Prelims EDGE – 03/10/2024

AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PM JAN AAROGYA YOJANA

Context: There have recently been demands for the inclusion of persons with disabilities under the AB-PMJAY insurance scheme.

About Ayushman Bharat – PM Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY):

• It is the **world's largest health insurance scheme** fully financed by the govt.

• Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family** for secondary care and tertiary care.

o It covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.

• Covers medical & surgical procedures for almost all health conditions through a **comprehensive list of 1,949 packages**. It features **packaged rates** (each product/service during treatment cannot be charged separately).

• Beneficiary card for AB-PMJAY can be used to avail benefits for any existing state health insurance schemes.

- In the 2024 Interim Budget, the union govt. decided to extend health **coverage under the scheme to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Anganwadi workers.**

- **No restrictions on family size, age or gender** for inclusion and **all pre–existing conditions are covered.**

- It covers up to **3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization** and **benefits of the scheme are portable across India.**

- Scheme has a **dedicated workforce of PM Arogya Mitras (PMAMs)** who guide and assist beneficiaries.

- PMAMs also make **calls to every beneficiary who availed treatment within 48 hrs of discharge** to verify quality of treatment.

- Scheme has a **National Anti-Fraud Unit** (NAFU) to design, implement, and oversee anti-fraud initiatives. There are also **Anti-Fraud Units at the state level.**

Identification of Beneficiaries:

- It targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** data.

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- National Health Authority (NHA) has **provided flexibility to States & UTs to use non-SECC beneficiary databases** with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging leftover families.

Fundings:

- Funding is **shared – 60:40 for all states and UTs with a legislature**, 90:10 in Northeast and Himalayan states, and 100% Central funding for other UTs.

Nodal Agency:

- **National Health Authority (NHA)** has been constituted as an autonomous entity **under the Society Registration Act, 1860** for implementation of PM-JAY.
- The **State Health Agency (SHA)** is responsible for the implementation of AB-PMJAY in individual states.

Achievements of AB-PMJAY:

- It has covered over **15.5 crore families (55 crore beneficiaries)**.
- **11 states/UTs have pushed for 100% coverage** of their population.
- Approx. **28.45 Crore Ayushman Cards have been created since 2018**, out of which **9.38 crore were created in 2023.**
- **26,901 hospitals including 11,813 private hospitals** have been empanelled under AB PM-JAY.
- Catered to more than **6.11 crore hospital admission worth Rs 78,188 crore** in since 2019.
  - 1.7 crore hospitals admissions worth over ₹25,000 crores were authorised during 2023.
- It has **reduced out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) of beneficiaries by 60 %** and **increased access to tertiary care by 65 %.**

> Women account for approx. 49% of total Ayushman cards created and approx. 48% of total authorized hospital admissions.

Source: Include persons with disabilities in AB-PMJAY Scheme (The Hindu)

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

Context: October 2, 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

About Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):

- It was **launched on Oct 2, 2014**, to fulfil the vision of a clean India. Its objectives were to **eliminate open defecation, eradicate manual scavenging, and promote scientific solid waste management.**
- It consists of two separate sub-missions:
  - **SBM-Grameen (under Ministry of Jal Shakti)**
  - **SBM-Urban (under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs)**
- Since its launch, it has helped **construct over 6 lakh community and public toilets** across India.

- It emphasized **behavioural change through mass awareness campaigns,** encouraging citizens to adopt cleaner practices.
- It uses **Swachhta leagues & rankings to create a healthy competition** between states, towns, and cities.

SBM – Grameen (SBM-G):

- It aims to accelerate the efforts to achieve **universal sanitation coverage** and to put **focus on sanitation in policy making.**
- It is being implemented as nation-wide campaign to **eliminate open defecation in rural areas.**
- The rural sanitation coverage at the time its launch was reported as **38.7%. This reached 100% by 2019 (ODF Status).**
  - Now the subsequent goal is to transition **all villages to ODF Plus by 2024-25.**
  - Currently, **85% of villages have attained ODF Plus** status.
- According to the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) Round 3 - **95% of India's rural population had toilet access, with 79% owning their facilities**
- **SBM(G) Phase-II:** It emphasizes the **sustainability of achievements under Phase** I and aims to provide adequate facilities for **Solid/Liquid & plastic Waste Management (SLWM)**.
  - It will be implemented from **2020-21 to 2024-25** in with an outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores.
- The SLWM component of ODF Plus will be monitored based on **output-outcome indicators for 4 key areas:**
  - Plastic waste management
  - Biodegradable solid waste management
  - Greywater (Household Waste-water) management
  - Faecal sludge management.
- Top 5 performing states: **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh** (maximum number of ODF Plus villages).

SBM – Urban (SBM-U):

- It aims to make cities and towns across India free from open defecation. It focuses on **door-to-door waste collection, waste segregation, and scientific waste processing via bio-methanation plants & material recovery facilities.**
- It has mobilized over Rs **20,000 crores for investment in solid and liquid waste management systems** to strengthen urban infra across India.
- **Phase 1 focused on making urban India ODF** by providing access to toilets and promoting behavioural change.
  - SBM-U 1.0 was successful in achieving its targets and **100% of urban India was declared ODF in 2019** - covering **4.715 urban local bodies (ULBs).**
  - 3**,547 ULBs are ODF+** with functional and hygienic community and public toilets.
  - **1,191 ULBs are ODF**++, having complete faecal sludge management.
  - **14 cities are certified Water+,** which entails treatment of wastewater & optimum reuse.
- **SBM-U 2.0 was announced in Budget 2021-22**, and is the continuation of SBM-U first phase. It will be implemented from 2021 to 2026.
  - **SBM-U 2.0 will go beyond ODF++ and will focus on making urban India garbage-free.** It focuses on sustainable sanitation practices, waste management, and promotion of a circular economy.

- **Waste Processing in India has gone up by over 4 times from 17% in 2014 to 75% in 2023**, aided through **100% door-to-door waste collection in 97% wards.**
- **Source segregation of waste** is being practised by citizens across **almost 90% wards in all ULBs**.
- **Garbage Free Cities (GFC) Star Rating** protocol was launched in Jan 2018. The number of GFC cities has increased from **only 56 cities in 2018 to 445 cities in 2023, with a target of at least 1,000 GFC cities by 2026.**
- **2023 Budget has further reinforced India's commitment to building a circular economy** through an enhanced focus on scientific management of dry and wet waste.

Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status:
- ✓ **ODF:** An area can be declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found defecating in the open.
- ✓ **ODF+:** At any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open, and all public toilets are functional and well maintained.
- ✓ **ODF++:** Area is already ODF+ and faecal sludge/septage and sewage are safely managed & treated, with no dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into open drains or water bodies.

Source: Modi says toilet coverage reached 100% after launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (The Hindu)

LADAKH PROTESTS

Context: There have been protests in Delhi, seeking the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, along with other demands for regional autonomy.

About the Protests
- Environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk is currently on a protest demanding the implementation of the **Constitution's Sixth Schedule and statehood for the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.**
- Ladakh was turned into a UT without a Legislative Assembly after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was revoked by Parliament in 2019 and the **erstwhile State was split into the UTs of Ladakh and J&K.**
- Ladakh has erupted in protests several times over the past few years amid concerns about the **protection of land, resources, and employment for local residents, and bureaucratic overreach.**
- It is argued that Ladakh is heading towards an uncertain and destructive future, all in the name of development.
- Its natural resources are under attack in the name of large-scale tourism, hydel and even solar power.

- Climate activists have raised serious concerns regarding mining and industrialization in the fragile glacial ecological system of Ladakh.
- Sixth schedule status is being demanded to protect the high-altitude deserts, glaciers and alpine meadows which are a crucial habitat for rare and endangered species.

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About Sixth Schedule
- The Sixth Schedule **under Article 244** of protects tribal populations, allowing for the creation of **Autonomous District Councils (ADC) which can frame laws on land, public health, agriculture.**
- ADCs exist in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.**
- Each ADC shall consist of **not more than 30 members**, of whom **not more than four persons shall be nominated by the Governor**, and the rest shall be elected on the basis of adult suffrage.
- Under the provisions of Sixth Schedule, the **Governor of the State is**
- **empowered to determine the area** of Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions.

Source: What special status is Ladakh seeking? (The Hindu)

DHARTI AABA JANJATIYA GRAM UTKARSH ABHIYAN

Context: This scheme was recently launched by the Prime Minister to achieve saturation of govt. schemes in tribal majority villages.

About the Scheme:
- It was **originally called the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)** & was approved by the Cabinet in September 2024.
- It is **based on the learnings and success of PM-JANMAN** (PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan).
- Aim: Improving socio-economic condition of tribal communities, by adopting **saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts.**
- India has **Scheduled Tribe population of 10.45 crore** as per 2011 census and there are >700 tribal communities.
- Total outlay for the scheme: Rs.79,156 crore with Central Share of Rs.56,333 crore.
- Coverage: **63,000 villages benefitting more than 5 crore tribal people**, covering 549 districts across 30 States/UTs.
- It comprises **25 interventions to be implemented by 17 ministries** through funds allocated under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in next 5 years.
- Tribal villages covered will be mapped and progress will be **monitored on PM Gati Shakti platform.**

Mission's Four Goals:
- Goal-I: Develop Infra such as Pucca houses and improving Village Infra.
- Goal-2: Promotion of Economic Empowerment through Skilling, Entrepreneurship promotion, and livelihoods (self-employment).
- Goal-3: Universalization of Access to Good Education.
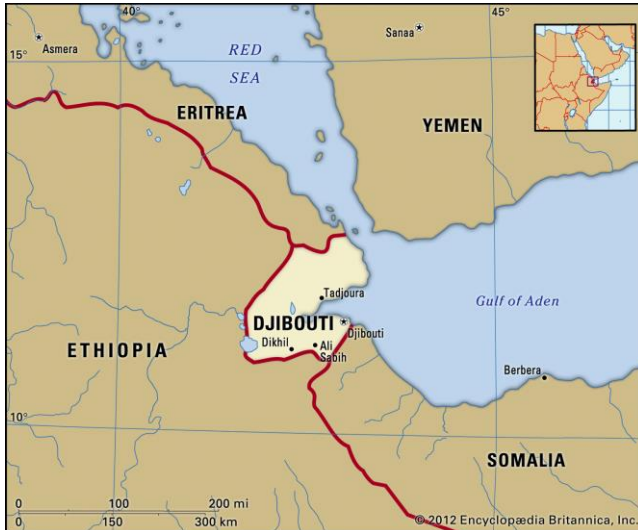- Goal-4: Healthy lives and Dignified Ageing.

Innovative Schemes under PM-JUGA:
- **Tribal Home Stay:** To tap tribal tourism, 1000 Home stays will be promoted under Swadesh Darshan.
- **Sustainable Livelihood Forest Right Holders (FRA):** Special focus on 22 lakh FRA patta holders residing in forest areas for recognizing and securing forest rights.
- Improving **infrastructure of Government residential Schools and Hostels** on lines of PM-Shri Schools.

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- Advance facilities for diagnosis of **sickle cell disease**.
- **Multipurpose Marketing Centre** for marketing of tribal products.

PLACES IN NEWS

Djibouti

- Djibouti is a country in the **Horn of Africa region**, bordered by **Somalia** to the south, **Ethiopia** to the southwest, **Eritrea** in the north, and the **Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden** to the east.

- Djibouti is a **multi-ethnic nation with a population of just over 1 million** as of 2024. French and Arabic are its two official languages.

- About 94% of Djiboutians adhere to Islam, which is the official religion and has been predominant in the region for more than 1,000 years.

- Djibouti is **near some of the world's busiest shipping lanes,** controlling access to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. It serves as a **key refueling and transshipment center**, and the principal maritime port for imports from and exports to neighboring Ethiopia.

- A burgeoning commercial hub, the nation is the **site of various foreign military bases.**

Arun River

- The Arun River **originates in the Tibet Autonomous Region** of China, where it is known as Phung Chu or Bum-chu.

- It flows into Nepal and confluences with the Sun Koshi and Tamur River at **Trivenighat, forming the Sapta Kosi** (also called Kosi) River.

- The river significantly contributes to the Sapta Kosi River system in Nepal. It provides around **37% of the total water in the Sapta Kosi system.**

- It is the **largest trans-Himalayan River in Nepal**, playing a crucial role in supporting the region's hydrology and ecosystems.

- The Sapta Kosi **crosses into Bihar, where it branches into distributaries** before joining the Ganga. The Kosi is the **third-largest tributary of the Ganges by water discharge,** after the Yamuna and the Ghaghara.
- India is currently helping Nepal construct a 900 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project on the Arun river **(Arun-III Hydro Power Project).**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements about the PM-Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) insurance scheme:

1. It offers an insurance of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care.

2. Identification of beneficiaries is done on the basis of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.

3. The National Health Authority was established for the smooth implementation of PMJAY.

How many of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

A. None of the statements

B. Only one statement

C. Only two statements

D. All three statements

Q2. Consider the following nations located in Africa:

1. Ethiopia

2. Djibouti

3. Libya

4. Kenya

5. Eritrea

6. Somalia

7. South Sudan

How many of these countries are part of the Horn of Africa region ?

A. Only three

B. Only four

C. Only five

D. Only six

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):

1. 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) status has been achieved under both SBM-Grameen and SBM-Urban.

2. While SBM-Grameen is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, SBM-Urban is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

3. The Garbage Free City (GFC) Rating System was introduced under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Which of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

A. 1 and 2

B. 1 and 3

C. 2 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. Currently, only North Eastern states are covered under the framework of the Sixth Schedule.

2. The President of India can determine the area of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) created under the 6th Schedule.

3. The ADCs are empowered to frame laws on the subjects of land, public health, agriculture, etc.

Which of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

A. 1 and 2

B. 1 and 3

C. 2 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

D. Only six

Answers:

1. **C**

2. **B**

3. **B**

4. **B**

5. **A**

Q5. Consider the following rivers that are part of the Gangetic drainage system:

1. Arun

2. Gomti

3. Rihand

4. Son

5. Chambal

6. Ramganga

7. Sindh

How many of the afore mentioned rivers directly join the master stream of the Ganga ?

A. Only three

B. Only four

C. Only five

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