## The Hindu News Analysis – 24th July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
UNAIDS:
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- Launched in 1996
- Experience and expertise of 11 UN System Cosponsors
  - UNHCR
  - UNDP
  - UNODC
  - UNICEF
  - UNFPA
  - ILO
  - World Bank
  - WHO
  - UNESCO
  - World Food Programme
  - UN Women
- Representation of Civil Society in governing body
- People living with HIV and people affected by HIV
  - Decision making, designing, delivering and monitoring of AIDS response
- Provides strategic direction, advocacy, coordination and technical support

Vision → Zero new HIV infections
    → Zero discrimination
    → Zero AIDS-related deaths

90-90-90 Targets
- 90% people living with HIV know their HIV status
- 90% accessing treatment
- 90% suppressed viral loads

Steps to eliminate HIV/AIDS:
1. UN Political Declaration in 2001
   - Declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS
   - "Global Crisis - Global Action"
   - To know what to do to avoid infection
   - To stop all forms of HIV transmission from mother to child
   - Provide treatment to infected persons
2. Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
   - Created in 2002
   - Partnership of govs, civil society, technical agencies, private sector and virus affected people
   - Raises, manages, invests money to defeat 3 diseases

Author’s view:
- UNAIDS facing existential threat
- Afflicting global AIDS response
- UNAIDS successfully mobilised world opinion on HIV/AIDS → exceptional response
3. Indian generic → slashed prices of AIDS drugs
   ➔ enabled many countries to afford drug
   ➔ 28 Million people under Antiretroviral Therapy
   ➔ preventing mother to child transmission
   by 2020 → achievable

Careless Mistakes by UNAIDS:
• Optimistic message - 'World is going to see end of AIDS very soon'
  ➔ Eastern Europe, Central Asia & West Asia
  far from reaching the goal
  ➔ Russia - witnessing severe epidemic
  ➔ Political leadership - AIDS is no more a challenge

• Simply treating by Antiretroviral
  ➔ poor, marginalised, criminalised communities
  cannot afford
  ➔ national programmes do not consider other
  preventive methods
  ➔ Stopped funding to NGO and Community
  based organisations
• Weakening of country leadership of UNAIDS
  ➔ lack of competence → hampering political
  leadership engagement

Conclusion:
➔ 1.7 million new infections, 1 million deaths
➔ end AIDS by 2030 - SDGs
➔ Re-energised UNAIDS

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**HIV/AIDS**

• HIV → targets immune system
  ➔ weakens defense system
  ➔ immune deficient

• AIDS → advanced stage of HIV
  ➔ Takes 2 to 15 years to develop

• Transmission - exchange of variety of body fluids only
  ➔ Blood
  ➔ Semen
  ➔ Breast milk
  ➔ Vaginal Secretions
Editorial:

- India consumes water more sensibly
  - 4% of world’s renewable water resources
  - 18% of world’s population

- India’s goal → 100% electrification
  - India’s installed power capacity needs to be doubled

\[ \text{Electricity Needs} \]

\[ \text{Renewable Energy} \rightarrow \text{Coal} \rightarrow \text{(Non-Renewable Energy)} \]

\[ \rightarrow \text{Primary fuel} \]

\[ \rightarrow \text{Thermal Power Plants} \rightarrow \text{Water} \]

- Thermal Power Plants
  - Located in water-stressed areas
  - Disruptions in electricity generation
  - Significant revenue losses to Indian Economy

Suggestions To Reduce The Water Stress:

A. Water Consumption Levels:

- Environment Protection (Amendment) Rules, 2018
- Environment Protection (Amendment) Rules, 2015
- Ineffective regulations → Certain mechanisms need to be strengthened

B. Central Electricity Authority has released a format for thermal power plants to report on annual water consumption

1. Metered and un-metered usage of water needs to be specified
2. Sources of water needs to be mentioned
3. Percentage of deviation from the water norms need to be mentioned
4. Reasons for deviation and corrective measures need to be reported

Strengthening of the above format:

1. Disclose the amount of water consumed in the previous years; to establish baseline data of water consumption per thermal power plant
2. Reports that are present in CEA website must be added to Environment Protection Rules → Transparency and Enforceability

3. Thermal power plants should submit verifiable evidence
   - To substantiate the data they have disclosed with the government
   - If absent, self-reporting guidelines will remain weak

4. Listing of data in the public domain; helpful to study issues like
   - Region-specific water shortages
   - Outages in the plants
   - Research purposes

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<td>At present, blanket penalty as per section 15, Environment Protection Act</td>
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<td>5 yrs imprisonment with or without fine up to 1 lakh + additional daily fines for continuing offences</td>
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<th>D. Identification and well defined roles for the enforcement officials</th>
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<td>MoEF &amp; CC</td>
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<td>CEA</td>
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<th>E. Time-bound implementation of norms:</th>
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<td>To monitor the progress in a periodic manner and make necessary improvements</td>
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Other suggestions:
- India should shift to renewable energy
  - Further work required to manage the water consumption levels, in renewable energy industry

Way forward:
- India needs to balance both the development needs and also the water stress.
  - Stringent implementation of standards for judicial water usage by Thermal Power plants
  - Promotion of renewable energy
Over the Counter Drugs Policy:

- Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India
  - Representative body of the manufacturers in the pharmaceutical sector
  - Registered under Companies Act, 1956
  - Represents major pharma companies including public sector
- Self-Medication
  - Individuals taking medicines without doctor’s consultation
- Over the counter drugs - Medicines that can be purchased without doctor’s prescription
- Survey by Lybrate - 2015:
  - Survey - 20,000 people across 10 cities
  - At least 54% of people practised self-medication
- Indian Government is in the process of finalizing ‘Over the Counter’ Drugs policy (OTC Policy)

OPPI - President:

- Industry experts from India and abroad have contributed towards developing the guidelines
- Advantage → Reducing the government’s workload
  - Govt can focus on those drugs that require stringent standards
  - Drugs that do not have any side effects
  - and that does not require explanation can be classified as OTC drugs
- OTC Drugs should be made available in the small towns as well
- Disadvantage → Antibiotic resistance due to overuse or misuse of drugs

OPPI is working with the govt to spread awareness about the responsible use of antibiotics.

Usage of Over the Counter Drugs for Self Medication:

- Advantages:
  - Individuals empowered to take decisions
  - Healthcare systems can focus on major illnesses
  - High accessibility
  - Will lower the prices of OTC drugs
- Disadvantages → Misdiagnosis
  - Over dosage of drugs
  - Drug interactions
World Economic Outlook:

- Published by International Monetary Fund
- Published twice a year - April and October
- Also publishes ‘World Economic Outlook Update’
- Twice a year → January and July
- Aim → Provide updates of global economic development & how each country is functioning in near and medium term

News:

- Cut in India’s GDP growth forecast (FY 2019-20) → 7 %
  - April - World Economic Outlook - 7.3 %
  - Reason - Poor Domestic Demand
- Cut in India’s GDP growth forecast (FY 2020-21) → 7.2 %
  - April - World Economic Outlook - 7.5 %
  - Domestic demand is weaker than expected

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- Established in 1944
- HQ - Washington, D.C.
- Aims:
  - Promote international monetary cooperation
  - Facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade
  - Assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments
  - Make resources available (with adequate safeguards) to members experiencing Balance of Payments difficulties

UPSC Prelims Question – 2016
(For Reference only)

Q. ‘Global Financial Stability Report’ is prepared by the
(a) European Central Bank
(b) International Monetary Fund
(c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Which of the following reports are published by ‘International Monetary Fund’.
2. World Economic Outlook
Choose the correct answer from the options given below.
   a) 1 only
   b) 1 and 2 only (Correct Answer)
   c) 2 and 3 only
   d) 3 only

Practice Question – Mains
GS-II
Q1. “90-90-90 target-based approach of ending AIDS menace is need of the hour”. Discuss the global measures including measures by India in order to achieve the SDG of ending AIDS by 2030.

Practice Question – Mains
GS - III
Q2. “India needs to balance both the developmental needs and the stress on water resources”. Examine the statement.