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**12 December 2018****Daily News Pedia****Odisha celebrates its traditional lac doll marriage**

Odisha celebrated its traditional lac doll marriage — the bride and the groom were beautiful dolls made of lac. The marriage was organised in conformity with the Odia tradition of 'jau kandhei bahaghara (lac doll marriage)'

The aim of this unique marriage ceremony was to promote traditional folk and tribal art forms and create awareness against social evils like dowry and child marriage. The marriage procession included performers of several folk dance forms such as – Bagha Nacha (tiger dance), Ghoda Nacha (horse dance), Sakhi Nacha.

Source: The Hindu.

**Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are areas notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of “shock absorbers” to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas. They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

The new ESZ guidelines include a broad list of activities that could be allowed, promoted, regulated or prohibited. The guidelines said activities, including commercial mining, setting of saw mills and industries causing pollution, commercial use of firewood and major hydro-power projects, are prohibited in such areas.

It also prohibits tourism activities like flying over protected areas in an aircraft or hot air balloon, and discharge of effluents and solid waste in natural water bodies or terrestrial areas. Felling of trees, drastic change in agriculture systems and commercial use of natural water resources, including groundwater harvesting and setting up of hotels and resorts, are the activities regulated in the areas.

Activities permitted in the areas include ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, adoption of green technology and use of renewable energy sources.

The width of the ESZ and type of regulation may vary from protected area to area. However, as a general principle, the width of the ESZ could go up to 10 kms around the protected area. The rules for the ESZ or the Eco-Fragile Zones are based on the Environment Protection Act, 1986. However, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”. The Act says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.

Source: The Hindu.

## **ENSURE Portal**

The portal “ENSURE”- National Livestock Mission-EDEG is developed by NABARD and is operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

Under the Mission’s component called Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG), subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs etc. through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) goes directly to the beneficiary’s account.

In order to make it better, simpler and transparent, the NABARD has developed an online portal “ENSURE” (<https://ensure.nabard.org>) so that the information related to beneficiary and processing of application can be made readily available.

### Utility of the Portal

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- Under the new process, controlling officer/branch manager of the bank, after scrutinizing & sanctioning of proposal, uploads the subsidy claims in the portal.
  - The subsidy will be approved within 30 days from the date of sanction of loan.
  - Earlier, even after the loan approval, subsidy took a long time to reach the beneficiary’s account.
  - Through this process, the flow of information/funds will also be quicker and more accountable.
  - The burden of extra interest due to delay in the disbursal of the subsidy would now be reduced after the launch of the portal.
  - Access from the portal will also be on real-time basis and list of beneficiaries can be easily prepared.
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Source: PIB.

## **PCS 1x**

‘PCS 1x’ is a cloud based new generation technology, with user-friendly interface.

This system seamlessly integrates 8 new stakeholders besides the 19 existing stakeholders from the maritime trade on a single platform. The platform offers value added services such as notification engine, workflow, mobile application, track and trace, better user interface, better security features, improved inclusion by offering dashboard for those with no IT capability.

A unique feature of ‘PCS1x’ is that it can latch on to third party software which provides services to the maritime industry thereby enabling the stakeholders to access wide network of services. Another major feature is the deployment of a world class state of the art payment aggregator solution which removes dependency on bank specific payment eco system.

### Features of this Portal:

- This system will enable trade to have an improved communication with the customs as they have also embarked on Application Programming Interface (API) based architecture, thereby enabling real time interaction.
- This System offers a database that acts as a single data point to all transactions.
- It captures and stores data on its first occurrence thereby reducing manual intervention, the need to enter transaction data at various points and thereby reducing errors in the process.
- It is estimated that this feature alone will reduce 11/2 to 2 days in a life of transaction.

- The application will have a cascading effect in reducing dwell time and overall cost of transaction.
- A major training and outreach program is under way to educate the stakeholders about the uses and benefits of 'PCS 1x'.

Source: PIB.

### **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**

The framework is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 organizational entities, the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organisation.

It aims to serve better the needs of Member States when it comes to tackling the scourge of international terrorism. Policies that limit human rights only end up alienating the very communities they aim to protect and which normally have every interest in fighting extremism. Such policies can effectively drive people into the hands of terrorists and undermine our efforts on prevention.

A new Task Force: The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force will replace the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The former was established in 2005 to strengthen UN system-wide coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts.

Source: The Hindu.

#### **Editorial**

To Read

#### **Putting the public back in public health**

Only by aligning innovation with the priorities of a civilized society can we take healthcare to the next frontier

The United Kingdom's National Health Service marked its 70th birthday this year, so this is a good time to reflect on the NHS's past and consider its future. The NHS has long been a source of inspiration in healthcare debates around the world. But if it is not put on a more sustainable footing, it could become a cautionary tale.

When the NHS was founded in 1948, its mission, to provide universal high-quality health care, was daringly radical. In time, though, it came to represent a fundamental pillar of the modern welfare state.

Today, however, the NHS faces mounting challenges, owing to the years of "austerity" after the 2008 financial crisis, as well as to larger changes in the pharmaceutical industry's business model. With corporate governance increasingly oriented around narrow financial indicators such as quarterly earnings, drug companies have hiked drug prices, and the NHS is bearing the costs. Worse, many drugs would not even exist if not for public investment. Last year, the NHS spent £1 billion purchasing medicines that have received investments from the UK Medical Research Council and other public bodies. In the US, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spends more than \$37 billion on biomedical research every year. And, worldwide, the public pays for an estimated two-thirds of all upfront costs for pharmaceutical research and development.

High drug prices can have ripple effects beyond public health around the whole world. It creates a huge barrier to access to medicines for two billion people and pushes 100 million people into extreme poverty every year. Beyond the human suffering, this imposes high economic costs. The

lost human capital includes not only those who are forced out of the taxable workforce by personal illness, but also those who must drop out to care for them.

Most crucially, it is increasingly difficult to balance the goals of ensuring patient access to effective medicines, managing rising healthcare expenditure, and incentivizing innovation. Even if access to healthcare were assured, and pricing well-managed, there would still be a problem with the current direction of health innovation. Diseases that do not create potential growth markets are largely ignored. Between 2000 and 2011, only 4% of newly approved drugs were for neglected diseases that affect predominantly lower- and middle-income countries. Meanwhile, in the US, 78% of new medicine patents between 2005 and 2015 were related to drugs that are already on the market. And in Europe between 2000 and 2014, 51% of newly approved drugs were modified versions of existing medicines, and thus offered no additional health benefits.

With healthcare systems often failing to provide patients with the treatment they need at a price they can afford, and with health innovation not addressing public health needs, the status quo is not sustainable. But to restore public purpose to healthcare, provision and innovation will require the kind of transformation that the NHS's founders ushered in 70 years ago.

To that end, the first step is to acknowledge governments' vital role in the development of new treatments and drugs. Rather than simply funding innovation, governments need to start directing it with the same level of involvement that they bring to defence spending. That means aligning upstream research funding with downstream applications and public objectives. The pharmaceutical industry will no doubt argue that government engagement stifles innovation. But it was a state-led, mission-oriented approach that put a man on the moon, created the internet and paved the way for self-driving cars. Governments and the societies they serve should be ambitious, while always asking themselves a practical question: What are we trying to achieve?

Once we know that, legislation and regulatory measures can be brought to bear to advance our collective goals, and to encourage bottom-up experimentation. For example, prizes might be better than prices for stimulating private investment. And government procurement processes could surely be better aligned to steer the direction of innovation.

More to the point, policymakers need to address the financialization of the pharma industry, which is focused solely on shareholder value rather than on all stakeholders. Between 2007 and 2016, the 19 pharmaceutical companies in the S&P 500 as of January 2017 spent \$297 billion repurchasing their own shares to boost their stock price and thus the value of their executives' stock options. That is 61% of their combined R&D expenditures over the same period.

As long as this business model prevails, price gouging will continue. As happened recently with one antibiotic, CEOs will say that they are serving shareholders by letting prices rise to whatever the market will bear and abusing intellectual-property rights to extract monopoly rents. Patents have become too difficult to licence, and they are too often acquired for strategic reasons than for novelty, as was originally intended.

To bring healthcare back into line with public interest, we can still find inspiration in the NHS. Its founders' mission was to create a system that serves everyone, is free at the point of delivery, and caters to patients' needs, not their ability to pay. Today's policymakers should reaffirm that basic mission. Only by aligning innovation with the priorities of a civilized society can we finally take healthcare to the next frontier.

### **Mains Question**

**Q: Critically analyse the concept of electoral bonds; introduced in the Budget of 2017-18 for political funding**