



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 04-May-2018

## **General studies-2**

### **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**

#### **Why in News?**

A two day national consultation conference on operationalizing the Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) for provision of Comprehensive primary health care under Ayushman Bharat was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with technical support from the National Health Systems Resource Centre, recently.

#### ***Highlights of the scheme:***

**Coverage:** The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme. The benefit cover will also include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses.

**Target:** The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.

**Role of state governments:** State Governments will be allowed to expand AB-NHPM both horizontally and vertically. States will be free to choose the modalities for implementation. They can implement through insurance company or directly through Trust/ Society or a mixed model.

**Council:** For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, it is proposed to set up Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) at apex level Chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.

#### ***Who is eligible?***

It will be an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database.

- The different categories in rural area include families having only one room with kucha walls and kucharroof; families having no adult member between



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 04-May-2018

age 16 to 59; female headed households with no adult male member between age 16 to 59; disabled member and no able bodied adult member in the family; SC/ST households; and landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour.

- Also, automatically included families in rural areas having any one of the following: households without shelter, destitute, living on alms, manual scavenger families, primitive tribal groups, legally released bonded labour. For urban areas, 11 defined occupational categories are entitled under the scheme.

### **Implementation Strategy:**

At the national level to manage, an Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Agency (AB-NHPMA) would be put in place. States/ UTs would be advised to implement the scheme by a dedicated entity called State Health Agency (SHA). They can either use an existing Trust/ Society/ Not for Profit Company/ State Nodal Agency (SNA) or set up a new entity to implement the scheme. States/ UTs can decide to implement the scheme through an insurance company or directly through the Trust/ Society or use an integrated model.

### **Benefits of the scheme:**

This will lead to increased access to quality health and medication. In addition, the unmet needs of the population which remained hidden due to lack of financial resources will be catered to. This will lead to timely treatments, improvements in health outcomes, patient satisfaction, improvement in productivity and efficiency, job creation thus leading to improvement in quality of life.

### **WHO Framework Convention on tobacco control**

#### **Why in News?**

The Union Cabinet has given approval to accede to the Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 04-May-2018

- It will be applicable to both smoking and chewing or smokeless tobacco (SLT) forms as negotiated and adopted under Article 15 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

***About WHO FCTC:***

- The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first international public health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO.
- The objective of FCTC is to provide a framework for supply and demand reduction measures for tobacco control at the national, regional and global levels.
- Article 15 of WHO FCTC envisages elimination of all forms of illicit trade and tobacco products, including smuggling, illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting.
- India is a party to WHO FCTC.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today has approved the proposal for renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). CCEA has also approved its continuation during the remaining period of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

**Background:**

> MsDP has been identified as one of the Core of the Core Schemes under National Development Agenda in the Report of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which was constituted by NITI Aayog.

The programme was launched in the year 2008-09 in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population and below national average with respect to one or both of the backwardness parameters with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 04-May-2018

The MCDs were identified on the basis of census 2001 data. The programme continued during 11th Five Year Plan.

MsDP has been designed primarily to address the developmental gaps/deficits in identified backward minority concentration areas by topping up of existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of various Central ministries/departments without any change in the norms, guidelines and the funding pattern.

The projects considered are additional class rooms, laboratories, school buildings, hostels, toilets, buildings for Polytechnics, ITIs, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres / Sub-centres, Anganwadi Centres, Rural Housing etc.

In addition to gap filling projects, MsDP also provides for taking up innovative projects which are not covered by any of the existing CSS of various ministries and these are funded in the ratio of 60:40 and for NE and Hilly States at 90:10 between the Centre and States. This includes Sadbhav Mandap, Market shed etc.

***About PMJVK:***

- The Programme aims to address development deficits in the identified minority concentration areas. The identification of minority concentration areas has been done on the basis of presence of substantial population of notified Minority Communities based on Census, 2011.
- The restructured programme would provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities particularly in the field of education, health & skill development as compared to the present situation, which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 04-May-2018

**General Studies-3**

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

**Why in News?**

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), **and** Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) **organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference on** Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure in Bengaluru today.

**About AIIB:**

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a [multilateral development bank](#) that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the [Asia-Pacific](#) region.

The bank currently has 64 member states while another 20 are prospective members for a total of 84 approved members and was proposed as an initiative by the government of China.

The initiative gained support from 37 regional and 20 non-regional Prospective Founding Members (PFM), all of which have signed the Articles of Agreement that form the legal basis for the bank.

India is an influential member (and a founding member) of the AIIB as it has the second-largest voting share and percentage of shares.

AIIB Membership is not restricted to only Asian countries.

**New snake species discovered in Western Ghats:**

Bhupathy's shieldtail has been observed only in the Anaikatty Hills of Tamil Nadu.

Just 40 cm long and iridescent brown, Bhupathy's shieldtail is the latest addition to the snake fauna of the Western Ghats.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 04-May-2018

The snake, currently observed only in the forests of the Anaikatty hills in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district, has been named *Uropeltis bhupathyi*, after the late herpetologist S. Bhupathy, for his contributions to the field.

The reptile belongs to a family of snakes found only in peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

They are non-venomous, burrowing and mostly earthworm-eating, and are called shieldtails after the large, flat tips of their tails, which make them appear almost sliced off.

A study announcing the discovery was published in *Zootaxa*. The discovery takes the number of known species of shieldtails in India to 41.

The country is home to more than 300 snake species.