

# **UPSC Daily Current Affairs** | Prelimbits 11-07-2025

# **Supersolid and Quantum theatre**

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science and technology

### Why in News?

A team of researchers from Italy, recently froze light into a 'supersolid' using 'quantum theatre.'

- **Supersolid** A super solid is an <u>exotic phase of matter</u> in which particles are arranged in a crystalline structure but also move like a non-viscous fluid, exhibiting properties of both a solid and a superfluid.
- **First created in -** 2017 in a laboratory, but Physicists predicted the idea of a super solid in the 1960s.
- It combines the friction-free flow of a superfluid with the ordered structure of a crystalline solid.
- Usually, solids do not move on their own, but super solids <u>change direction and density</u> depending on their particles' interactions while maintaining an organised internal structure.
- **Properties of light** Light always travels at <u>3 lakh km per second in a vacuum.</u>
- It cannot be trapped and solidified because the particles of light, photons, have no rest mass and do not interact strongly with each other.
- Light exists only as a particle or a wave.
  - **Recent Findings** It marks the first time scientists have managed to couple light with matter to create a supersolid.
  - It used a quantum mechanical approach that relied on the properties of polaritons.
  - These are hybrid particles that sometimes behave like light and sometimes like matter.
  - They are created by coupling photons with packets of energy inside materials, like phonons (vibrational energy) or excitons (electron-hole pairs).
  - The researchers used an aluminium gallium arsenide semiconductor platform as a waveguide, a channel through which waves can pass, fitted with a source of excitons and a laser.
  - The waveguide had a microscopic structure with a periodic grating.
  - The etched ridges influenced the polaritons' motion, trapping them in a regular pattern.
  - The team used a pulsed laser to maintain a dense polariton condensate at a temperature of about  $-269^{\circ}C$ .
  - Quantum theatre This framework uses concepts from quantum mechanics to

analyse theatrical performances, exploring themes like identity, observation, and play.

- **Potential applications** Through this experiment photonic supersolids become more accessible for experimentation.
- Helps in producing lossless optical energy transport and optical computing elements.

#### Reference

The Hindu supersolid quantum theatre

### **National Biobank**

Prelims: Science and technology- Current events of National & International importance.

### Why in News?

Recently Minister for Science and Technology inaugurated the National Biobank' and India's own Longitudinal Population Data study at CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology).

- A National Biobank is a *large-scale repository* designed to collect, store, and manage biological samples (like blood, tissues, DNA) and associated health data (clinical, lifestyle, genomic).
- Launched under The Phenome India Project.
- **Objectives-** The Biobank will serve as the backbone of a nationwide cohort study, collecting comprehensive genomic, lifestyle.
- **Collection of data** A long-term, data-rich study tracking the health trajectories of individuals over several years.
- Involves the collection of clinical data from 10,000 individuals across India.
- **Tailored version** The Indian version is tailored to capture the country's unique diversity, across geography, ethnicity, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Supports early treatment** This initiative will aid early diagnosis, improve therapeutic targeting.
- **Treatment of complex diseases** In the fight against complex diseases such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular ailments, and rare genetic disorders.
- **Individualised treatment** Indian may receive individualised treatment tailored to their genetic makeup, lifestyle, and environment.
- **Disease Recognition** It will help scientists uncover disease patterns, geneenvironment interactions, and response to therapies within the Indian context.
- **Self-reliance** A bold step toward India's self-reliance in healthcare data.
- **Prospect** It has the potential to evolve into a global benchmark like the UK Biobank.

- Launched by -The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Launched on December 7, 2023.
- **Objective** To develop India-specific risk prediction models for cardiometabolic diseases, including diabetes, liver diseases, and cardiac diseases.
- **Participants** Around 10,000 individuals—primarily CSIR employees, pensioners, and their spouses.
- **Data collected** -Clinical questionnaires, lifestyle and dietary habits, anthropometric measurements, imaging and scanning data, and extensive biochemical and molecular data.

#### Reference

PIB| National biobank

#### **Oral Cancer**

Prelims: Current events of National & International importance

# Why in News?

Recently, it has been suggested that identifying oral cancer in Stages I and II can increase the 5-year survival rate to 80–90%, compared to significantly lower survival when diagnosed at an advanced stage.

• Oral cancer - Cancer that forms in <u>tissues of the oral cavity</u> (the mouth) or the oropharynx (the part of the throat at the back of the mouth).

### Oral cancer in India

- **Annual cases** Over 1,35,000 new cases reported annually, remains one of the most prevalent cancers in India.
- **Disease burden** India accounts for nearly one-third of the global incidence of the disease, according to GLOBOCAN 2020 and the National Cancer Registry Programme.
- Major contributing factors Use of smokeless tobacco, betel quid, and areca nut, especially in underserved communities.
- Precancerous conditions Leucoplakia or oral submucous fibrosis.



- **Early diagnosis** When diagnosed at an early stage, oral cancer is highly treatable, with five-year survival rates exceeding 80% for Stage I and II cases.
- Use of Advanced tools -VELscope and Oncodiagnoscope should be used to screen suspicious red or white patches in the oral cavity.
- **Regular surveillance** High-risk patients who underwent biopsy should be placed under regular surveillance to monitor for any signs of malignant transformation.
- Advanced treatment- Each case is thoroughly evaluated and discussed by a tumour board.
- Individualised diagnosis Treatment plans are individualised, following internationally recognised protocols.
- 3D printing -It is incorporated in preoperative planning and reconstruction.
- This allows for the creation of accurate anatomical models, simulate surgeries, and fabricates patient-specific surgical guides and reconstruction plates.
- **Improvements** These advances have improved surgical accuracy, reduced operating time, and contributed to better postoperative function and aesthetics.
- **Postoperative care** Speech therapy, nutritional support, physical rehabilitation, and psychological counselling
- Ongoing follow-up Ensures early detection of any recurrence or secondary conditions.
- Trios of the treatment Early diagnosis, tailored treatment, and holistic rehabilitation.

#### Reference

The Hindu | Oral cancer diagnosis

# Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

# Why in the news?

Recently, Punjab government launched the "Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana".

- **About** It is a flagship health insurance scheme to **provide cashless treatment to all residents of Punjab.**
- Aim To ensure universal health coverage and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for secondary and tertiary healthcare services.
- Cashless Treatment Beneficiaries receive completely cashless treatment, including diagnosis, hospitalization, surgery, and medicines.
- Eligibility Criteria All residents of Punjab, including farmers, labourers, and marginalized sections, are covered.
  - Beneficiaries are identified through State Resident Data Hub (SRDH) and NFSA databases.
- **Financial Coverage** Each eligible family is entitled to **Rs.10 lakh per year** for hospitalization and treatment under the scheme.
- Wide Network The scheme covers over 1,500 procedures across a wide network.
- **Empanelled Hospitals** Both *public and private hospitals* meeting quality and infrastructure criteria are authorized to deliver services.
- **Digital Integration** The entire scheme is IT-enabled with a centralized e-card system, online authorization, and real-time monitoring.
- **Special Focus** Special attention is given to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children, senior citizens, and those with chronic illnesses.
- **Grievance Redressal** A robust system is in place for addressing grievances and ensuring timely redressal through helplines and district-level officers.

#### Reference

Hindustan Times | Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana

