The Hindu News Analysis – 02nd December 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Battling anti-microbial resistance (OPED)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Six European nations join Iran barter system</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>General category students get 67% of education loans</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Operation ‘Clean Art’ to crack down on illegal trade in mongoose hair</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Practice cum Revision - MCQs</td>
<td>@end of the video</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Battling anti-microbial resistance

India must accelerate implementation of its National Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance

India is well placed to deal with the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The government’s overarching objective is to ensure universal health coverage, with a focus on curative care and preventive services. It is also important to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are major global health challenges.

The National Action Plan on AMR (NAPAM) was launched in 2016, with the aim of reducing the prevalence of AMR. The plan focuses on four key areas:

1. Surveillance:
   - Strengthening of surveillance systems for monitoring the prevalence of AMR in healthcare facilities and the community.

2. Research:
   - Investing in research to understand the mechanisms of AMR and to develop new antimicrobials.

3. Education:
   - Increasing awareness among healthcare professionals, patients, and the general public about the importance of appropriate use of antimicrobials.

4. Policy and Regulation:
   - Developing policies to promote the responsible use of antimicrobials and to reduce the use of antibiotics in animal husbandry.

India has made significant progress towards the implementation of the NAPAM, with a focus on strengthening surveillance systems, promoting research, increasing awareness, and developing policies to address AMR.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I— (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week celebrated in the month of November

Endorsed in 68th World Health Assembly, 2015

Aim:

- Increasing awareness
- Encouraging best practices
- Promote global education on antibiotics, how they should be used, and the growing risks of antibiotic resistance.
- Global awareness of the issues of antibiotic resistance remains relatively low.

Anti-microbial Resistance:

- Ability of a microorganism to stop an antimicrobial from working against it.
- Bacteria, viruses, parasites

Antimicrobials do not work

Treatments become ineffective

Infection persists

May spread to others
### Drivers/Causes of Antibiotic resistance

- Inappropriate use of antibiotics in humans
- Overuse or abuse of antibiotics by humans.
- For growth promotion and disease prevention in animals, horticulture and fisheries.
- Use of animal manure in soil [Contains antibiotic residues]
- Inadequate treatment of effluents that contains antibiotic residues from pharmaceutical industries, healthcare facilities.

### Authors' view:
- Indiscriminate use of antibiotics
- Inappropriate usage of antibiotics in animals, horticulture and fisheries
- Anti-microbial Resistance has become an important public health challenge worldwide

### Consequences
- Complex surgeries difficult to undertake.
- No new antibiotics discovered in the past three decades —⇒ Time and cost of R & D is high.
- Indiscriminate usage on release —⇒ makes the antibiotic inefficient

### Initiatives on Anti-microbial Resistance [AMR]

- Global level
  - Global Action Plan on Anti-microbial Resistance (GAP-AMR)
    - Goal —⇒ To ensure responsible use of antimicrobials including antibiotics in treating diseases, so they remain effective.
    - Urges member states to align their National Action Plan on AMR with GAP-AMR by May 2019
  - Objectives
    * To improve awareness and understanding of AMR
    * To strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research
    * To reduce the incidence of infection
To optimise the use of anti-microbial agents

Develop the economic case for sustainable development that takes account of the needs of all countries, & increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines & other inventions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance 2017 - 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One health approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 objectives of GAP-AMR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India’s leadership in combating AMR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ban on Colistin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotics of last resort</td>
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<td>Used in poultry, aqua farming, animal feed supplements</td>
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<td>Affects entire food chain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Author’s Suggestions:

- Implementation of India’s National Action Plan on Anti-microbial Resistance needs to be accelerated.

| Present Status: Both human health and animal health under State List |
| Add complexity; no proper data available |

Need to expand and sustain surveillance networks

| FAO + India collaborated to establish Indian network for Fishery and Animals Anti-microbial Resistance [INFAAR] |
| Co-ordinated by National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics, Bengaluru |
Practice Question – Mains
GS-III
Q. According to WHO, Antimicrobial resistance is a slow-motion tsunami, a global crisis that must be managed with the utmost urgency. In this context, define what is meant by Antimicrobial Resistance? What are the reasons for the growing menace of anti-microbial resistance worldwide? Discuss some of the initiatives taken by India to address this issue.
(150 words, 10 marks)
Q. With reference to “INSTEX” often in news, which one of the following statements is incorrect?

(a) It functions as a clearing house allowing Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange from the participating countries.

(b) The INSTEX instrument is an example for the modern form of old barter system.

(c) INSTEX is a Tehran-based special purpose vehicle which allows non-USD transactions

(d) INSTEX mechanism allows non-European nations to participate.
General category students get 67% of education loans

MHID data also indicates variation in size of loans disbursed, with OBCs, SCs and STs receiving lower amounts on average.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance- Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development- Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans

- Started in 2015
- Guarantee for education loan under Model Education Loan Scheme of Indian Banks’ Association
- For education loans disbursed by banks without seeking any collateral security and third-party guarantee.
- Applicable for maximum loan amount (Rs. 7.5 lakhs)
- ‘Guarantee’ meaning guaranteeing payment against default
- Cover 75% of the amount in default.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II
General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

PAPER-III
General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes: mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

PAPER-IV

- Scheme operation - undertaken by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCBCTC)
  - Set up in 2014, under Companies Act, 1956
  - Acts as ‘Trustee’ to operate the Credit Guarantee Funds for Educational Loans, Skill Development Loans, any other funds to be set up by GoI.

- Education loan
  - Financial assistance by way of loan, for higher education as per IBA Model Educational Loan Scheme.
Indian Banks Association Model Education Loan Scheme

- Formulated and circulated by IBIA to all member banks including SBI
- For providing financial support to meritorious students for pursuing higher education in India and abroad
- Features
  - Grants loan
    - Upto Rs.10 Lakh for study in India
    - Upto Rs.20 Lakh for study abroad
  - Grants collateral-free loans upto Rs.7.5 Lakh under CBFS EL

- No margin for loan up to Rs.7.5 Lakh
- Margin - money provided by borrower
- Provides repayment period of 15 years
- One year moratorium for repayment after completion of studies
- Graduate/Post/PG Diploma - by colleges or universities recognized by UGC, AICTE, ICMA, etc

Concessions

- 1% interest concession
  - If interest is serviced during study period and subsequent moratorium period
- 0.5% interest rate concession - girls students rebate on income tax to the extent of interest paid

News article

- 70% of education loans - students other than OBC, SC, ST Communities' students
- Since financial year 2016-17
  - 4.1 Lakh students benefitted

Community break up

- 33% beneficiaries - Other Backward Classes [OBC]
- 7% beneficiaries - Scheduled Castes [SC]
- 3% beneficiaries - Scheduled Tribes [ST]
- 67% beneficiaries - General Category [OBC]

Size of the loan disbursed to OBC students
- 70% of total loan amount covered under CBFS EL

Problems/Challenges

- Lack of awareness among under-privileged sections
- Under-privileged sections - not able to access banks through their social networks
Operation ‘Clean Art’ to crack down on illegal trade in mongoose hair

In first pan-India operation, raids carried out in UP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Kerala. 49 arrests made and 27 cases registered.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance
• General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Operation Clean Art

• Conceived by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
• To ensure that Mongoose hair brush trade should be closed down across the country
• Raids at Sher Kot, Bijnor Dist, Uttar Pradesh
• Pre-planned operation → raids were conducted in other parts of India
• Hair of grey mongoose seized during the raids → organized crime

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
• Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

PAPER-IV

• Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Protection status

• Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
• All species of Mongoose → Schedule II, Part II.
• Chapter VA

• Prohibition of Trade or Commerce in Trophies, Animal articles, etc. derived from certain animals
• Section 49A - [Schedule II, Part II]
• Definition of Scheduled Animal and Scheduled animal article
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to ‘Operation Clean Art’?

a) An operation to renovate the mural paintings across the monuments of India.

b) An operation to revive the traditional paintings artforms of India.

c) An operation to ensure the closing down of illegal mongoose hair brush trade across India.

d) An operation to recover the stolen artifacts from India

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

1. Animals listed under Schedule II Part II are classified as ‘Scheduled animals’ as per the provisions of this act.

2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been created as per the provisions of this act.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2
**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q1. With reference to “INSTEX” often in news, which one of the following statements is incorrect?

(a) It functions as a clearing house allowing Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange from the participating countries.

(b) The INSTEX instrument is an example for the modern form of old barter system.

(c) INSTEX is a Tehran-based special purpose vehicle which allows non-USD transactions

(d) INSTEX mechanism allows non-European nations to participate.
Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to ‘Operation Clean Art’?

a) An operation to renovate the mural paintings across the monuments of India.
b) An operation to revive the traditional paintings artforms of India.
c) An operation to ensure the closing down of illegal mongoose hair brush trade across India.
d) An operation to recover the stolen artifacts from India.

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

1. Animals listed under Schedule II Part II are classified as ‘Scheduled animals’ as per the provisions of this act.
2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been created as per the provisions of this act.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Mains

GS-III

Q. According to WHO, Antimicrobial resistance is a slow-motion tsunami, a global crisis that must be managed with the utmost urgency. In this context, define what is meant by Anti-microbial Resistance? What are the reasons for the growing menace of anti-microbial resistance worldwide? Discuss some of the initiatives taken by India to address this issue. (150 words, 10 marks)

Practice Question – Prelims

Answers

1. Option (c) - INSTEX is a Tehran-based special purpose vehicle which allows non-USD transactions

2. Option (c) - An operation to ensure the closing down of illegal mongoose hair brush trade across India

3. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2