



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**MARCH, 2023**

**Week-1**

**1-7 March, 2023**

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

1<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2023

## National Science Day

- **Context:** National Science Day is celebrated in India every year on the 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman.

This day was designated by the Government of India in 1986. This year the theme is 'Global Science for Global Wellbeing'.

### About C. V. Raman:

- Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (1888 – 1970) was an Indian physicist known for his work in the field of light scattering.
- He founded the Indian Journal of Physics in 1926.
- He became the first Indian director of the Indian Institute of Science in 1933.
- He founded the Indian Academy of Sciences in 1933.
- He established the Raman Research Institute in 1948.
- In 1954, the Government of India honoured him with the first Bharat Ratna.

### About Raman Effect:

- Using a spectrograph that he developed, he discovered that when light traverses a transparent material, the deflected light changes its wavelength and frequency. This phenomenon was subsequently termed the Raman effect or Raman scattering.
- Raman received the 1930 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery and was the first Asian to receive a Nobel Prize in any branch of science.

## Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) Portal

- **Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal under the IT Rules, 2021.

### Key Highlights:

- It will be a virtual digital platform that will operate online - wherein the entire appeal process, from the filing of an appeal to the decision thereof, shall be conducted digitally.
- It is developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- It will allow people who are dissatisfied with complaints to social media companies on content takedown requests, to be heard by one of three Committees constituted by the government.

### About Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC):

- In January 2023, the Centre announced the establishment of three GACs based on the recently amended Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- The GAC is an online dispute resolution mechanism. The entire appeal process, from filing to a decision, is in digital mode. GAC endeavors to resolve appeals within 30 days.
- It consists of a chairperson and two whole-time members appointed by the Central Government, of which one will be a member ex-officio and two will be independent members.
- The GAC deals with the appeals of users (Digital Nagriks) aggrieved by decisions of Grievance Officers of social media intermediaries and other intermediaries on complaints of users or victims against violation of the IT Rules and any other matters pertaining to the computer resources made available by the intermediaries.

## Proton Beam Therapy

- **Context:** Cancer patients in India face twin challenges when it comes to accessing Proton Beam Therapy (PBT): insufficient number of facilities offering the treatment and cost running into many lakhs of rupees.

### Key Highlights:

- Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) is a form of radiotherapy used to treat certain cancers.
- It uses high-energy beams of protons, rather than X-rays, to deliver a dose of radiotherapy.
- The PBT is considered a viable alternative to radiation for treating solid tumors, especially head and neck cancers.
- The key benefit of proton therapy is the ability to target tumor cells more precisely. Research shows that proton therapy results in a higher dose of radiation to the tumor, but significantly less radiation to healthy cells near the tumor.
- With less healthy tissue affected by the radiation, side effects may be milder, and there is less risk of developing secondary cancers due to radiation.

### Challenges in accessing PBT Therapy in India:

- Currently, there are 42 PBT machine installations in the U.S. followed by Europe (35), Japan (26), China (7), Taiwan (3), and South Korea (2) while India has only one which shows there is not enough facilities offering PBT Treatment.
- Apollo Hospital is the only center in the whole of South and West Asia offering the PBT.
- Setting up a PBT center is fraught with infrastructural and regulatory challenges stemming from safety concerns from the Department of Atomic Energy.
- A PBT machine is a huge contraption, up to three storeys tall, and costs nearly 500 crores.
- Apollo Hospital has been able to reduce the cost of PBT from nearly 1.2 crores (as charged in the U.S.) to between 5 Lakhs and 30 Lakhs. But it is still running into many lakhs of rupees.

2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 2023

### VAIBHAV Fellowship Scheme

- **Context:** On the occasion of “National Science Day” on 28th February, the government has launched VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme for the Indian Diaspora abroad.

### Key Highlights:

- The fellowship offers NRI researchers an opportunity to work for a minimum of one month to a maximum of two months a year with a research institution or an academic institution in India.
- Three years with the government offering the researchers an amount of up to Rs 37 lakh for the entire period.
- Its aim is to Improve the research ecosystem of India’s Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world. This is done through the mobility of faculty/researchers from overseas institutions to India.
- Researchers from institutions featuring in the top 500 QS World University Rankings will be eligible for the fellowship.
- The applicant should be a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Person of Indian Origin (PIO) or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and she or he must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University.
- The best of Diaspora minds will collaborate with domestic Minds to deliver world-class projects and products.

### ALMA Telescope

- **Context:** The ALMA (Atacama Large Millimetre/Submillimetre Array) telescope is set to get software and hardware upgrades that will help it collect much more data and produce sharper images.

### Key Highlights:

- It is a radio telescope comprising 66 antennas located in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile.
- It is a state-of-the-art telescope that studies celestial objects at millimetre and submillimetre wavelengths. They can penetrate through dust clouds and help astronomers examine dim and distant galaxies and stars.

- It is an international partnership between various organisations in Europe, the U.S., Japan, Canada, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea in cooperation with the Republic of Chile.
- The telescope has extraordinary sensitivity, which allows it to detect even extremely faint radio signals. The telescope consists of 66 high-precision antennas, spread over a distance of up to 16 km. Each of its 66 antennas is equipped with a set of receivers that are designed to detect specific ranges of wavelengths on the electromagnetic spectrum.
- To combine the data collected by each antenna into a single image, ALMA uses a correlator.
- Correlator is a powerful supercomputer that processes the vast amounts of data collected by the antennas and creates detailed images of celestial objects. This allows astronomers to study distant galaxies, stars, and other celestial bodies.
- In 2013, ALMA discovered starburst galaxies that existed earlier in the universe's history than previously thought.
- ALMA provided detailed images of a protoplanetary disc around a young star, HL Tauri, in 2014, which challenged existing theories about planetary formation,
- In 2015, the telescope helped scientists observe the Einstein ring phenomenon, where light from a galaxy or star passes by a massive object on its way to Earth,
- More recently, as part of the Event Horizon Telescope project, it provided the first image of the supermassive black hole at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy.

### 'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme

- **Context:** Under the Centre's 'Adopt a heritage' scheme, Dalmia Bharat Group has developed the Red Fort and set up a museum as well as a sound and light show inside the 17th-century monument to narrate its history to visitors.

### Key Highlights:

- The 'Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan' scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The scheme was launched on World Tourism Day, i.e., 27 September 2017.
- The Adopt a Heritage Scheme allowed public and private sector enterprises to acquire top heritage areas of India and enhance tourism activities there.
- The sites/monuments are selected on the basis of tourist footfall and visibility and can be adopted by private and public sector companies and individuals — known as Monument Mitras— for an initial period of five years.
- As per the latest reports, Adopt a Heritage scheme has covered 106 tourist places with more than 600 Monument Mitras registered and 27 MoUs being signed.
- The Ministry of Tourism has the power of termination of MoU of Monument Mitras in case of noncompliance of guidelines and expression of interest (EoI), or any other reason of non-performance.
- The objective of the scheme is development of basic tourism infrastructure in and around historic sites, monuments, natural sites, and tourist attractions. Enhancing tourism experience by developing facilities and amenities at historic sites, monuments, natural sites, and tourist attractions and to Promote the cultural and heritage significance of the country and create awareness about them.

3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2023

### Unemployment rate rose to 7.45% in Feb: CMIE

- **Context:** Joblessness as measured by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) All India unemployment rate remained elevated in February 2023 and rose to 7.45% from 7.14% in the previous month.



## Key Highlights:

- Urban unemployment rate decreased for the second straight month and was at 7.93% in February as against 8.55% in January. It had touched a record high of 10.09% in December 2022. But more worrying the rural unemployment rate spiked to 7.23% last month from 6.48% in January.
- It is important to note that the labour participation has increased at the same time from 39.8% to 39.92%. "The employment rate, which is the most important indicator has dropped a bit from 36.96% to 36.94%,".
- The data comes soon after the Periodic Labour Force Survey revealed that unemployment rate declined to 7.2% in the October – December 2022 for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas as against 8.7% in the same period in 2021.
- However, other data indicates a more cautious picture on unemployment, at least in the formal sector. The number of first-time members joining the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) declined by 14.5% on a sequential basis to 0.8 million in December 2022 from 0.93 million members in November 2022. Previously, a report by the Indian Staffing Federation had revealed that new flexi staffing jobs grew at its slowest pace in 10 quarters by 0.8% on a sequential basis in the quarter ended December 2022.
- NREGA data shows that the demand for work in February 2023 increased and was at its highest level since June 2022. Over 26.3 million persons demanded work under the scheme in February 2023 as against 25.9 million in January this year.

## PEN/Nabokov Award

- **Context:** Recently, acclaimed Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla won the 2023 PEN/Nabokov Award for achievement in international literature.

## Key Highlights:

- He won the PEN America award for lifetime achievement in literature, after decades of composing acclaimed novels like Naukar Ki Kameez and poetry collections like Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega.

- His first published work was a poetry collection Lagbhag Jai Hind, followed by Vah Aadmi Chala Gaya Naya Garam Coat Pehankar Vichar Ki Tarah. Naukar Ki Kameez was his first novel.
- He has also won the Sahitya Akademi award and the Atta Galatta–Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize.

## About PEN/Nabokov Award:

- The PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature is awarded biennially by PEN America (formerly PEN American Center) to writers, principally novelists, "whose works evoke to some measure Nabokov's brilliant versatility and commitment to literature as a search for the deepest truth and the highest pleasure— what Nabokov called the 'indescribable tingle of the spine'."
- It is one of the most coveted literary prizes worldwide. The winner is awarded \$50,000.
- The award is financed by the Vladimir Nabokov Foundation, founded by Dmitri Nabokov. It has been called one of the most prestigious PEN prizes.
- The PEN American Center awards have been characterized as being among the "major" American literary prizes.

## Extradition of Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs)

- **Context:** India has called upon G20 countries to adopt multilateral action for faster extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of assets.

## Key Highlights:

- India called for adoption of multilateral action for faster extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of assets both on domestic front as well as from abroad at the 1st Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting of G20 nations.
- First anti-corruption working group meeting of G20 Nations was held in Gurugram, Delhi.

- Fugitive Economic Offender' ("FEO") is defined as an individual against whom a warrant of arrest in relation to Scheduled Offence is issued by any court in India and who has left the country so as to avoid criminal prosecution; or the FEO abroad, refuses to return to face criminal prosecution."
- Economic offences have been a problem faced by many, especially when the offenders flee from the jurisdiction of the country.
- India's view is that strengthening of mechanisms for speedy confiscation of the proceeds of crime, both at home and abroad, will force the offenders to return to their home country.
- This will allow for an effective investigation and speedy trial for the related offence

### About India's Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:

- India has put in place specialized legislation in the form of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- The Act aims to help confiscate assets of high-value economic offenders absconding from India till they submit to the jurisdiction of the appropriate legal forum.
- The investigating agencies have to file an application in a Special Court under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act containing details of the properties to be confiscated, and any information about the person's whereabouts.
- The Special Court will issue a notice for the person to appear at a specified place and date at least six weeks from the issue of notice.
- If the person appears proceedings will be terminated and If the person does not appear then the person would be declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender based on the evidence filed by the investigating agencies.
- The person who is declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender can challenge the proclamation in the High Court within 30 days of such declaration according to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

4<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2023

### SWAYATT Initiative

- **Context:** Government e-Marketplace (GeM) commemorates the success of "SWAYATT", an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage through e-Transactions on GeM

#### Key Highlights:

- It is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government eMarketplace (GeM).
- It aimed to promote the inclusion of various categories of sellers and service providers on the portal by taking proactive steps to facilitate their training and registration, develop women's entrepreneurship, and encourage the participation of the MSME sector and startups in public procurement.

### About Government eMarketplace (GeM):

Government eMarketplace (GeM) is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

### Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India

- **Context:** Recently, Two Australian public universities have come forward to set up campuses in GIFT City, Gujarat.

#### Key Highlights:

- The government had in 1995 drafted the Foreign Education Bill which had to be shelved.
- An attempt was made in 2006, but the draft law could not cross the Cabinet approval stage.
- In 2010, the UPA-2 government brought the Foreign Educational Institutions Bill, which failed to get enough support in the Parliament. The bill lapsed in 2014.

- The National Education Policy, 2020 allowed for establishment of selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world.
- Finance Minister in her Budget Speech 2022 announced a new route for setting up foreign universities (GIFT IFSC)
- UGC in January 2023 released guidelines for setting up of foreign universities.

### About State of Higher Education in India:

- With more than 500 million people, India has the largest population in the world in the age bracket of 5-24 years, presenting a huge opportunity in the education sector.
- India is the world's 2nd largest higher education system, with around 38 million students in 50,000 academic institutions (including 1,057 universities).
- India has an aim of doubling gross enrolment rates from the current 26.3% to 50% by 2035. (NEP, 2020)
- India is the 2nd largest source of international students (after China) globally.

### Greater Panna Landscape Council

- **Context:** Government of India has constituted Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

#### Key Highlights:

- Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the first interlinking of rivers project under the National Perspective Plan (NPP). It would be a game-changer for the socio-economic prosperity of the Bundelkhand region, which faces recurrent drought situations.
- As part of this project, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has prepared a comprehensive Integrated Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) for the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity not only in Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) but also in surrounding areas.

- To ensure systematic and time-bound implementation of ILMP, the Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC) has been constituted.
- To ensure a “win-win” situation for conservation through integration with the development process based on a balanced approach and considering the diverse stakes.
- To enable the betterment of habitat, protection, and management for flagship species viz. tiger, vulture, and gharial in the landscape
- To consolidate the landscape for overall biodiversity conservation through spatial prioritization and well-being of the forest-dependent communities
- To provide species-specific and site-specific monitoring strategies under the integrated landscape management in context with a feedback loop and adaptive management options.

5<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2023

### Windsor Framework

- **Context:** The UK government under Prime Minister has reached a landmark deal called the “Windsor Framework” with the European Union (EU) on post-Brexit trade rules that will govern Northern Ireland.

#### Key Highlights:

- It will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol, which had proved to be among the thorniest of Brexit fall-outs, creating problems both economic and political.
- **The framework has two crucial aspects:**
  - (a) Introduction of a green lane and red lane system :** For goods that will stay in Northern Ireland and those that will go to the EU respectively.
  - (b) The Stormont Brake:** Allows Northern Ireland lawmakers and London to veto any EU regulation they believe affects the region adversely.
- With the Windsor Framework, UK hopes to improve trade and other ties with the EU.
- The deal has allowed Sunak to do away with the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill introduced by his predecessor Boris Johnson.

- The bill involved the UK government reneging on the promise it made to the EU to follow the Protocol.

### About Northern Ireland:

- The island of Ireland comprises the Republic of Ireland, which is a sovereign country, and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom.
- The political split on the island was exacerbated by growing tensions, especially from the 1960s onwards between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- This dark saga on the island ended only after the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998 between the UK Prime Minister and the Republic of Ireland respectively.
- A key takeaway from the Agreement was, respecting the wishes of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the province would remain a part of the U.K.

### About Northern Ireland Protocol:

- It was a deal struck between the UK and the European Union that determined what the trade rules would be for Northern Ireland after Brexit.
- Northern Ireland shares a land border with Ireland, which is an EU member, over which goods move freely because there are no checkpoints.
- Given all sides were committed to keeping that land border open, the UK and EU agreed that the inspection of goods would be conducted between Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) and Northern Ireland.
- This effectively created a customs border between two different parts of the UK – Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

## Star-rated Appliances Program and iDEEKSHA Portal

- **Context:** The Union Minister of Power has launched the Voluntary Star Labelling Programme for multi-door refrigerators, table- and wall-mounted fans, pedestal fans, and induction hobs. The Minister also launched the iDEEKSHA Portal.

### About Star Labeling Programme:

- Star Labeling Program has been formulated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) as part of its mandate under the Energy Conservation Act, of 2001.
- Its aim is to provide consumers an informed choice regarding the energy savings and thereby the cost-saving potential of various energy-consuming appliances.
- This scheme prescribes minimum energy performance levels for appliances/ equipment, rated on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most energy efficient.
- Presently, the programme covers the star labeling program for 34 appliances, including the four newly-added energy-efficient appliances.

### iDEEKSHA Portal:

- iDEEKSHA is a platform developed under the Accelerating Smart Power and Renewable Energy (ASPIRE) Technical 1 Assistance Programme.
- iDEEKSHA is designed to serve as a one-stop shop for all energy efficiency and decarbonization needs of Indian energy-intensive industries.
- It aims to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experience, and best practices related to the wide gamut of stakeholders such as industries, industrial associations, technology and service providers and research institutions, etc.

## National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) 2023

- **Context:** Recently, the 4th edition of National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) commenced in the Central Hall of Parliament.

### Key Highlights:

- Theme: "Ideas for a Better tomorrow: India for the World".
- More than 2.01 Lakh youth from 748 Districts of all States and UTs participated at 150 venues across the country.



- Objective is to hear the voice of the youth and also strengthening democracy and enabling the student community to understand the working of Parliament.

### About National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF):

- NYPF is based on the idea given by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address.
- 1st edition of NYPF 2019 was organised with the theme “Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and Contribute to Policy” with the participation of 88,000 youth in physical mode.

6<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2023

### South Korea-US Military Exercise

- **Context:** The South Korean and U.S. militaries are preparing to conduct two exercises: Freedom Shield, a computer-simulated training, and Warrior Shield FTX, large-scale joint field training.

#### Key Highlights:

- The South Korean and U.S. militaries announced that they will hold their biggest joint field exercises in five years
- In a joint news conference, the South Korean and U.S. militaries said they will conduct the Freedom Shield exercise, a computer-simulated command post training, from March 13 to 23 to strengthen their defense and response capabilities, and separate large-scale joint field training exercises called Warrior Shield FTX.
- The field training will include a combined amphibious drill and that their size would return to the scale of the allies' earlier biggest springtime field exercises, called Foal Eagle.
- The two countries last conducted Foal Eagle in 2018. They then canceled or downsized some combined drills to support now-stalled diplomacy with North Korea and guard against the COVID-19 pandemic
- Recently, however, the two countries have been expanding their joint military exercises in the face of an evolving North Korean nuclear threat.

### LIFEathon

- **Context:** UNDP and NITI Aayog hold LIFEathon to create pro-planet network.

#### Key Highlights:

- A virtual hackathon aimed at promoting sustainable living and climate-positive behavior jointly organized by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and NITI Aayog brought together over 400 young people.
- The hybrid event, called 'LIFEathon,' brought together young people from 60 plus countries to share ideas and innovations for individual action towards climate change.
- The hackathon was part of the Indian government's Mission LIFE campaign, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Gujarat last year.
- This campaign aims to promote environmentally friendly lifestyles by encouraging small individual actions, such as using less plastic and waste less food, and taking public transport.

### RBI's Monetary Policy

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India launched two key surveys, the results of which provide “useful inputs” for the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy.

#### Key Highlights:

- The March 2023 round of Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), RBI said, aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on their individual consumption baskets, across 19 cities.
- The survey seeks qualitative responses from households on price changes (general prices as well as prices of specific product groups) in the three months ahead as well as in the one year ahead period and quantitative responses on current, three months ahead and one year ahead inflation rates.

- The latest round of Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) is aimed at gathering qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending.
- Consumer confidence study too is conducted in 19 cities. The RBI said results of the surveys provide useful inputs for monetary policy.
- The next meeting of the RBI's rate setting panel – Monetary Policy Committee – is scheduled during April 6-8, 2023.

7<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2023

## Great Pyramid of Giza

- **Context:** Scientists have discovered a hidden passage inside the Great Pyramid of Giza.

### Key highlights

- This passage is 9 meters in length and more than 2 meters in width. It was found in the northern face of the pyramid.
- The discovery was made as part of the ScanPyramids project, which involves collaboration between major universities in France, Germany, Canada and Japan and a group of Egyptian experts.
- This important discovery was enabled by cosmic-ray muon radiography, a non-invasive technique for imaging large structures' interiors.
- There are no footprints or human activities seen in the chamber. The room has not been discovered by anyone in the last 4500 years.

### About Great Pyramid of Giza

- The Great Pyramid of Giza, the tomb of Pharaoh Khufu, is the largest pyramid in Egypt and the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- Built over a period of approximately 27 years in the early 26th century BC, it is located in the Pyramid Fields of Giza, Egypt.

For more than 3,800 years, it was the tallest man-made structure in the world. It is built of more than 2.3 million large blocks.

- The Great Pyramid of Giza is a World Heritage site.
- The limestone from the Giza plateau was used to build the pyramid. The king's and queen's chambers in the pyramid are made of granite. Also, mortar has been used extensively in building the pyramid.

## Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)

- **Context:** The World Bank has announced the extension of 2 complimentary loans of 500 million USD each to India to support the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

### Key highlights

- The extension of two complimentary loans of 500 million USD will prioritize healthcare services in 7 states – Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program, with \$500 million, is to support the government's efforts to improve epidemic surveillance, ensure timely response and prevent the emergence of novel pathogens.

### About PMABHIM

- The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was launched in October 2021 with an aim to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across India.
- With a budget of Rs. 64,180 crore, the mission has three aspects: strengthening public health institutions, building an IT-enabled disease surveillance system, and expanding research on infectious diseases.
- The first objective is to strengthen public health institutions and deliver comprehensive primary health care. The second objective is to expand the technology-based surveillance system and develop surveillance laboratories. The third objective is to expand the research on infectious diseases.

- 134 different types of tests will be done under the scheme. The tests will be done free of cost at district levels.
- Container-based hospitals were launched with medical facilities that were kept ready all the time. A big network of Health and Wellness Centers was created. 15 Biosafety Level 3 labs were built.
- Five New regional National Centre for Disease control was established. More than 4,000 block and district-level public health units were built.
- The train, Chhattisgarh Samparkranti Express, seeks to raise awareness about Jan Aushadhi Generic medicines that are available through more than 9,000 Kendras spread across India.
- It is wrapped with the branding of the Jan Aushadhi scheme.
- It will travel to more than 4 states, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, over 2 months. It will cover 1,278 km.

## Jan Aushadhi Train

- **Context:** The Jan Aushadhi Train was flagged off recently in New Delhi by Union Ministers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.

### Key highlights

- It was launched as part of the week-long celebrations commemorating the Jan Aushadhi scheme. This is the second such train to be flagged off to create awareness about the scheme.

## About Jan Aushadhi Day

- Jan Aushadhi Day is commemorated on March 7 every year.
- The main purpose of the day is to spread awareness of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The scheme focuses on increasing the usage of generic medicines.
- Generic medicines are less expensive and therefore are highly affordable to BPL families.

