

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 03-10-2024

### Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) Scheme

*The National Disability Network (NDN) has approached the Central government seeking inclusion of persons with disabilities without any income as well as age criteria in AB PM-JAY scheme*

- It is the **world's largest health assurance scheme**.
- **Aim** - To provide a health cover of **Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care** hospitalization to all the poor and vulnerable families.
- It is to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) which encompasses promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative care.
- **Launched in** - 2018.
- **Recommended by** - The National Health Policy, 2017.
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- **Funding** - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (expenditure incurred in premium payment will be shared between Central and State governments).
- **Coverage** - Targets over 10 crore families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) based on SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census)
- **Implementing Agency** - National Health Authority (NHA).
- **Components** - It has 2 components covering all 3 types of care to the people.
- **Health and wellness Centres (HWC)** - It covers primary care hospitalisation by providing comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.
- It covers up to **3 days** of pre-hospitalization and **15 days** post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- There is **no restriction** on the family size, age or gender.
- **Benefits** - It is portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empaneled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** - It was launched in 2021 to provide Unique Digital Health IDs (UHID) for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.
- **Recent expansion of the scheme**-The Union Cabinet recently expanded the scheme further to all senior citizens, regardless of income, who are 70 years of age or older.
- Senior citizens who are already benefiting from other public health insurance schemes like the
  - Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS),
  - Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), or
  - Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) have the option to either continue with their current scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY
- **Eligibility with Private Insurance** - Senior citizens who are covered by private

health insurance policies or the Employees' State Insurance scheme are also eligible to benefit under the scheme.

## Reference

[The Hindu | Disable persons seek inclusion in AB-PMJAY scheme](#)

## Sus salvanius (Pygmy hogs)

*Captive breeding and conservation efforts since 1996 in Assam have provided pygmy hogs back to the wildlife.*

- **Scientific Name** - Porcula salvania.
- It is the ***smallest wild pig species*** and the only species in the genus Porcula.
- They are tiny, shy and considered extinct in the wild till its rediscovery in the Barnadi Wildlife sanctuary in Assam way back in 1971.
- The pygmy hog is one of the very few mammals that build its own home, or nest, complete with a 'roof'.
- It is an ***indicator species*** (Organism whose presence, absence or abundance reflects a specific environmental condition).
- **Appearance** - Males are slightly bigger than females. Their coats have blackish-brown bristles over gray-brown skin and they have no facial warts.
- Both sexes have a tail and females have 3 pairs of mammae.
- **Habitat**-Pygmy hogs live in tall, dense grasslands that have a mixture of shrubs and trees.
- **Distribution** - It is found only in the reserve forest belts of the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and the Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary in northwestern Assam, India.
- It remain hidden in tall dense grass and rarely emerge in the open.
- **Diet** - Pygmy hogs have well developed teeth, with upturned canines and molars with rounded cusps. This allows them to enjoy an omnivorous diet.
- **Conservation status**
  - **IUCN** - Endangered
  - **CITES** - Appendix I
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** - Schedule I
- **Threats** - Habitat loss and degradation, and illegal hunting.



## References

1. [Deccan Herald | Pygmy hogs](#)
2. [Animal Diversity | Pygmy hog](#)

## Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) Scheme

*PM launches Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand recently on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.*

*Jharkhand, the birthplace of Adivasi icon Birsa Munda has chosen to launch the scheme as Birsa Munda is revered as Dharti Aaba, Father of the Land.*

- **Aim** - Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood.
- The scheme focuses on the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) population.**
- **Ministry** - The Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Fund** - The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.79, 156 crores (Central Share -Rs.56, 333 crore and State Share - Rs. 22,823 crore).
- **Coverage** - The Abhiyan will cover around 63,843 villages benefitting more than 5 crore tribal people in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks.
- It spread across all tribal majority villages and aspirational blocks in 30 States/UTs.
- It will be implemented through 25 interventions implemented by 17-line ministries of Govt of India.
- It will be implemented by convergence and outreach and ensures holistic and

sustainable development of tribal areas and communities.

## References

1. [PIB | Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan](#)
2. [The Indian Tribal | Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan](#)

## Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV)

*The World Health Organization recently recommended vaccinating pregnant women and administering infants with an antibody to prevent severe respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection in newborns.*

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus, which typically causes ***cold-like symptoms***, is a leading cause of severe infection and death in babies and older adults.
- The virus enters the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.
- It spreads easily through the air on infected respiratory droplets.
- It causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract.
- **Symptoms** - Cough, Runny nose, Congestion, Sneezing, Sore throat, Mild headache, Lack of energy, Fever, Decreased appetite, Lack of interest in playing (in babies and young children).
- A severe infection leads to ***pneumonia and bronchiolitis***.
- **Spreading** - It can spread in close contact with someone with the infection or by touching a contaminated object and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- People with RSV are usually contagious for ***3 to 8 days*** and may become contagious a day or two before they start showing signs of illness.
- However, some infants and people with weakened immune systems can continue to spread the virus for ***4 weeks or longer***, even after they stop showing symptoms.
- RSV symptoms make it difficult to distinguish it from the common cold or other respiratory viruses (like the flu or COVID-19).
- In most regions of the United States and other areas with similar climates, RSV season generally starts during fall and peaks in the winter.
- **Vulnerables** - Premature babies and young infants, as well as older adults, with heart or lung disease or a weakened immune system are at higher risk of severe infection.

*According to the WHO, majority of RSV-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, with about 101,400 annual deaths in children under the age of five.*

### • Vaccines

- **For infants** - Nirsevimab (Beyfortus).
- **For Adults** - Two vaccines are available - Abrysvo and Arexvy.

## References

1. [The Hindu | WHO recommends maternal vaccine and antibody shot](#)
2. [CDC | Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection \(RSV\)](#)

## Little Prespa Lake

*Plants and reeds have sprouted up as the waters of Little Prespa Lake is slowly dying.*

- Little Prespa is a long and narrow lake shared between ***Greece and Albania.***
- It was created by a former single lake Prespa by the deposition of materials from the stream-torrent of Agios Germanos.
- It is a smaller cousin of the ***larger Great Prespa Lake*** to the north.
- It is a system of two lakes separated by an isthmus - the Great Prespa Lake, divided between the 3 countries, and the Little Prespa Lake, mostly within Greece.
- The area is a protected habitat as part of the ***Prespa National Park.***
- The Society for the Protection of Prespa has been awarded for its significant work and efforts with the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award.
- Limni Mikri Prespa is a very important wetland of Greece, which hosts mainly rare bird species, such as the ***Dalmatian Pelican,*** of which Prespa hosts the largest breeding colony on a global scale.
- In Little Prespa two islets are formed, Agios Achilleios and Vidronisi.
- The diversion of the ***Devoll River*** in the 1970s for irrigation has contributed to the lake's drying up.





## Reference

[The Hindu | Little Prespa Lake is dying](#)



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