

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC
'Display information on 7 common antibiotics'

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has now asked commonly-used antibiotics manufacturers to ensure its details be made available to the general public. This decision was taken considering directives from the National Co-ordination Centre of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).

Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI)

- Pharmacovigilance is defined as the science relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects, principally long term and short term adverse effects of medicines.
- The CDSCO has a nation-wide Pharmacovigilance Programme for protecting the health of the patients by promising drug safety.
- The Programme shall be coordinated by the Indian Pharmacopoeia commission, Ghaziabad as a National Coordinating Centre (NCC).
- The PvPI was started by the Government of India on 14th July 2010 with the AIIMS New Delhi as the National Coordination Centre for monitoring Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) in the country for safeguarding Public Health.

CDSCO guidelines to manufacturers

- CDSCO has written to drug manufacturers, to mention in leaflets inserted into drug packets or on promotional literature, information about the adverse reactions of these medicines.
- All of the seven formulations have been instructed to warn patients of the "new" side effects.

Why such move?

- The Union Health Ministry was alerted about the adverse reactions of Antibiotic Cefixime last year in August.
- Antibiotic Cefixime is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections and is known to have adverse reactions, including pain, diarrhoea, nausea and headaches.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**2 West Bengal govt schemes win UN awards**

- Two schemes of the West Bengal government for skill development and distribution of bi-cycles to students have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations.
- The schemes are "Utkarsh Bangla" and "SaboojSathi".
- The WB government had received another UN award in 2017 for its 'Kanyashree' project, a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at promoting education among girls.

Utkarsh Bangla

- The "Utkarsh Bangla" project aims at creating a pool of skilled candidates who are industry ready.
- It is meant especially for school dropouts.
- Out of 1062 nominations in 18 categories, Utkarsh Bangla got the topmost award and emerged a winner in Capacity Building category.

SaboojSathi

- SaboojSathi is a scheme for distribution of bi-cycles to estimated 40 lakh students of class IX to XII studying in Govt. run and Govt. aided Schools and Madrasahs.
- The scheme was launched in September 2015.

About WSIS

- WSIS Prizes is an international contest to create an effective mechanism to evaluate and recognise individuals, governments and private bodies for outstanding success in implementing development oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs as an enabler of the development.
- The contest, organised by the WSIS in Geneva, was first held in 2012.

9 professionals selected as joint secys in biggest lateral induction into govt service

The government has selected nine professionals, largely from the private sector, as joint secretaries in various departments, signalling a major shift in the entry of professionals in shaping policies. This is perhaps the first time that a large group of experts with domain knowledge will enter the government through the lateral-entry process.

Appointment as Joint Secys

- So far, the joint secretary-level officers are largely drawn from the pool of people who clear the civil services examination conducted by the UPSC.
- To ensure the same standards, the entire process of the selection of these experts was conducted by the UPSC.

- They will join their respective departments on a “contract basis”.

Not for the first time

- Earlier, some experts had joined the government through the lateral-entry route in ministries such as finance, power and sanitation.
- The list of professionals included those like Manmohan Singh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, BimalJalan, Vijay Kelkar (former petroleum and finance secretary), R V Shahi (former power secretary), apart from ParameswaranIyer, who is currently sanitation secretary, and Rajesh Kotecha, who heads the Ayush ministry.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

PM to get Russia’s highest civilian award

Russia has announced that it will confer its highest civilian award, the “Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First,” on PM NarendraModi for his work on bilateral ties.

Why this award?

- The order was presented to the PM for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the Russian and Indian peoples.
- The Russian honour comes after a week of the Indian premier being awarded the UAE’s highest civilian award, the Zayed Medal, for his crucial role in boosting the strategic relationship between the two countries.

About the Award

- The award was established in 1698 but it was abolished during the communist era, before being reinstated in 1998.
- Since then, it has been awarded to 18 people, mostly Russians, such as AK-47 designer Mikhail Kalashnikov, former president Mikhail Gorbachev and author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.
- The Russian honour is the seventh international award conferred on Modi since he came to power in 2014.
- The Zayed Medal by the UAE (2019), Grand Collar of the State of Palestine (2018), Amir Abdullah Khan Award is Afghanistan (2016) and Order of King Abdullaziz from Saudi Arabia (2016) are the most significant civilian awards given to the Indian prime minister by heads of Islamic nations.
- He has also been awarded with the UN’s ‘Champions of the Earth’ Award for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single use plastic in India by 2022.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

RailWire Wi-Fi Zones

- RailWire Wi-Fi by RailTel is now live at 1,600 railway stations across the country, with Santa Cruz railway station in Mumbai becoming the 1,600th station to become a RailWire Wi-Fi zone.

RailWire

- RailWire is a retail broadband initiative of RailTel, which envisages extending broadband and application services to the public.
- RailTel is working to establish bringing fast and free Wi-Fi at all stations (except the halt stations) within a year.
- The Wi-Fi at 415 A, A1 and C category stations has been provided in association with Google as the technology partner.
- Wi-Fi connections at 200 stations were provided with support from the Universal Service Obligatory Fund of the Govt. of India.

About RailTel

- RailTel Corporation is a Mini Ratna(Category-I) PSU of Ministry of Railways.
- It is the largest neutral telecom services providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network covering all important towns & cities of the country and several rural areas covering 70% of India’s population.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.