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Social Issues

Mission Suraksha initiative

• It is also called as *Mission COVID Suraksha*, the IndianCOVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission.
• **Part of** – 3rd stimulus package, AtmanirbharBharat3. 0
• **Objective** – For *promoting research and development* of Indian COVID-19 vaccines.

International Relations and Issues

RCIC scheme

• **RCIC** - Rural Community Immigration Class
• **Launched by** – *Canada*
• **Aim** – To provide a pathway for foreign nationals, including students, to *apply for PR* if they commit to living and working in designated rural communities.
• **Indian students in Canada** – They constitute the largest share of international students in Canada, accounting for *nearly 40%*.

Economy

India in Biopharma Sector

• It currently accounts for *60% of global vaccine production*.
• It is home to the 2nd largest number of USFDA-approved manufacturing plants outside the United States.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

• **UPI** – A digital payment system that allows users to make payments and transfers using a mobile app.
• **Launched in** – 2016.
• **Developed by** - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
• **Regulated by** - Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
• **Function** – It allows users to send and receive money, pay merchants, and make peer-to-peer requests.
• **Transaction limit** – *Rs.1 lakh per transaction and 20 transactions per day*, but these limits may vary by bank and app.
• **Transaction charges** – They are usually free, but some banks may charge for specific services.

UPI Ecosystem in India

• It now accounting for nearly 8 in every 10 digital transactions.
• **UPI penetration** – It remains at *30% of the population*.
• **Duopoly** - Extreme market concentration of 2 3rd Party App Providers (TPAPs).
• *Phone Pe and Google Pay* together control over 85% of the total market share.

Environment

Smart Compost Monitoring Solution

• It is a prototype for an intelligent IoT system that remotely monitors and manages compost which can be used as fertilizer.
• **Developed by** – International Institute of Information Technology – Bangalore (IIITB)
• **Working** – It includes a sensor hub associated with each bin to monitor the compost's pH, temperature, humidity, and CO2 levels.
• It generates alerts using a mobile phone.

Science

• **BIO-E3 Policy**
• **Bio-E3** – Biotechnology for Economy, Employment, and Environment
• **Aim** – To shape the country's economy, employment landscape, and environmental sustainability in the years to come.
• **Nafithromycin**
• It is *India's 1st Indigenous Antibiotic* through public-private collaboration.
• **Launched in** – 2024
• **Aim** – To treat both typical and atypical drug-resistant bacteria
• **Under** – Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) Biotech Industry Program.
• **Targets** - Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP) caused by drug-resistant bacteria.
• **Advantages** – *10 times more effective than azithromycin* and offers a 3-day treatment regimen.
• **Successful Gene Therapy Trial for Haemophilia**
• **Conducted at** – Christian Medical college, Vellore
• **Support of** – Department of Biotechnology
• **Haemophilia** – A rare *inherited blood disorder* in which the blood doesn't clot in the typical way because it doesn't have enough blood-clotting proteins (clotting factors).

Nano-formulation of Melatonin for Parkinson's disease

• **Melatonin** - A neurohormone secreted *from the pineal gland*, an endocrine gland present in the brain.
• It *regulates the sleep-wake cycle* and is used to treat insomnia could be a potential inducer of mitophagy to mitigate PD.
• **Parkinson's disease (PD)** - A neurological disorders caused by the *death of dopamine-secreting neurons* in the brain due to aggregation of synuclein protein inside it.

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