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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram;
Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

**Battling anti-microbial resistance**

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

- The problem of antibiotic resistance is a serious and growing public health threat. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it a global health crisis.
- The overuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and veterinary medicine are major drivers of resistance. The WHO estimates that antibiotic resistance affects an estimated 500 million people each year, leading to 30 million additional hospitalizations and 700,000 deaths globally each year.
- The Indian government has also acknowledged the threat and has taken steps to address it. The National Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance was launched in 2017 with a comprehensive strategy to improve antibiotic use and reduce resistance.
- **Preliminary Examination (200 marks)**
  - **Paper I**
    - 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.

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**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.**

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**Antimicrobial 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

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• Serious impacts on economy & development
• The Review on Anti-microbial Resistance
  - Prepared by Jim O’Neill
  - Inaction in containing AMR is likely to result in annual mortality reaching 10 million people, 3.5% fall in global GDP by 2050

**INITIATIVES ON ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE [AMR]**

• **Global level**
  - Sustainable Development goals
  - Explicitly mentioned in the declaration
  - On the importance of containing AMR

**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 optimize 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.

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

  Adds complexity; no proper data available.

National level


  - One health approach

  - 6 Objectives

    - 5 objectives of GAP-AMR
    - 6th objective

      - India’s leadership in combating AMR

- Ban on Colistin

  - Antibiotics of last resort
  
  - Used in poultry, aqua farming, animal feed supplements
  
  - Affects entire food chain

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
Urgent need to augment capacity

- Enforce the regulatory mechanisms
- Act on infection control practices and diagnostics support
- Availability and usage of guidelines for therapy
- Ensure biosecurity in animal rearing practices
- Understand the role of environment and the engagement of communities.

Conclusion

- World must launch a global movement to contain AMR
Six European nations join Iran barter system

INSTEIX circumvents U.S. sanctions

PARIS

Paris, London and Berlin on Saturday welcomed six new European countries to the INSTEX barter mechanism, which is designed to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding use of the dollar.

"As founding sharehold-ers of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), France, Germany and the U.K. warmly wel-come the decision taken by the governments of Bel-gium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, to join INSTEX as shareholders," the three said in a joint statement.

The Paris-based INSTEX functions as a clearing house allowing Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange. The system has not yet enabled any transactions.

In 2018, U.S. withdrew from the international agreement governing Iran's nuclear programme and reinstated heavy sanctions against Tehran.

The accession of the six members "strengthens INSTEX and demonstrates European efforts to facilitate legitimate trade between Europe and Iran," it said.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

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

- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

News

- INSTEX circumvents U.S. sanctions

- INSTEX: Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges

- Barter System

- One party exchanges the goods and services with another party for other goods and services, in return

- Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

- U.S., U.K., China, Russia, France, + Germany with Iran

- The objective of this deal is to check the nuclear enrichment of Iran, in return lifting economic sanctions imposed on it by the U.N., U.S.A., and the E.U.

- In May 2018, USA pulled out from Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA)
**INSTEX**

- Instrument in support of Trade Exchanges
- Paris-based instrument by the founding shareholders like U.K, France and Germany
- Special purpose vehicle to help EU companies to do business with Iran and facilitate non-US Dollar transactions
- It is also open for non-EU countries
- Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden: new INSTEX shareholders.
General category students get 67% of education loans

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

Glaring disparity

Pg. 5 → Chennai Edition

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.

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.

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’ → guaranteeing payment against default
- cover 75% of the amount in default.

scheme operation - undertaken by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)
- set up in 2014, under Companies Act, 1985
- acts as ‘Trustee’ to operate the Credit Guarantee Funds for Educational Loans, Skill Development Loans, any other funds to be set up by govt.

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 IBA 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 CMFSEL
  - 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/PhD 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 - girl 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

- 23% beneficiaries - Other Backward Classes [OBC]
- 7% beneficiaries - Scheduled Castes [SC]
- 3% beneficiaries - Scheduled Tribes [ST]
- 67% beneficiaries - General Category [GIC]

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

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—Main 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.

**Part B—Main Examination**

**Paper III**

- General Studies - I: 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.

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**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 sherkot, 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

**Protection status**

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
  - All species of Mongoose → Schedule II, Part II.
  - Chapter VI
    - Prohibition of Trade or Commerce in Trophies, Animal articles, etc. derived from certain animals
    - Section 49 A - [Schedule II, Part II]
    - Definition of Scheduled Animal and Scheduled animal article
* Section 49B - Prohibits
  * a) Commence or carry on the business as a manufacturer of, or dealer, in Scheduled animal articles.
  * b) Section 51, 1A → Punishment for illegal trade
    * Imprisonment → 1-7 years
    * Fine → Not less than Rs. 5,000.

- IUCN Red List of Threatened species
- Least concern (Indian Grey Mongoose)
- CITES
- Appendix III → All species of Mongoose.

**Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**
- Statutory body (Multi-disciplinary)
- Constituted under Section 38 (Y) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- HR - New Delhi
- Functions
  - Collect and collate intelligence on wildlife crime activities; dissemination
  - Coordination with officers, state govt.s and other authorities
  - Develop infrastructure and capacity building
  - Advise govt. of India on issues relating to wildlife crime.
**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.

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**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.

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**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

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**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