DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 07-08-2024

GS-2

1. Ayushman Bharat

2. Norms for organ transport in India

3. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

GS-3

4. Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

5. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Ayushman Bharat

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

➢ *Government spent 14% funds under Ayushman on those over 70 yrs*

About

➢ *Ayushman Bharat is a flagship health initiative by the Government of India, launched in 2018 under the* **National Health Policy 2017.**

➢ *It aims to provide comprehensive health coverage to economically vulnerable sections of the society and has two main components:*

  o **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs):**
   ▪ *The goal is to establish 150,000 HWCs across the country.*
   ▪ *These centres provide a range of services including maternal and child health services, treatment for non-communicable diseases, free essential drugs, and diagnostic services.*
   ▪ *They focus on preventive, promotive, and curative aspects of healthcare.*

  o **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):**
   ▪ *Also known as the world's largest government-funded healthcare program.*
   ▪ *It aims to provide health coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.*
   ▪ *The scheme targets more than 10 crore vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries).*
   ▪ *It covers 1,350 medical packages including surgeries, medical, and day-care treatments, cost of medicines, and diagnostics.*

Key Features

➢ **Portability:** *Beneficiaries can avail services across India.*
➢ **Cashless and Paperless:** *Ensures hassle-free and seamless service delivery.*
➢ **Empanelled Hospitals:** *Both public and private hospitals are empanelled under the scheme to provide treatment.*
➢ **IT Platform:** *Robust IT infrastructure for paperless transactions and monitoring.*

Impact and Challenges

➢ **Impact:** *Ayushman Bharat has significantly reduced out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare, improved access to quality medical services, and aimed at reducing health disparities.*

➢ **Challenges:** *Implementation issues such as fraud detection, ensuring quality of care, and reaching out to the most vulnerable sections continue to be areas needing attention.*

Conclusion

➢ *Ayushman Bharat is a pivotal step towards achieving* **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** *and reflects India's commitment to* **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG***), especially SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being.*

Norms for organ transport in India

Syllabus: GS-2; Health; Government policies and Interventions

Context

➢ *In a first, Union Health Ministry issues guidelines for organ transport across the country*

Latest Guidelines for Organ Transport in India

Revised Allocation Criteria

➢ **Medical Urgency:** *Prioritizing patients based on the severity of their medical condition.*
➢ **Compatibility***: Ensuring better HLA matching to improve transplant success rates.*
➢ **Geographical Proximity***: Priority given to recipients in closer proximity to reduce transport time and organ viability.*

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Organ Retrieval and Transport

➢ **Organ Preservation***: Enhanced protocols for preserving organs during retrieval and transport, including the use of advanced preservation solutions.*
➢ **Transportation Protocols:** *Clear guidelines on packaging, labeling, and handling organs to maintain sterility and temperature control.*

Green Corridor Implementation

➢ **Rapid Transport:** *Creation of dedicated green corridors in urban areas to facilitate fast and uninterrupted transport of organs.*
➢ **Coordination with Traffic Authorities:** *Collaboration with local traffic police and highway authorities to ensure smooth passage for ambulances carrying organs.*

Digital Platforms and Technology Integration

- **Online Registry and Matching System:** *Upgraded digital platforms for real-time matching of donors and recipients.*
- **Mobile Applications:** *Development of mobile apps for easier communication and coordination among transplant coordinators, hospitals, and transportation services.*

Enhanced Training and Capacity Building

- **Specialized Training Programs:** *Regular training sessions for healthcare professionals on the latest retrieval and transport techniques.*
- **Simulation Exercises**: *Conducting mock drills to prepare for efficient organ retrieval and transport in emergency situations.*

Public Awareness and Outreach

- **Campaigns and Workshops**: *Increased efforts to educate the public about the importance of organ donation and the procedures involved.*
- **Incentives for Donors:** *Introduction of incentives and recognition programs for organ donors and their families.*

Strengthened Regulatory Oversight

- **Stringent Monitoring:** *Regular audits and inspections of authorized hospitals and transplant centers to ensure compliance with guidelines.*
- **Reporting Mechanisms:** *Establishment of robust reporting systems for tracking organ transport and addressing any violations or discrepancies.*

Ethical and Legal Safeguards

- **Transparency in Allocation:** *Ensuring transparent processes in organ allocation to prevent malpractice and ensure fairness.*
- **Protection of Donor Rights**: *Legal provisions to safeguard the rights and dignity of donors and their families.*

Know more

Legal Framework

- **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994:** *This act provides the legal framework for organ donation and transplantation in India. It was amended in 2011 to address various aspects related to organ donation and transplantation.*
- **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014**: *These rules provide detailed procedures and guidelines for organ donation, retrieval, and transplantation.*

Authorization and Consent

➢ **Donor Consent:** *In the case of living donors, informed consent is mandatory. For deceased donors, consent must be obtained from the next of kin.*

➢ **Authorization Committees:** *These committees are established to approve living donor transplants to prevent commercial exploitation and ensure ethical practices.*

Regulatory Bodies

➢ **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):** *This central body coordinates organ donation and transplantation activities across the country.*

➢ **Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTO) and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTO***): These bodies function at regional and state levels to ensure efficient implementation of organ donation and transplantation activities.*

Key Points from Recent Amendments (2023)

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Rules, 2023

➢ **Reduction in Waiting Time***: Measures to reduce the waiting time for recipients by streamlining the allocation process.*

➢ **Enhanced Penalties:** *Stricter penalties for violations related to organ trafficking and commercialization.*

➢ **Blockchain for Transparency***: Exploration of blockchain technology to ensure transparency and traceability in the organ donation and transplantation process.*

➢ **National Registry Integration***: Better integration of state-level registries with the national registry for seamless coordination.*

➢ **Standardized Protocols***: Uniform protocols across states for organ retrieval and transport to ensure consistency.*

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Syllabus: GS-2; International Institutions

Context

➢ *A recent report calls for nutrition investments in the agri-food sector which it argues, can reduce gender inequalities, increase productivity and enhance business resilience.*

About

> *The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a Switzerland based international organization dedicated to* **tackling malnutrition and improving the quality of food globally.**
> *Established in 2002 at the United Nations (UN) Special Session on Children, GAIN's mission is to make healthier food choices more accessible, especially for vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries.*

Objectives

> **Reducing Malnutrition***: GAIN aims to reduce all forms of malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity.*
> **Enhancing Food Systems:** *GAIN works to improve the quality of food systems, ensuring that nutritious foods are available, affordable, and desirable.*
> **Strengthening Markets:** *By collaborating with both public and private sectors, GAIN strengthens food markets to make nutritious foods more accessible.*

Key Programs

> **Large Scale Food Fortification (LSFF):** *GAIN supports the fortification of staple foods and condiments (like salt, oil, and flour) with essential vitamins and minerals to address micronutrient deficiencies.*
> **Better Diets for Children and Adults:** *Programs are tailored to improve the dietary intake of vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, through targeted nutrition interventions.*
> **Business Partnerships:** *GAIN engages with businesses to create sustainable solutions for nutritious food production and distribution.*
> **Nutrition and Health***: GAIN works to integrate nutrition interventions into broader health initiatives to address malnutrition comprehensively.*

Strategies

> **Public-Private Partnerships:** *GAIN believes in the power of collaboration between governments, international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to achieve its goals.*
> **Evidence-Based Interventions***: GAIN's programs are grounded in rigorous research and data to ensure effectiveness and scalability.*
> **Policy Advocacy:** *GAIN advocates for policies that promote nutrition, food security, and sustainable agricultural practices.*

Achievements

➢ **Fortification Programs**: *Millions of people in various countries have benefited from GAIN's fortification programs, resulting in significant reductions in vitamin and mineral deficiencies.*

➢ **Innovative Solutions:** *GAIN has introduced innovative solutions like nutrient-dense food products and mobile technology applications to promote better nutrition.*

➢ **Global Reach:** *GAIN operates in over 30 countries, partnering with governments and local organizations to implement its nutrition programs effectively.*

Challenges

➢ **Sustainability:** *Ensuring long-term sustainability of nutrition interventions remains a challenge, especially in resource-limited settings.*

➢ **Scale and Reach:** *Expanding the reach of programs to remote and underserved populations requires substantial effort and resources.*

➢ **Behavior Change:** *Changing dietary behaviors and preferences to include more nutritious foods involves addressing cultural, economic, and social factors.*

Conclusion

➢ *GAIN plays a crucial role in the global fight against malnutrition, leveraging partnerships and innovative strategies to improve the nutritional status of populations worldwide.*

➢ *Its work aligns with the* **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being),** *making it an essential player in global public health and nutrition efforts.*

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy; GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

➢ *Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha said that the* **Directorate of Enforcement (ED**) *has registered 5,297 cases under Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the last 10 years.*

➢ *Of the total cases, 4,467 were registered between 2019 and 2024 after the PMLA's ambit was widened by the Centre through amendments.*

➢ *A total of 132 money laundering cases have been registered against sitting and former MPs, MLAs and political leaders in the last six years.*

About

➢ *The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, is a key legislation in India designed* **to combat money laundering and provide for the confiscation of property derived from money laundering**.

➢ *The act was enacted to address the menace of money laundering, which has serious implications for the economy and security of the country.*

Objective

➢ *To prevent money laundering.*

➢ *To combat the laundering of proceeds from crimes.*

➢ *To provide for confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering.*

Definition of Money Laundering

➢ *Under PMLA, money laundering is defined as any* **process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime, including its concealment, possession, acquisition, use, or projecting it as untainted property.**

Proceeds of Crime

➢ *Proceeds of crime refer to any property derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, by any person as a result of criminal activity relating to the offences specified in the act.*

Authorities under PMLA

➢ *The act provides for the appointment of various authorities, including the Director of Enforcement, for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting cases of money laundering.*

➢ *The* **Enforcement Directorate (ED***) is the primary agency responsible for enforcing PMLA.*

Attachment and Confiscation

➢ *PMLA empowers the authorities to provisionally attach property derived from or involved in money laundering.*

➢ *After due process, the property can be confiscated by the state.*

Obligations of Financial Institutions

➢ *Financial institutions, banks, and intermediaries are required to maintain records of transactions, verify the identity of clients, and furnish information to the* **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of India.**

Punishment for Money Laundering

➢ *PMLA prescribes rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than three years but which may extend to seven years and also a fine.*

Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal

➢ *The act establishes an Adjudicating Authority for the attachment and confiscation of property.*

➢ *An* **Appellate Tribunal** *is also constituted to hear appeals against orders passed by the Adjudicating Authority.*

Special Courts

➢ *Special courts are designated under PMLA for the trial of offences of money laundering.*

➢ *These courts ensure a speedy trial.*

Amendments

➢ *The PMLA has been amended multiple times to widen its scope, include more predicate offences, and strengthen its enforcement.*

International Cooperation

➢ *The act provides for reciprocal arrangements for assistance in matters related to money laundering with countries outside India.*

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

➢ *Alarming cases of* **tiger deaths and hunting incidents** *in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and its surrounding forest divisions have been reported by a top official.*

About

- *Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve Situated in the Umaria district of **Madhya Pradesh**, India.*
- *Spans an area of 105 square kilometers as the core area and approximately 820 square kilometers including the buffer zone.*
- *Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is a key conservation area in India, known for its **high tiger population** and rich biodiversity.*
- *The reserve's history, combined with its ecological significance, makes it a vital component of India's natural heritage and a critical area for wildlife protection and research.*

History

- *Declared a national park in 1968.*
- *Became a tiger reserve under **Project Tiger** in 1993.*
- *The area has a rich history, with ancient fortifications and temples dating back to the 10th century, particularly the Bandhavgarh Fort, which is believed to have been built 2000 years ago.*

Flora

- *Predominantly a mix of **tropical moist deciduous and dry deciduous forests.***
- *Key vegetation includes **Sal trees** (Shorea robusta) in the moist zones, and mixed forest types with bamboo thickets and grasslands in the dry areas.*

➤ *Diverse plant species create a rich habitat for various wildlife species.*

Fauna

➤ *Famous for its high density of Bengal tigers, making it one of the best places for tiger sightings.*

➤ *Other key wildlife includes leopards, Indian bison (gaur), sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer (chital), wild boar, and Indian fox.*

➤ *The reserve is also home to various bird species, including the Malabar pied hornbill, black vulture, and white-eyed buzzard.*

Challenges

➤ *Human-wildlife conflict, particularly with local villages around the buffer zones.*

➤ *Poaching and illegal logging activities.*

➤ *Ensuring sustainable tourism while maintaining conservation priorities.*

Significance

➤ *Bandhavgarh plays a critical role in tiger conservation under the Project Tiger initiative.*

➤ *Acts as a vital corridor for wildlife movement between central Indian tiger habitats.*

➤ *Its rich biodiversity and historical significance make it an important site for both conservation and cultural heritage.*