



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

24th May 2026



CONTEXT: In a recent event Defence Minister talked about India's push towards self-reliance in Defence production and its exports.

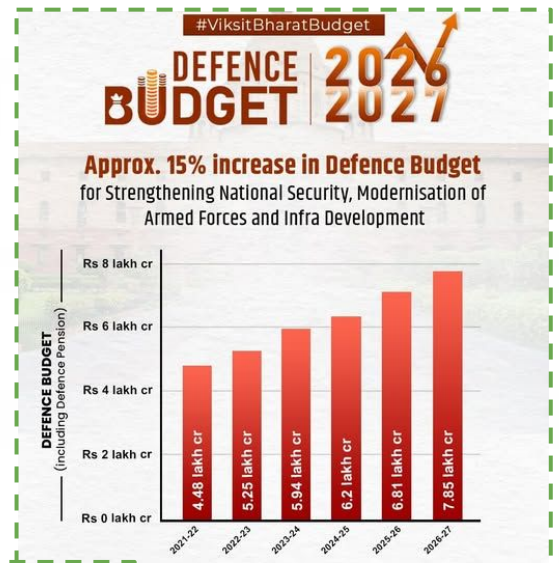
Background of Defence Indigenisation

- **Early Triggers (1950s–1970s):** Wars in 1962, 1965, and 1971 exposed the vulnerabilities of foreign reliance.
- **Missile Capabilities (1983–2008):** The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), led by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, successfully built India's missile systems.
- **Self-Reliance Push (1992):** Facing a low Self-Reliance Index (SRI) of 0.3, a 10-year roadmap was launched to increase indigenous procurement content to 0.7 by 2005.
- **Decentralized Responsibility (2000s):** Indigenisation oversight shifted to the Services and Ordnance Factories, leading the Army and Navy to draft 15-year perspective roadmaps.
- **The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) & Submarine Milestones:** It was initiated in 2001 for structural reforms, while Project 75 (1997) targeted self-reliance in submarine construction.

What is Defence Indigenisation?

- It refers to:
 - Domestic design
 - Development and
 - Manufacturing of defence equipment
- to reduce dependence on imports.

Need for Defence Indigenisation



CONTEXT: In a recent event Defence Minister talked about India's push towards self-reliance in Defence production and its exports.

India's Defence Trade

- **India's Share in Global Arms Exports Market:** is minimal, accounting for only 0.2 per cent.
- **SIPRI reports** indicate that India ranked 23rd during the period 2017-21.
- **India as the Largest Importer of Arms:** Accounting for 11 per cent of global arms imports during 2018-22.

Defence Indigenisation

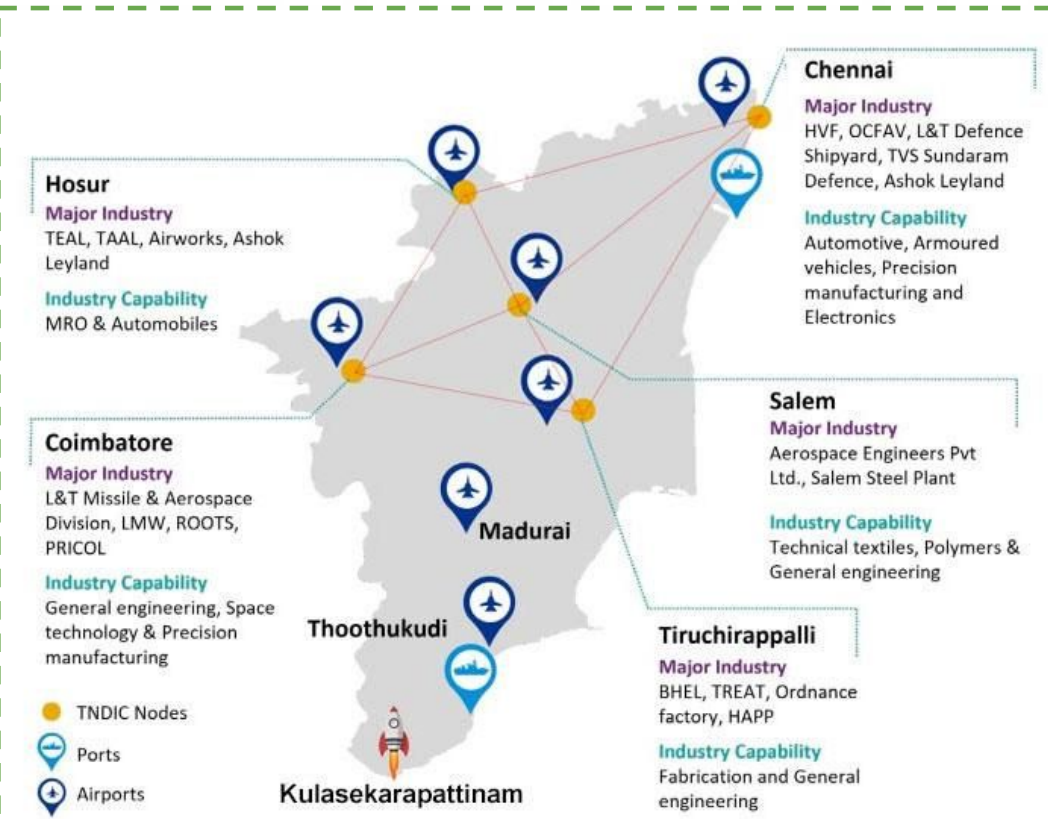
Government Initiatives

- **Defence Procurement Policy, 2016:**
 - It empowered the Defence Acquisition Council with a "fast-track" route for acquiring weapons.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence**
 - Push for domestic manufacturing
- **Positive Indigenisation Lists**
 - Ban on import of certain weapons/platforms
- **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**
 - Preference to indigenous procurement
 - Share of domestic procurement increased from 54% in 2018 to 68% now.
- **iDEX Initiative and iDEX Prime, 2022**
 - Innovations for Defence Excellence
 - Supports startups, MSME & innovation
- **FDI Reforms**
 - Higher FDI in defence sector up to 100%.
- **Defence Industrial Corridors**
 - Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor
 - Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor
- **SPRINT Challenges:**
 - It aims to integrate at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.
- **Comprehensive Vendor Development Guidelines**



CONTEXT: In a recent event Defence Minister talked about India's push towards self-reliance in Defence production and its exports.

Defence Industrial Corridors

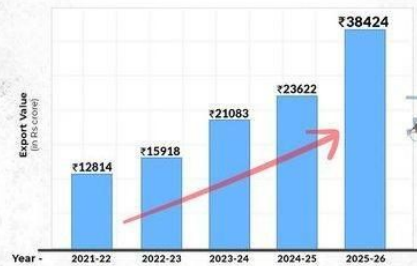


CONTEXT: In a recent event Defence Minister talked about India's push towards self-reliance in Defence production and its exports.

Major Indigenous Achievements

- **Naval Systems**
 - INS Vikrant
 - Indigenous submarines
- **Aerospace**
 - HAL Tejas
- **Missile Systems**
 - BrahMos, Agni series
- **Emerging Technologies**
 - Drones
 - AI-based systems
 - Cyber warfare capability

India's Defence **EXPORTS**
at an all-time high!



Make in India, Make for the World!

Philippines

Brahmos Supersonic
Cruise Missile



Mauritius

Advanced Light Helicopter
(ALH), Dornier Do-228 Aircraft



France

Software and Electronic
Equipment in Defence Sector



Armenia

Akash Air Defence Missile, Pinaka
Multi-Launch Rocket System, Artillery
Guns, Swathi Weapon Locating
Radars



USA

Parts of Aircraft and Helicopter

Challenges in Defence Indigenisation

- **Technological Gaps**
 - Dependence on imported engines/chips
- **Low R&D Spending**
 - Limited private innovation
 - Concerns are raised about the budget being below 2% of GDP and recommendations to increase it to 3 per cent for adequate preparedness.
- **Bureaucratic Delays**
 - Slow procurement process
- **PSU Dominance**
 - Limited competition
- **Private Sector Constraints**
 - Entry barriers
 - Funding issues
- **Skill & Supply Chain Gaps**
 - Weak defence manufacturing ecosystem
- **Achieving economies of scale is crucial**



CONTEXT: In a recent event Defence Minister talked about India's push towards self-reliance in Defence production and its exports.

Future Measures for India's Defence Exports

- **Export High-Value Systems:**
 - Focus on big-ticket platforms like LCA-Tejas, Arjun Mark 2 tanks, and Light Combat Helicopters.
- **Offer Comprehensive Deals:**
 - Package weaponry with training and maintenance services to boost global credibility and product appeal.
- **Leverage Lines of Credit:**
 - Extend Defence Lines of Credit (LoC) to Friendly Foreign Countries.
- **Empower the Private Sector:**
 - Boost private sector production by allocating major projects instead of just components.
 - Public-private collaboration
 - Level playing field for private players
- **Strengthen Defence Diplomacy:**
 - Establish a dedicated Export Promotion Body and an MEA Defence Diplomacy Division to coordinate global outreach.
- **Secure Funding:**
 - Implement a non-lapsable Defence Modernisation Fund to bridge budget gaps.
- **Focus on Emerging Warfare Domains:**
 - Cyber
 - Space
 - AI

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

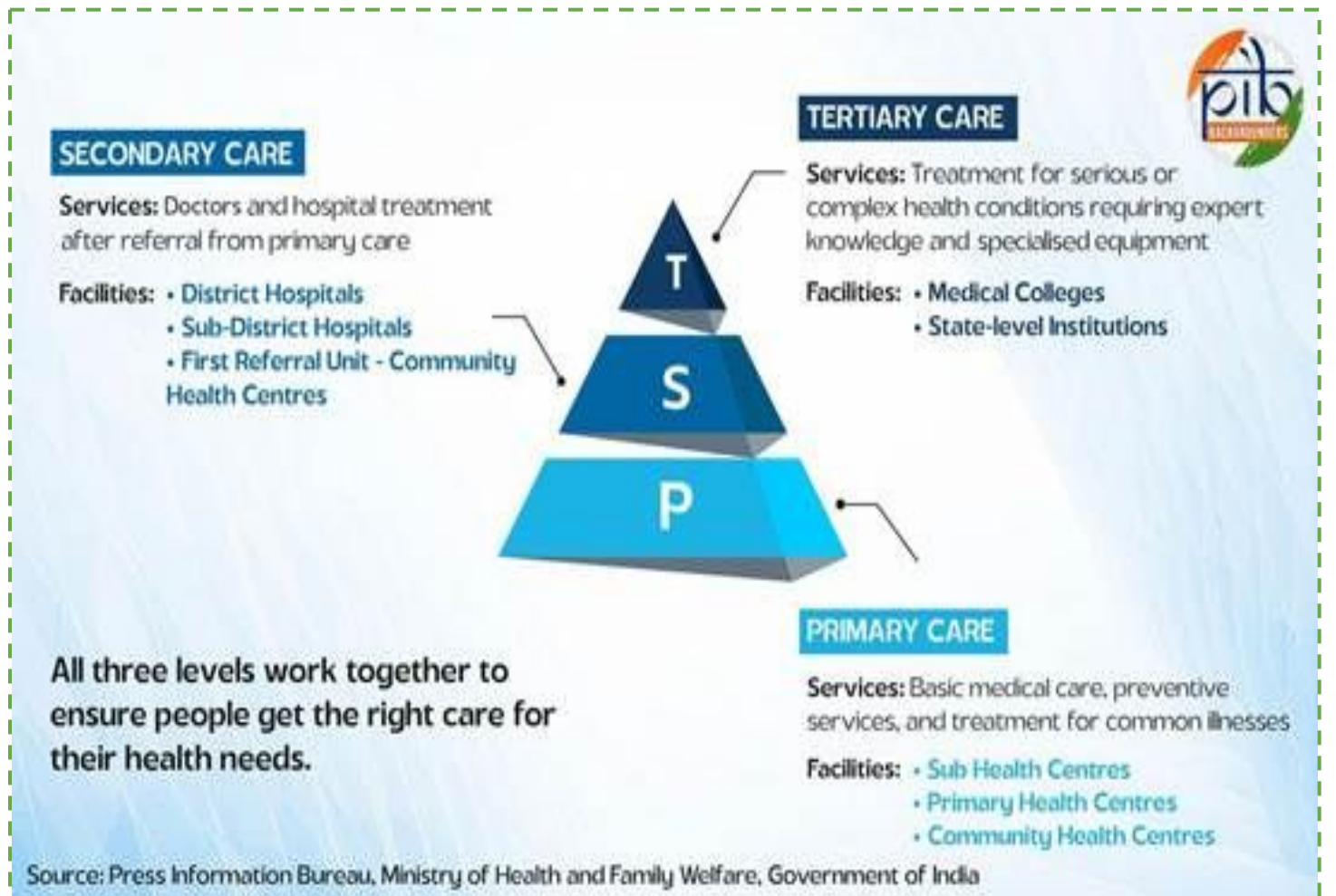
Ques. Discuss the significance of defence indigenisation for India's national security and strategic autonomy.

(15 marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: Ayushman Bharat scheme for Universal Healthcare will now be implemented in West Bengal after the formation of BJP government.

- Launched: **2018**
- Type: **Centrally Sponsored** Scheme
- Objective:
 - To Achieve **Affordable & Universal** Health Coverage (UHC) in line with the National Health Policy 2017
- Components:
 - Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) &
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- Eligibility:
 - Rural & Urban: Categories based on Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)
 - All senior citizens aged 70+

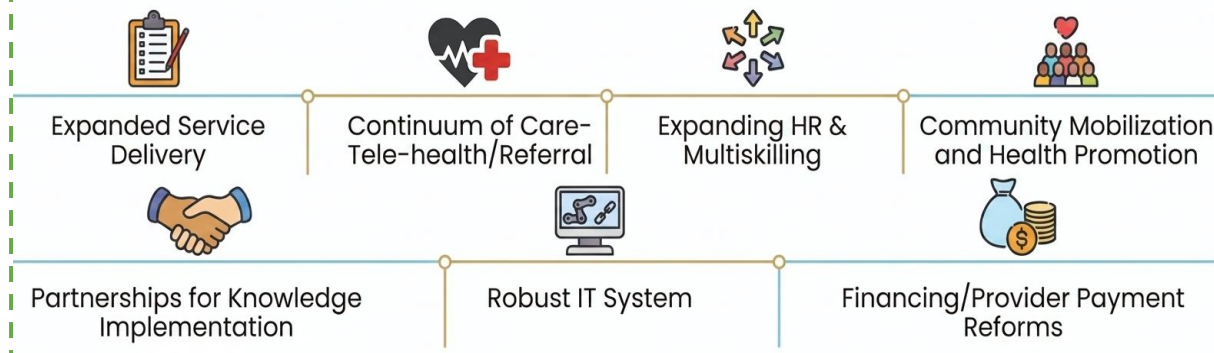


CONTEXT: Ayushman Bharat scheme for Universal Healthcare will now be implemented in West Bengal after the formation of BJP government.

Ayushman Arogya Mandir (earlier Health and Wellness Centre)

- 1,50,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandir will be created to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), that is **universal and free** to users.
- **Services:**
 - Maternal care
 - Child healthcare
 - NCD screening
 - Mental health services
- Focus on **preventive** and **primary** healthcare
- Funding: Through National Health Mission (NHM)

Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Arogya Mandir



Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- Background: The erstwhile National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) has been rechristened as PM-JAY.
- It is the **largest health assurance scheme** in the world.
- Features:
 - ₹5 lakh health insurance per family per year
 - Covers secondary & tertiary care hospitalization
 - Cashless Treatment
- Also, families that were covered under Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) but did not form part of the SECC-2011.



CONTEXT: Ayushman Bharat scheme for Universal Healthcare will now be implemented in West Bengal after the formation of BJP government.

AB PM-JAY Update: Expanded Coverage for Senior Citizens

Free Health Insurance:

₹5 lakh per family for all citizens aged 70+.

Extra Coverage:

Seniors in AB PM-JAY families get an additional ₹5 lakh.

Family without PM-JAY Coverage:

₹5 lakh per year for seniors without AB PM-JAY coverage

Ayushman Vay Vandana Card:

Special card for senior citizens.

Scheme Flexibility:

Can opt for AB PM-JAY or keep CGHS, ECHS, CAPF coverage.

Private Insurance Holders Eligible:

Includes those with private or ESIC coverage

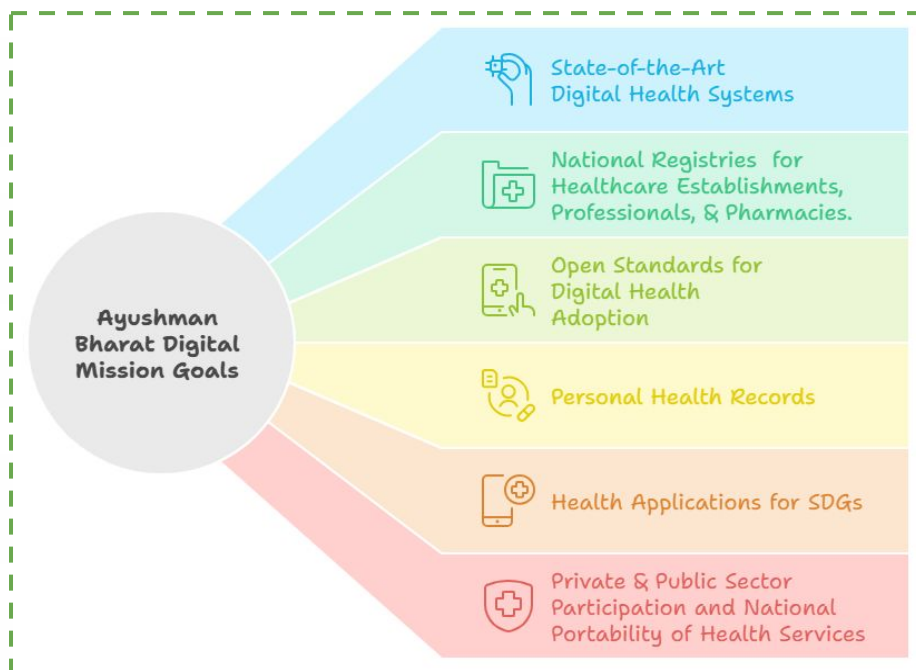
Other Initiatives to Support Ayushman Bharat

● Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):

- Launched in 2021, the ABDM aims to create a digital health infrastructure for India
- Components of ABDM:
- ABHA Number (Unique Health ID): A unique 14-digit number to each citizen
- ABHA Mobile App (Personal Health Record)

● Ayushman Bhav Campaign

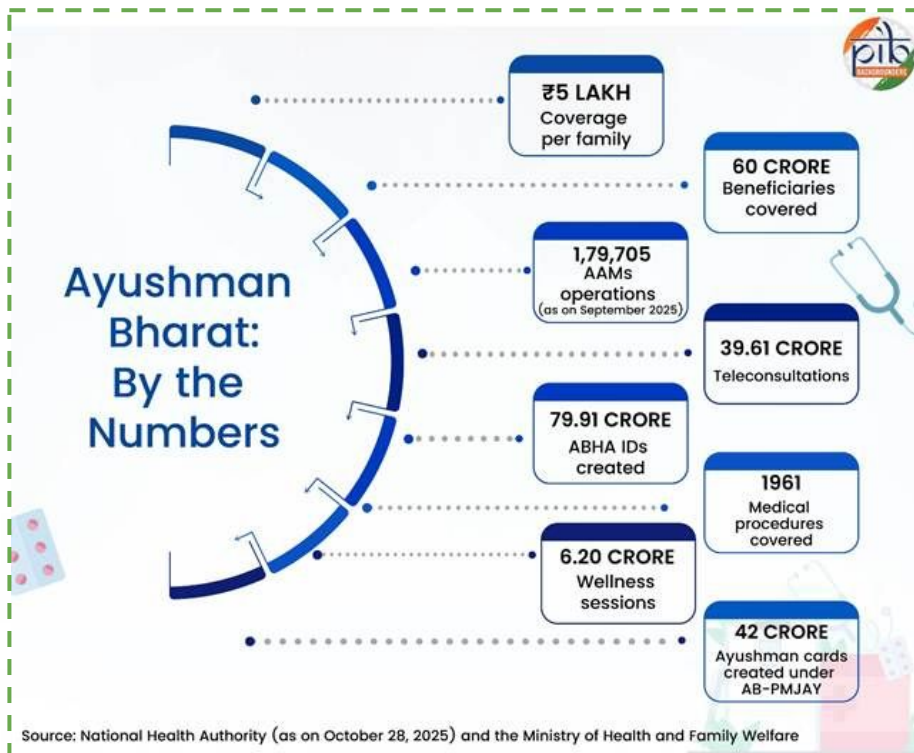
- Launched in 2023, it includes:
 - Ayushman Apke Dwar 3.0
 - Ayushman Melas
 - Ayushman Sabhas: Community gatherings in villages



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Significance of Ayushman Bharat

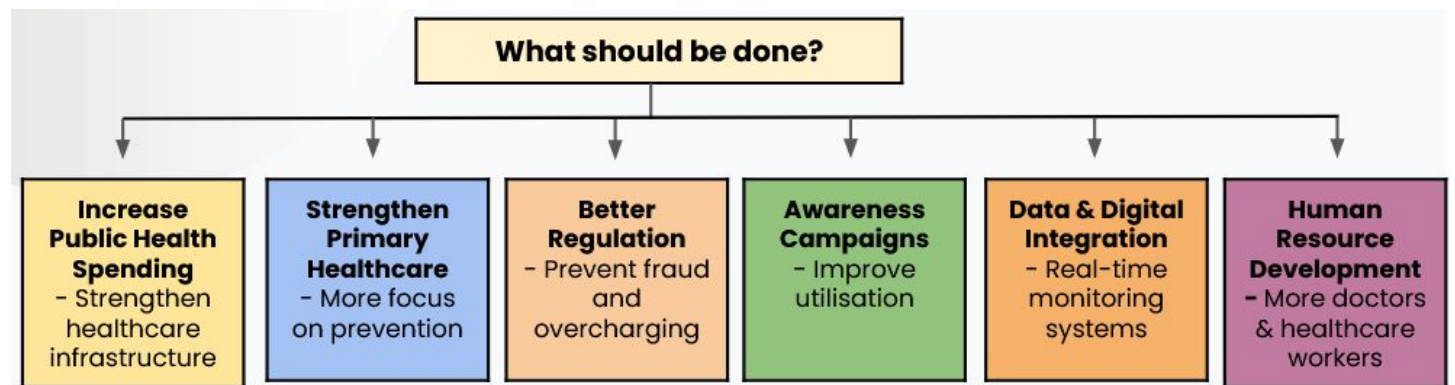
- **Financial Protection**
 - Reduces Out-of-pocket expenditure
 - India has historically high OOPEx.
- **Poverty Reduction**
 - Prevents medical impoverishment
- **Improved Healthcare Access**
 - Better access for rural & poor households
- **Strengthening Primary Healthcare**
 - Preventive care through HWCs
- **Digital Health Ecosystem**
 - Integration with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission



CONTEXT: Ayushman Bharat scheme for Universal Healthcare will now be implemented in West Bengal after the formation of BJP government.

Challenges & Criticisms of Ayushman Bharat

- **Limited Healthcare Infrastructure**
 - Rural areas lack quality hospitals
- **Low Public Health Spending**
 - India's health expenditure still relatively low
- **Fraud & Misuse**
 - Fake claims
 - Unnecessary procedures
- **Awareness Gaps**
 - Many eligible beneficiaries unaware
- **Exclusion Errors**
 - Some poor families left out due to database limitations
- **Focus on Hospitalisation**
 - Preventive care still underdeveloped
- **Federalism Issues**
 - Health = State subject
 - Variation in state participation and Implementation quality
 - Some states run parallel health schemes.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Ques. Examine the major challenges in the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Suggest reforms for improving healthcare delivery.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Environment – GHG Emission
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 13**

Jharia Coal Fires

- Location: Jharia Coalfield (**Dhanbad** district)
- Known For:
 - One of the world's longest-running underground coal fires
 - Reported since **1916**
- Coal Type:
 - Rich in **coking coal** (Important for India's steel industry)
- **Major Problems:**
 - Land subsidence
 - Toxic gas emissions
 - Displacement of people
 - Loss of coal resources
- **Environmental Impact:**
 - Air pollution
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Soil degradation

The perpetual burning is driven by several key factors:

- **Spontaneous Combustion:** The high-grade coking coal (with low ignition temperature) oxidizes and catches fire naturally when exposed to air.
- **Surface Fissures:** Deep cracks in the ground act as chimneys, continuously sucking in fresh oxygen.
- **Endless Fuel:** Massive, interconnected underground coal seams provide an uninterrupted supply of fuel.
- **Unscientific Mining:** Historic, shallow mining methods left behind unstable hollow zones that collapsed.

- **Extinguishment Barriers:** The immense scale and underground depth make the fires virtually impossible to isolate or smother.

COMMON MITIGATION MEASURES FOR UNDERGROUND COAL FIRES



- 1. SAND FLUSHING:** Injecting a slurry of sand and water into underground voids to cut off the oxygen supply.
- 2. SURFACE SEALING:** Covering cracks, fissures, and surface openings with thick layers of non-combustible materials like clay.
- 3. TRENCH CUTTING:** Excavating deep isolation trenches to create a physical barrier between actively burning zones and unburnt coal deposits.
- 4. INERT GAS INJECTION:** Pumping nitrogen or other inert gases into sealed areas to displace oxygen and suppress combustion.
- 5. MASS RELOCATION:** Moving communities residing in high-risk zones to safer townships to prevent health issues from toxic fumes and risks from ground subsidence.

Exam Traps

- Located in Odisha → **WRONG**
- Famous for petroleum reserves → **WRONG**
- Fires are recent phenomenon → **WRONG**
- No human settlements affected → **WRONG**
- Produces mainly anthracite coal → **WRONG**



Jharia coal fires



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Environment – GHG Emission
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 13**



Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Anti-terror Law
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 14

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967

- Type:
 - India's primary **anti-terror law**
- Objective:
 - Prevent unlawful activities, terrorism, secessionism
- Ministry:
 - Administered by **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- Key Features:
 - Allows declaring organizations as terrorist organizations
 - **2019 amendment** allows designation of individuals as terrorists
- Investigating Agency:
 - **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967

- **Special Powers:**
 - Extended detention period
 - Strict bail provisions
 - Property seizure related to terrorism
- Tribunal Provision:
 - **Tribunal reviews ban** on organizations
- Criticism:
 - Concerns over civil liberties & misuse (Violation of **personal liberty U/A 21**)
 - Low conviction rate (2-6%) vs high arrests
- Constitutional Link:
 - Related to **reasonable restrictions** under **Article 19**

Evolution of Prominent Anti-Terror Laws in India:

1967

The Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act, 1967

1987

Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (TADA)

1999

The Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 (MCOCA)

2002

Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002

2008

The National Investigation Agency Act, 2008

Objective

- Aiming at the effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.

Punishments

- Includes the death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments.

Extraterritorial Applicability

- The law is applicable to offenders even if the crime is committed on foreign soil, extending its reach beyond India's borders.



Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Anti-terror Law
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Centralized Authority

- The Act grants absolute power to the central government, enabling it to declare an activity as unlawful through an Official Gazette.

Jurisdiction Inclusivity

- UAPA applies to both Indian and foreign nationals, allowing charges to be filed against individuals regardless of nationality.

Timely Legal Action

- Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum of 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

Exam Traps

- Enacted after 2008 Mumbai attacks → WRONG
- Applies only to organizations, not individuals → WRONG
- Administered by Ministry of Defence → WRONG
- Bail provisions same as normal criminal law → WRONG
- Only courts can designate terrorists → WRONG



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity – Parliamentary Committees
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 6**

Committee on Petitions

- Type: **Parliamentary committee** of Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha
- Objective:
 - Examine petitions submitted by citizens on public grievances, pending bills, policies or matters of public importance
- Constitutional Basis:
 - Not constitutional → formed **under Rules of Procedure of Parliament**
- Composition:
 - Separate committees for **Lok Sabha (15 members)** & **Rajya Sabha (10 members)**
- Appointment:
 - Members **nominated** by **Speaker** (Lok Sabha) / **Chairman** (Rajya Sabha)
- Tenure:
 - **One year**

Classification of Parliamentary Committees

Broadly, the Parliamentary Committees may be classified into the following categories:

1 Standing Committees: Permanent and work continuously

Financial Committees	Departmentally Related Standing Committees	Other Standing Committees
<i>E.g. PAC, Estimates Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings.</i>	<i>E.g. Defence, Energy, External Affairs, Finance.</i>	<i>E.g. Business Advisory, Privileges, House, General Purpose, Rules.</i>

2 Ad Hoc Committees:

Created for **specific purposes** and cease to exist after task completion. E.g. Select and Joint committees

Committee on Petitions

- **Functions:**
 - Scrutinizes petitions
 - Suggests remedial measures
 - Enhances citizen participation in parliamentary process



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity – Parliamentary Committees
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 6**

- Nature:
 - **Advisory** committee → recommendations not binding
- Restriction:
 - Cannot deal with matters pending before courts
- **Committees to Inquire**
 - Committee on Petitions
 - Committee of Privilege
 - Ethics Committee

Functioning of Parliamentary Committees



Scrutiny and Oversight: Parliamentary Committees examine bills, policies, and government functions in detail, providing thorough scrutiny.



Expert Consultation: They consult **experts**, stakeholders, and ministries to gather diverse inputs for informed decision-making.



Accountability: Committees hold the government accountable by **reviewing its actions**, expenditures, and policies, ensuring transparency.

Exam Traps

- Constitutional committee → WRONG
- Joint committee of both Houses → WRONG
- Recommendations are binding → WRONG
- Works under Judiciary → WRONG
- Can examine sub judice matters → WRONG



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Places in News
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 10**

Scandinavian Countries

- Refers mainly to:
 - Denmark
 - Norway
 - Sweden
- Basis:
 - Shared **North Germanic language** & cultural history
- Geographical Link:
 - Related to **Scandinavian Peninsula** (mainly Norway & Sweden)



Nordic vs Scandinavian Countries



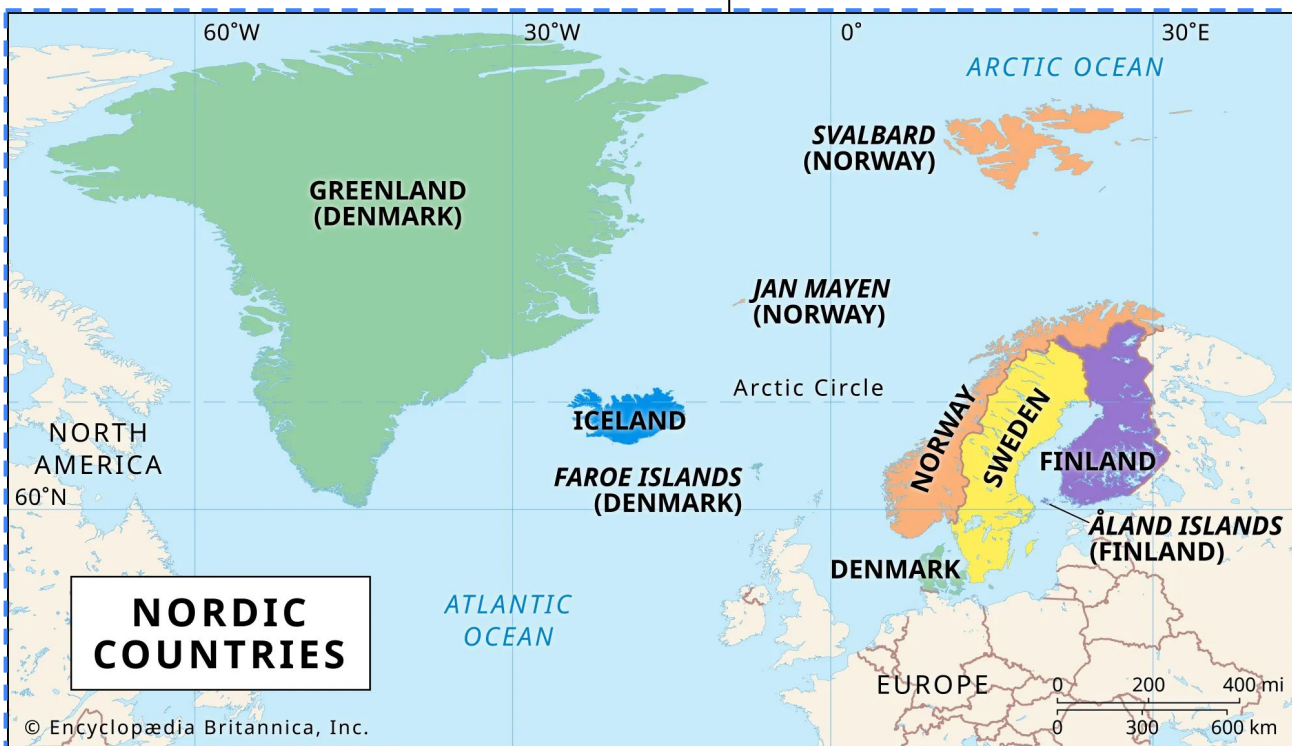
SYLLABUS: Prelims: Places in News
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Nordic Countries

- Nordic = Scandinavian countries + Finland + Iceland
- Broader term including **5 countries**:
 - Denmark
 - Norway
 - Sweden
 - Finland
 - Iceland
- Also includes autonomous territories:
 - Greenland
 - Faroe Islands
 - Åland Islands
- Basis:
 - **Geographic + political + cultural** cooperation
- Institution:
 - Nordic Council

Exam Traps

- Finland is part of Scandinavian countries → WRONG
- All Nordic countries use North Germanic languages → WRONG
- Scandinavian and Nordic are exactly same → WRONG
- Denmark lies on Scandinavian Peninsula → WRONG
- Greenland is an independent Nordic country → WRONG



SYLLABUS: Prelims: International Organisation
Newspaper : The Hindu, **Page No : 11**

World Health Assembly (WHA)

- Highest **decision-making body** of the World Health Organization
- Established:
 - Along with WHO in **1948**
- Headquarters of WHO: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Members:
 - Delegations from **all WHO member** states
- Meetings:
 - Held **annually** in Geneva
- Main Functions:
 - Determines WHO policies
 - Approves budget
 - Appoints Director-General of WHO
 - Reviews global health issues
- Decision-Making:
 - **One country → one vote**

Governance

World Health Assembly (WHA)

Decision-making body, meets annually in Geneva

Functions

Setting policies, Appointing Director-General

Director-General

1. Elected by WHA by a secret ballot
2. Can be **re-appointed Once**.
3. Serves 5 years

World Health Assembly (WHA)

- **Important Topics Discussed:**
 - Pandemics
 - Vaccination
 - Universal health coverage
 - International Health Regulations (IHR)
- India's Role:
 - Active WHO member participating in health diplomacy
- Special Feature:
 - Can adopt global health resolutions and frameworks

Exam Traps

- WHA is a UN General Assembly body → WRONG
- Meets every two years → WRONG
- Located in New York → WRONG
- Only health ministers can participate → WRONG
- WHO and WHA are the same institution → WRONG



Q1. With reference to the Jharia Coalfield, consider the following statements:

1. It is known for one of the world's longest-running underground coal fires, reported since 1916.
2. It is located in Odisha.
3. It primarily produces anthracite coal.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: a

Q2. With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), consider the following statements:

1. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is the investigating agency under UAPA.
2. UAPA was enacted after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
3. The Act applies only to organisations and not to individuals.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q3. With reference to the Committee on Petitions, consider the following statements:

1. It examines petitions submitted by citizens on public grievances, bills, and policies.
2. Its members are nominated by the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha).
3. The tenure of its members is one year.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

Q4. With reference to the Nordic Countries, consider the following statements:

1. The term "Nordic" includes Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland.
2. It also includes autonomous territories such as Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and the Åland Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Q5. With reference to the World Health Assembly, consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest decision-making body of the World Health Organisation.
2. It was established along with the WHO in 1948.
3. Each member country has one vote in the Assembly.
4. It is responsible for appointing the Director-General of WHO.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All four

Answer: d





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