

16 August, 2023

WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

Context: WHO and the Ministry of Ayush will hold the first global summit on traditional medicine in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from August 17-19.

- **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM):** A knowledge hub focused on traditional medicine, aligned with WHO's strategy.
- **Strategic Focus:** Emphasis on evidence, learning, data, sustainability, equity, innovation, and technology.
- **Respect for Heritage:** Guiding principle of honouring local traditions, resources, and rights.
- **Government of India's Support:** Being established in Jamnagar, Gujarat, with backing from the Indian government.
- **Global Unity:** Aligned with the concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," reflecting global interconnectedness and support for traditional medicine's potential.

Need of GCTM

- **Global Usage:** About 88% of countries use traditional medicine (like herbal remedies, acupuncture, yoga).
- **Member States' Priority:** 170 countries use traditional medicine and want evidence for safe, effective, and fair use.
- **Historical Significance:** Traditional medicine has been vital for ages, especially where access to modern medicine is unequal.
- **Cultural Wealth:** Traditional practices and biodiversity are crucial for diverse, sustainable development.
- **Industry Impact:** Traditional medicine is part of a trillion-dollar industry, with 40% of medicines based on natural sources.
- **Health System Role:** Traditional medicine's potential in national health systems is underutilized due to incomplete data.
- **GCTM's Goal:** WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine will enhance knowledge and address these gaps.

India's Investment

- **Indian Investment:** India is the primary investor in the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, committing around \$250 million.
- **Support Scope:** Funds will cover establishment, infrastructure, and operations of the Centre.
- **Operational Commitment:** India will also aid operational costs for a decade.
- **Facility Description:** The Centre will be accessible, eco-friendly, and interactive, highlighting traditional medicine's global and scientific aspects.
- **Collaboration:** ITRA is a WHO Collaborating Centre and an Institute of National Importance.

Caretaker Prime Minister

Context: Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar was sworn in as the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Caretaker Government

- **Caretaker Government:** Temporary administration until a regular government is elected or formed.
- **Triggers:** Occurs after a no-confidence motion or when the responsible house is dissolved.
- **Westminster System:** In some countries, it's the incumbent government during the election-interim period.
- **Limited Activities:** Caretaker government's actions are constrained by customs and conventions.
- **Coalition Context:** Used in coalition systems during negotiations for new coalitions.
- **Presidential Discretion:** President's situational discretion in PM appointment during no clear majority or sudden vacancy.

Powers

- **Interim Governance:** Operates as a temporary administration until a general election concludes.
- **Maintenance:** Responsible for basic governance functions during the transition period.

Limitations

- **No Binding Decisions:** Cannot make important decisions, policies, or financial commitments that tie the hands of the incoming government.
- **Appointments and Dismissals:** Prohibited from making new appointments or dismissals.
- **Initiating Policies:** Restricted from initiating significant policies until the election is held.
- **Financial Restraint:** Cannot engage in decisions with substantial financial implications.
- **Government Contracts:** Barred from entering into major government contracts.
- **Routine Expenditures:** Limited to routine expenditure commitments.
- **Public Appointments:** Not allowed to make public appointments that would constrain the next government.
- **Policy Commitments:** Prohibited from creating policies that future governments must follow.

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Enlarged Restrictions Viewpoint:

- **Political Authority:** While legally in power, lacks political authority due to pending election outcome.
- **Lawful Governance:** Continues lawful governance, but electoral result determines political legitimacy.
- **Suggestions:**
 - Avoid new policies binding future governments.
 - Limit non-routine expenditure commitments.
 - Refrain from binding public appointments.
 - Stay clear of significant government contracts.

Vishwakarma Yojana

Context: Prime Minister introduces the 'Vishwakarma Yojana' aimed at supporting individuals with expertise in traditional craftsmanship.

- **Target Beneficiaries:** Skilled individuals in traditional crafts, especially from the OBC community, like weavers, goldsmiths, and more.
- **Financial Allocation:** The scheme starts with an initial budget of ₹13-15 thousand crore.
- **Poverty Alleviation:** PM highlighted past efforts, with 13.5 crore people moving from poverty to the middle class in the first five years.
- **Impactful Initiatives:** Key efforts mentioned include ₹50,000 crore for street vendors (PM SVANidhi) and ₹2.5 lakh crore directly to farmers (PM Kisan Samman Nidhi).

Estimations

- Only 4.7% of India's workforce underwent formal skill training, far less than countries like US, Japan, and South Korea.
- **Skill Gap Study:** NSDC's 2010-2014 study predicted a need for 10.97 crore skilled workers by 2022 across 24 sectors.
- **Extensive Reskilling:** Around 29.82 crore workers in both farm and nonfarm sectors require skill, reskill, and upskill initiatives.

Issues

- **Overburdened Implementation:** PMKVY Phase III aims to train 8 lakh individuals in 2020-21, but reliance on District Skills Committees led by District Collectors poses challenges due to competing responsibilities.
- **Policy Discontinuity:** NSDA established in 2013 for inter-ministerial coordination was merged into NCVT, creating policy discontinuity and confusion.
- **Rising Entrants:** By 2023, around 7 crore new entrants aged 15-59 are projected to join the labor force, necessitating substantial policy attention.
- **Employer Reluctance:** Unemployment isn't just about skills; industries' hesitancy to hire, due to credit constraints and investment decline, adds to the problem.

Gallantry Awards in India

Context: On the eve of Independence Day 2023, the President grants approval for 76 gallantry awards to be bestowed upon Armed Forces and CAPF personnel.

- Recognize bravery and sacrifice of Armed Forces, lawfully constituted Forces, and civilians.
- Awarded twice a year: Republic Day and Independence Day.

Categories

- Gallantry in Face of Enemy:
 - Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
 - Mahavir Chakra (MVC)
 - Vir Chakra
- Gallantry Other than in Face of Enemy:
 - Ashok Chakra
 - Kirti Chakra
 - Shaurya Chakra

Historical Background

- First three awards established in 1950, effect from 1947.
- Later three awards renamed in 1967.

Investiture Ceremony

- Awards conferred by President at Defence Investiture Ceremony.

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- Param Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra given during Republic Day Parade.

Eligibility

- PVC, MVC, Vir Chakra:
 - Armed Forces, Reserve Forces, Territorial Army, Militia.
 - Hospital/Nursing Services and civilians under Forces' supervision.
- Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra:
 - Army, Navy, Air Force, Reserve Forces, Territorial Army, Police.
 - Nursing Services, civilian citizens, Police Forces.

Conditions for Awards

- PVC: Conspicuous bravery in enemy's presence.
- MVC: Gallantry in enemy's presence.
- Vir Chakra: Gallantry in enemy's presence.
- Ashok Chakra: Bravery, not in enemy's presence.
- Kirti Chakra: Conspicuous gallantry, not in enemy's presence.
- Shaurya Chakra: Gallantry, not in enemy's presence.
- Posthumous awards possible.

Selection Process

- Recommendations invited twice a year from Armed Forces and Home Ministry.
- Civilian recommendations from State/UT Govts., Ministries, Forces (not private individuals).
- Sub-Committee scrutiny, Central Honours & Awards Committee review.
- PM and President approval.
- Awards announced on Republic Day and Independence Day.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Antimicrobial Resistance



What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) refers to the ability of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites) to develop resistance against drugs designed to control or eliminate them.

Impact: Threatens effectiveness of antibiotics, harder-to-treat diseases.

Causes: Misuse of antibiotics, poor hygiene, inappropriate agricultural use.

Consequences: Increased mortality, healthcare costs, resistance spread.

Global Concern: Affects healthcare systems, economies.

Vulnerability: Developing nations face challenges due to limited resources.

Economic Impact: Higher healthcare expenses, lost productivity.

Global Action: WHO leads awareness, surveillance, new antibiotics development.

One Health Approach: Collaborative effort involving health experts, veterinarians, policymakers.

Prevention: Responsible antibiotic use, better hygiene, research, policy.

Perseids Meteor Shower



What is the Perseid Meteor Shower?

The Perseid Meteor Shower is an annual event when Earth passes through debris from the Swift-Tuttle comet, resulting in a display of bright meteors originating from the Perseus constellation.

Radiant Point: The meteors appear to originate from the constellation Perseus, hence the name "Perseid."

Timing: The shower typically takes place in August, specifically around August 11th to 13th.

Peak Activity: The most intense meteor activity occurs around August 12th.

Characteristics: Perseid meteors are fast-moving and bright, often leaving visible trails of light as they streak across the sky.

Meteor Count: During the peak, observers can witness around 50 to 100 meteors per hour.

Conditions: The Perseid Meteor Shower is best observed during warm weather with comfortable nighttime conditions.

Fireballs: The shower is known for producing fireballs, which are larger bursts of light and color caused by bigger comet fragments.

Astronomy Enthusiasts: The Perseid Meteor Shower is a popular event among stargazers and astronomy enthusiasts due to its vibrant and impressive display.

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Generic Medicine



What is Generic Medicine?

- Generic Medicine is a pharmaceutical product with the identical active ingredient, dosage and purpose as a brand-name drug.
- It's affordable and approved after patent expiration, maintaining the same therapeutic benefits and safety standards.

Regulatory Approval: Regulators ensure safety and quality equivalence.

Bioequivalence: They release active ingredients similarly to brand-name drugs.

Quality Standards: Generics meet the same quality criteria.

Prescription: Physicians can prescribe generics or brand-name drugs.

Interchangeability: Generic drugs can be substituted for brand-name versions.

Pharmacist's Role: Pharmacists can provide equivalent generics.

Consumer Awareness: Patients need to understand benefits and options.

Global Trend: Many countries promote generics for affordability.

Aditya L-1 Mission



What is Aditya L-1 Mission?

The Aditya-L1 mission is India's space endeavor by ISRO to study the Sun using a space-based observatory. It aims to observe the Sun's layers, particularly its corona and analyze solar activity.

Orbital Position: Placed in a halo orbit around Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, about 1.5 million km from Earth.

Payloads: Carries seven payloads for electromagnetic, particle and magnetic field observations of the Sun's layers.

Sun Observation: Four payloads directly study the Sun, three conduct in-situ studies of particles and fields at L1 point.

Scientific Goals: Investigate coronal heating, coronal mass ejections, flare activities, space weather dynamics and particle-field propagation.

Launch Vehicle: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to launch Aditya-L1, known for launching Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter spacecraft.

Launch Window: Anticipated to launch in late August or early September.

Lakhpati Didi Yojana



What is Lakhpati Didi Yojana?

The "Lakhpati Didi Yojana" is a government scheme that provides skill development training to rural women, enabling them to acquire vocational skills like plumbing, making LED bulbs and operating drones.

Objective: The scheme aims to empower women in rural areas by providing them with skill development training and encouraging them to establish micro enterprises.

Economic Empowerment: The primary focus is on enhancing the economic empowerment of women in rural areas, enabling them to generate income through their skills.

PM's Vision: The Prime Minister envisions creating two crore millionaire women entrepreneurs through this scheme. This was highlighted in his speech.

STEM Education: The government acknowledges the increasing number of women pursuing STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and aims to capitalize on their skills.

G-20 Recognition: India's focus on women-led development has been recognized by G-20, further highlighting its significance.

Places in News

Kubu Raya Regency

Political Boundaries:

- Located in the province of West Kalimantan, Indonesia.
- Borders the South China Sea to the north.

Mangrove Forest: Home to the largest mangrove forest in the western part of Indonesian Borneo.

Mangrove Richness: Indonesia holds 20% of the world's mangroves, with Kuba Raya contributing significantly.

Deforestation Concerns: Facing escalating worries regarding deforestation due to charcoal production from mangroves.

Charcoal Industry: Accommodates a notable number of charcoal furnaces, contributing to mangrove depletion.

Traditional Practice: Charcoal production has been a traditional activity since the 1940s, providing livelihoods.

Ecological Impact: Increasing charcoal-related activities leading to significant pressure on mangrove resources.



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Current affairs summary for prelims

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Visible Deforestation: Reduction in dense mangrove areas leading to evident patches of deforestation. Environmental Significance: Holds vital ecological importance due to biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and coastal protection.

POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ **One of the oldest Cricket Tournaments was resumed after 5 years in Tamil Nadu. What is its name?** – Buchi Babu Tournament
- ❖ **Who was appointed the MD of LIC?** – Mr. R Doraiswamy
- ❖ **With which country is Bangladesh looking to sign the Extradition Treaty?** – The United Kingdom
- ❖ **With which country has India held 19th Commander level talks?** – China
- ❖ **Which state has decided to scrap NEP from next year?** – Karnataka

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