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CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 25, 2020

NATIONAL NEWS

1. AYUSHMAN BHARAT AYUSH HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

In news:

The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Ayushman Bharat Ayush Health and Wellness Center component of the National Ayush Mission.

Key data's:

- **Fund for this project:** The project has been allocated Rs 3399.35 crore for the five year period from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Purposes:

- Establish a holistic health model based on Ayush's policies and practices that focus on prevention, prevention, rehabilitation and preventive health by integrating with the existing public health system.
- Provide an informed choice to people in need by making Ayush services available.
- Ayush services include lifestyle, mortality, yoga, medicinal plants and social awareness of the delivery of medicines to selected conditions according to the strength of the AYUSH system.
- The Ayush Ministry, in consultation with the States / UTs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other tax ministries, has adopted two models to implement 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centers across the country:
 - ✓ Upgrading of existing Ayush pharmacies
 - ✓ Upgrading of existing ancillary health centers

Benefits:

- Improved access to universal health care for affordable treatment.
- The burden on secondary and tertiary health facilities has been reduced.
- Deductible from out of pocket cost due to "self-care" model.

Background:

- The National Health Policy 2017 focuses on the capabilities of Ayush organizations (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Seed-Rigpa and Homeopathy) within the pluralist system of integrated health.
- The Government of India has decided in February 2018 that 1.5 lakh health and wellness centers will be created by replacing existing auxiliary health centers and primary health centers to provide comprehensive primary health care.
- It was further decided that 10% of the total auxiliary health centers will be set up as health and wellness centers with 12,500 under Ayushman Bharat.
- The plan's vision is to establish a holistic health model based on Ayush's principles and practices, reduce disease burden and out-of-pocket costs, empower people for "self-care" and provide informed choice to the public in need.

- In 2018, the government announced that about 1.5 lakh health and wellness centers would be set up under the Ayushman Bharat program. It aims to create a holistic health model based on Ayush's principles.
- This program is being implemented by the National Health Commission under the Ministry of Health and Tropical Health.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. ALLOWED PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE DRUG PRODUCTION

Approval by:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved two proposals.
- Promoting wholesale pharmacies and manufacturing incentive programs are important endorsements. This will help promote domestic production.

Number of parks:

- The government aims to create 3 mega total drug parks in India in partnership with the states.

Financial aid:

- The state government will pay a maximum of Rs. 1000 crore for the entire drug park. 3,000 crore for the next 5 years.
- **Improved facilities:** Parks will have common amenities such as solvent recovery plant, filtration plant, electric and steam units, and general waste treatment plant.
- **Project Requirement:** Despite being the 3rd largest in the world in terms of quantity, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is heavily dependent on imports of basic raw materials, and the import dependence on some specific bulk drugs is 80 to 100%.
- The scheme will help to provide continuous supply of medicines and affordable healthcare to citizens.

Implementation:

- The state enforcement agencies set up by the respective state governments will implement the program.

Production Linked Incentive Plan:

- **Purpose:** This program aims to promote the domestic production of some of the most important startups / drug intermediaries and active pharmaceutical products in the country.
- **Sponsored By:** Eligible manufacturers of 53 critical bulk drugs identified under the program will be given a financial incentive on their increased sales for a 6-year period in the base year (2019-20).
- **Uses:**
 - ✓ This program will reduce the dependency of important drug intermediaries and India.
 - ✓ This will increase sales of Rs 46,400 crore and create significant additional employment in 8 years.

➤ **Implementation:**

- ✓ The project will be implemented by the Project Management Institute as recommended by the pharmaceutical department.
- ✓ The Hubei Province of China is the hub of active pharmaceutical products.

2. INDIA AND FRANCE ARE JOINT PATROLS

In news:

- For the first time, India and France held joint patrols off the island of Reunion.

Key data's:

Patrol:

- The P-8I was patrolled with French naval personnel in February.

P-8I aircraft design:

- Boeing's P-8I Poseidon is designed for long-range submarine combat, surface-to-surface combat and reconnaissance, reconnaissance and reconnaissance missions.
- The P-8s is referred to as the Indian variant P-8I.

Balance of this aircraft:

- India has received the aircraft number 8, making it the P-8 of the Indian Navy, the second largest aircraft in the world.

P-8 Special:

- The P-8 is not only responsible for coastal patrol, but also for other important tasks such as search and rescue, anti-theft, and other military support.
- Currently, under the Neighborhood First Telegraph Policy and Widespread Marine Cooperation, the Indian Navy conducts joint exclusive economic zone surveillance with the Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius, and a joint patrol with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia.
- United Nations Marine Laws Regulations on the Protection and Protection of Natural Resources, Protection of the Marine Environment, Prevention and Suppression of Illegal and Unlawful Fishing Activities, Drug Trafficking, Theft, Trafficking in Communication, Illegal Immigration and Conducting Search and Rescue Operations at Sea Specified by the Treaty of Nations.
- The joint patrol with France shows India's intent to engage with friendly foreign partners in expanding its footprint in the Indian Ocean, focusing on the stretch between the East African coast and the Strait of Malacca.
- India has recently become an observer of the Indian Ocean Commission. And holds Reunion as one of its members.
- So far, carpets have only dealt with offshore neighbors, and in 2016 the United States rejected a similar offer.

India-France Security Relations:

- France was the first country to appoint a liaison officer at the Indian Navy's Communication Center as part of its efforts to promote maritime domain awareness.
- France has gradually emerged as a key strategic partner to India, which has increased the military for defense agreements and military engagement.
- The Indian navy is currently launching French submarine regular submarines.
- India is working with France to establish a strategic and economic partnership involving Madagascar and the Reunion Islands-Comoros to balance China's growing influence in that part of the Indian Ocean region.

Security exercises between India and France:

1. Varuna - Naval Exercise
2. Garuda - Flight Exercise
3. Shakti - Military Training

Note:

- The Kagan force is operated by the Indian Air Force to exert its air superiority over the entire extended region of the Indian Ocean region.
- It encompasses all terrain operations - desert, high altitude, maritime sights and special operations - with particular focus on key areas such as air combat, air-to-surface combat, paratrooper attack and medical evacuation.
- Garuda Shakti is a joint military exercise between India and Indonesia.
- Mitra Shakti is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka.

3. AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND BELGIUM

In news:

Union Cabinet approved the signing of an extradition treaty between the Republic of India and Belgium.

Approval by:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of an extradition treaty between the Republic of India and the Government of Belgium.

Impact of Contract:

- The treaty had the potential to replace the 1901 Treaty of Independence between Britain and Belgium.
- The agreement provides a legal framework to hand over terrorists, economic criminals and other criminals to and from Belgium.
- It is the due process of extraditing a person to another state to prosecute or punish crimes committed in the country's jurisdiction.
- This is usually implemented through a bilateral or multilateral agreement.
- Section 3 (4) of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1962 provides.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF SLAVERY

In news:

International Day of Remembrance of victims of slavery has been celebrated on **March 25, 2020**.

Key data's:

- The International Day and the Atlantic Slave Trade, which commemorates victims of slavery, is an international observance of the United Nations, appointed in 2007, observed on March 25 each year.
- The Atlantic honors the victims and victims of the slave trade as the "worst human rights violation in history."
- It commemorates the victims of more than 15 million men, women and children over 400 years.

Significance of this day:

- It was first seen in 2008 with the theme "Breaking the Silence We Don't Forget."
- 2015's theme: "Women and Slavery".
- The international daily aims to "raise awareness of the dangers of racism and prejudice".
- Monument Release: 2015 marks the beginning of the UN's International Decade of African Descent, the United Nations in New York. A permanent monument with the heading "Return Ark" was released at the headquarters.