi
[B] JB Kripalani
[C] Sarojini Naidu
[D] None of the above
Answer: B
3. Which among the following towns / cities of Karnataka is most famous for monuments of Vijayanagar Empire?
[A] Gulbarga
[B] Belgaum
[C] Gadag
[D] Hampi
Answer: D
4. Who among the following was called by Jahangir as “English Khan”?
[A] Sir Thomas Roe
[B] William Hawkins
[C] Henry Middleton
[D] None of the above
Answer: B
5. The first meeting of Indian National Congress was held in Bombay in 1885 A.D. under the leadership of__:
[A] Dadabhai Naoroji
[B] Sir C. Sankaran Nair
[C] Woomesh Chandra Banerjee
[D] Badruddin Tyabji
Answer: C
6. Consider the following events of Indian National Movement:
 1. Gandhi Irwin Pact
 2. Poona Pact
 3. Karachi Session of Indian National Congress
 4. Individual Satyagraha
7. Select the correct chronological order of the events from the codes given below:
[A] 1, 3, 2, 4
[B] 2, 3, 4, 1
[C] 3, 4, 2, 1
[D] 4, 3, 2, 1
Answer: A
7. As per Warren Hastings reforms, which among the following court was set up as appeal court in criminal cases?
[A] Circuit court
[B] Provincial Court
[C] Sadar Diwani Adalat
[D] Sadar Nizamat Adalat
Answer: D [Sadar Nizamat Adalat]
8. In which among the following states of India, the parallel Government was running between 1942 to 1944 during the Quit India Movement?
[A] 1913
[A] Odisha
[B] Bihar
[C] West Bengal
[D] Bombay
Answer: C [West Bengal]
9. Which among the following newspaper established by Mahatma Gandhi which was an important tool for the political movement led by Gandhi and the Natal Indian Congress to fight racial discrimination and win civil rights for the Indian immigrant community in South Africa?
[A] Satyagraha
[B] Indian Voice
[C] Indian opinion
[D] Harijan
Answer: C
10. By which among the following acts, the East India Company lost its monopoly of trade with China?
[A] Pitts India act 1784
[B] The Charter Act of 1813
[C] The Charter Act of 1833
[D] The Charter Act of 1853
Answer: C