Prelim Bits 22-11-2019

Intensified Mission Indradhanush

- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to achieve full immunisation coverage for all children and pregnant women at a rapid pace.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched from Vadnagar in 2017 and its second version (2.0) 2.0 is going to be launched from Dec 2, 2019.
- Through IMI, Government aims to reach each and every child upto 2 years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme/Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- It aims to achieve targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts in 27 States.
- It shall be implemented in the block level (652 blocks) in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- It will focus on urban, underserved population and tribal areas.
- It consists of 4 rounds of immunization that will be conducted in the selected districts and urban cities between Dec 2019 - March 2020.
- The UIP basket has vaccines for ten diseases i.e

    1. BCG for **TB**, OPV for **poliomyelitis**,
    2. monovalent measles vaccine for **measles**,
    3. Rota Virus vaccine for **Diarrhoea**,
    4. JEV for **Japanese Encephalitis** &
    5. Pentavalent Vaccine for DPT (**diphtheria**, **pertussis** i.e whooping cough & **tetanus**) and
    6. Vaccine for **Hepatitis B** & **Pneumonia** due to Hib.
    7. Measles-rubella vaccine (MR) is also added now to the UIP

Avian Botulism

- Over 17,000 birds were found dead in the past few days in the Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan.
- It is not the first time that where deaths due to botulism have been recorded. It is reported in Lake Michigan in 2007 and 2008 and in Hawaii in 2008.

- The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, states that climatic conditions were ultimately responsible for having triggered the mass die-off.
- It is occurred due to avian botulism, a disease caused by a bacteria that affects nerves.
- Botulinum is a natural toxin produced by a bacteria known as **Clostridium botulin.**
- It produces the toxin when it starts reproducing and attack the neurons which leads to muscle paralysis.
- It is commonly found in the soil, river, and sea water
- There are around eight types — A, B, C_1, C_2, D, E, F, and G — of botulinum toxin and they are distinguishable when diagnosed.
- Botulinum affects both humans and animals, but the type of the toxin varies — botulinum C in birds and A, B and E in humans.

Climate Change and Botulism

- It has been recognised as a major cause of mortality in wild birds since the 1900s.
- It needs anaerobic (absence of oxygen) conditions and does not grow in acidic conditions.
- It also requires a nutrient-rich substrate, like areas with large amounts of decaying plant or animal materials.
- Water levels in the lake were fluctuating throughout the year.
- Due to a good monsoon this year, the water level reached the lakebed after a gap of 20 years which provided a favourable environment for the bacteria to spread.
- The monsoon brought with it a large population of crustaceans (like shrimps, crabs, and prawns), invertebrates (snails) and plankton (like algae).
- These living organisms are capable of hosting the bacteria for a long period of time.
- It reproduces through spores and these spores remain dormant for years.
- Botulism outbreaks are likely to become more frequent as climate change alters wetland conditions to favour bacteria and pathogens.

Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling

- India has recently acceded to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.
- The convention is aimed at ensuring that recycling ships, do not pose any unnecessary risk to human health and safety or to the environment.
- It was adopted by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2009.
- It was developed with input from IMO, International Labour Organization and the Parties to the Basel Convention.

- It addresses all concerns about orking and environmental conditions in ship recycling facilities,
- It regulates the design, construction, operation and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling.
- It checks for scrapping ships that may contain environmentally hazardous substances such as asbestos, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, ozone depleting substances and others.
- It requires ships to be sent for recycling will be required to carry an inventory of hazardous materials.
- Ship recycling yards will be required to provide a Ship Recycling Plan and parties will be required to take effective measures to ensure that ship recycling facilities under their jurisdiction comply with the Convention.

Credit Guarantee Fund

- National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd is a common trustee company to manage and operate various credit guarantee trust funds.
- It has been set up by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- It operates Fund of Funds for Start-ups (FFS) under Start up India Programme.
- Under Startup India initiative, all applications can be submitted to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- Collateral-free loans have been made available to MSMEs under the Credit Guarantee Scheme in Aspirational Districts.

Source: PIB, DownToEarth

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