



ASPIRE with RAM IAS

Weekly
Current Affairs
Compilation
for UPSC
TNPSC KPSC

Guiding Dreams, Empowering Future
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EXCLUSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN

India-Indonesia RELATIONS

Why in News?

- Prime Minister of India concluded a State Visit to Indonesia, strengthening the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2018).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Indonesia's highest civilian honour, the Bintang Adipurna, becoming the second Indian Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to receive this distinction.

Summary

- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership expanded across defence, maritime security, critical minerals, digital infrastructure, space, agriculture and people-to-people ties.
- Despite strategic convergence, challenges remain due to trade imbalance, palm oil dependence, China's economic influence and geopolitical differences.

Major Outcomes of the PM Visit

- Indonesia signed a USD 200 million

contract to procure two batteries of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system.

- Indonesia placed the first export order for India's Astra air-to-air missile system.

- MoU and Implementation Agreement on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation extended.
- Joint development of Sabang Port at the entrance of the Strait of Malacca to improve maritime surveillance and Indian Navy logistics.
- Leaders welcomed the 3rd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD).
- SAIL signed an agreement to establish a stainless-steel slab manufacturing facility in Indonesia.
- MoU signed for joint development of Rare Earth Magnets for EVs and advanced electronics.
- MoU on steel and mineral extraction technologies and resilient supply chains.
- Framework Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space extended.
- MoUs on Research, Technology, Innovation and Next Generation Telecommuni-



cations.

- CDSCO–Indonesia cooperation on medical regulation and health workforce collaboration.
- NDMA–Indonesia disaster management cooperation established.
- MoU on Agriculture and Allied Sectors; India to supply 100 tonnes of DWR-162 wheat seeds.
- Launch of Indonesia Open Network (ION) based on India's ONDC architecture.
- Indonesia to deploy Liaison Officer at IFC-IOR, Gurugram.
- India to assist restoration of Prambanan Temple Complex.

2026–27 declared Tagore–Dewan-tara Year of Cultural and Educational Diplomacy.

- ECI–KPU agreement for electoral best practices.
- IIM Bangalore to establish a campus at Singhasari SEZ, East Java.

India–Indonesia Bilateral Relations

- Civilisational links through Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam.
- Shared anti-colonial legacy leading to Bandung Conference (1955) and NAM (1961).
- Look East Policy evolved into Act East Policy; 75 years of diplomatic relations celebrated in 2024.
- Relationship elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018 with Shared Vision on Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- Indonesia is India's second-largest ASEAN trading partner; bilateral trade reached USD 28.15 billion (2024–25).
- India is the largest buyer of Indonesian crude palm oil and second-largest buyer of coal.
- India is the fifth-largest source of tourists to Indonesia.
- Defence cooperation through JDCC, Defence Ministers' Dialogue, IND-INDO CORPAT, Milan, Komodo, Garuda Shakti and Samudra Shakti.
- ISRO and BRIN operate Integrated Biak TTC facilities.
- Nalanda Copper Plate replica presented to strengthen cultural ties.
- Indonesia is a major ITEC partner; judicial capacity building continues.
- Indian diaspora: around 1,20,000 PIOs and 15,000 NRIs.

Strategic Significance



- Cornerstone of Act East Policy and SAGAR.
- Sabang Port enhances logistics near the Strait of Malacca and strengthens Indo-Pacific security.
- Defence exports and critical mineral cooperation diversify regional supply chains beyond China.
- Indonesia's leadership within ASEAN enhances India's engagement with Southeast Asia.

Challenges

- Different approaches to Quad and ASEAN Centrality.
- Indonesia's Bebas-Aktif foreign policy avoids anti-China alignments.
- China's dominant investment in infrastructure and nickel supply chains limits India's economic footprint.
- Trade imbalance driven by palm oil imports.
- Palm oil diversion to biofuels may affect India's edible oil security.
- Absence of CECA, underutilisation of AITIGA and non-tariff barriers restrict trade.

- Protectionist concerns over Indonesian imports such as Viscose Staple Fibre.

Way Forward

- Fast-track AITIGA review and explore a bilateral CECA.
- Develop joint ventures in nickel, rare earths and EV battery value chains.
- Operationalise Sabang Port through an SPV with assured financing.
- Align SAGAR with Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum while respecting Bebas-Aktif and ASEAN Centrality.
- Expand maritime capacity building, intelligence sharing and practical Indo-Pacific cooperation.

Conclusion

India–Indonesia relations have transformed into a multidimensional Comprehensive Strategic Partnership centred on defence, maritime security, critical minerals, digital cooperation, trade and cultural linkages. As two major Indo-Pacific democracies, deeper collaboration while respecting ASEAN Centrality and Indonesia's strategic autonomy will strengthen regional stability, resilient supply chains and India's Act East vision.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to ASEAN, consider the following statements:

1. Indonesia is the largest economy in ASEAN.
 2. India's Act East Policy gives central importance to ASEAN.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- **Answer: 1 and 2 only.**

VIKSIT BHARAT

Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025

Why in News

- VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 came into force on 1 July 2026 across rural India.
- It replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 after nearly two decades.
- It expands guaranteed employment, introduces infrastructure-led planning and aligns rural development with Viksit Bharat @2047.

Background

- Provides statutory guarantee of wage employment to eligible rural households willing to undertake unskilled manual work.
- Objectives: strengthen village economy, sustainable livelihoods, durable asset creation, climate resilience and digital governance.
- Evolution: Rural Manpower Programme (1960s) → Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (1971) → Jawahar Rozgar Yojana → Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana → Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act, 1977 → MGNREGA, 2005 → VB-G RAM G Act, 2025.
- Gram Panchayats remain the primary institutions for planning and implementation.

Major Features

- Guaranteed employment enhanced from 100 to 125 days.
- 60-day agricultural blackout during peak sowing and harvesting to protect farm labour availability.
- National statutory wage floor of ₹300/day.

What makes Viksit Bharat-G RAM G better than MGNREGA?

MGNREGA

100 days of wage employment per rural household

Multiple and scattered categories of works with limited strategic focus

Center bears unskilled wage costs, states bear unemployment allowance

No explicit statutory "pause window"

Demand based funding with unpredictable allocations

Gram Panchayat planning is central

Viksit Bharat-G RAM G

125 days of wage employment per rural household

4 clearly defined priority areas focusing on water security, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and climate resilience

State cost-sharing for wages, 60:40 for most states, 90:10 for certain special-category regions

States can notify up to 60 days in a FY when work will not be executed

Normative funding ensuring predictable budgeting while protecting the employment guarantee

Integrates institutionalised convergence and infrastructure planning

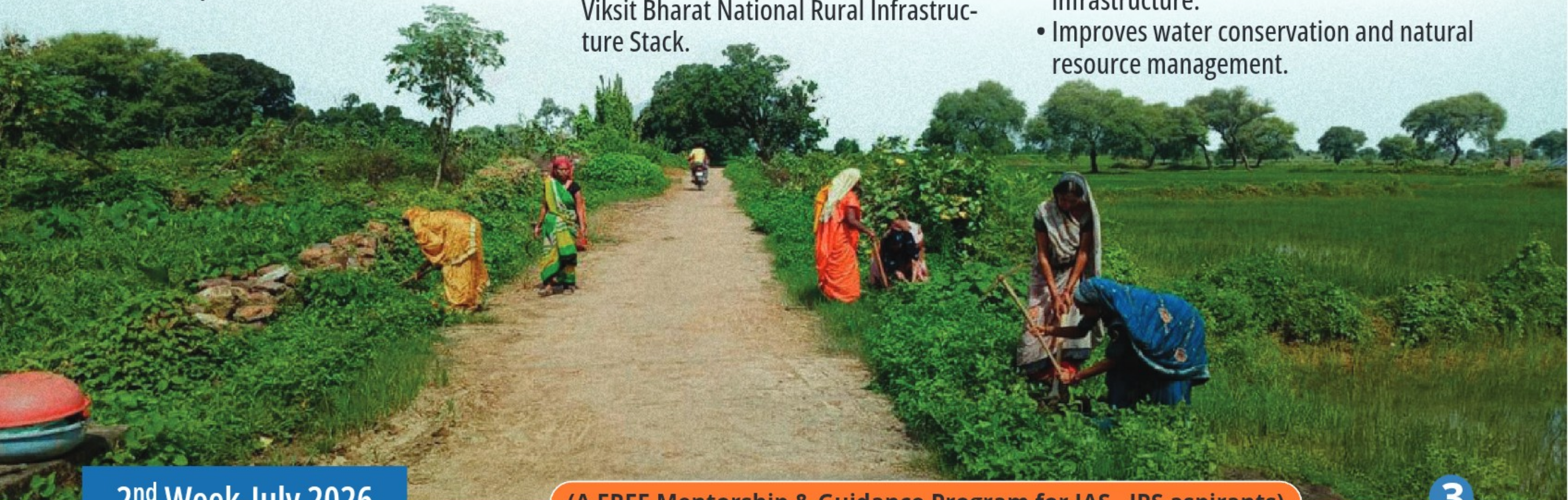
- Mandatory wage payment weekly or within 14 days.
- Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards introduced; existing e-KYC job cards valid during transition.
- Funding pattern: 60:40 Centre:State for normal States; 90:10 for Northeastern/Himalayan States and UTs with legislature; 100% Centre for UTs without legislature.
- Demand-driven allocation replaced by Normative Resource Allocation based on the 16th Finance Commission.
- Priority sectors: water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood infrastructure and climate resilience.
- Planning integrated with PM Gati Shakti through Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans.
- Assets digitally mapped through the Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack.

Why MGNREGA Needed Reform

- Fragmented and scattered asset creation.
- Frequent wage delays.
- Ghost beneficiaries and fake muster rolls.
- Poor quality assets and leakages.
- Uncertain expenditure under demand-driven funding.
- Changing rural economy with better digital connectivity and diversified livelihoods.

Significance

- Improves income security through 125-day guarantee.
- Creates durable productive rural infrastructure.
- Improves water conservation and natural resource management.



- Strengthens climate resilience.
- Encourages digital governance and transparency.
- Supports women through Self Help Groups.
- Aligns rural development with Viksit Bharat @2047.

Concerns

- States' fiscal burden may increase nearly six-fold due to revised funding.
- Normative allocation may weaken the legal right to work by imposing expenditure ceilings.
- Mandatory 60-day blackout may reduce income during droughts or crop failures.
- Greater centralisation may weaken the spirit of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
- Digital exclusion may affect elderly, disabled and remote workers.
- Regional wage disparities remain despite ₹300 wage floor.
- Pending MGNREGA liabilities exceeding ₹17,000 crore remain unresolved.

Way Forward

- Introduce fiscal compensation for States and strengthen cooperative federalism.
- Allow local flexibility in deciding agricultural blackout periods.
- Create a National Contingency Buffer Fund during disasters.
- Provide offline authentication where digital systems fail.

COMPARISON: MGNREGA VS VB-G RAM G

Aspect	MGNREGA	VB-G RAM G
Employment	100 days	125 days
Funding	Higher central wage support	60:40 funding (normal states)
Planning	Demand driven	Normative allocation
Focus	Employment	Employment + durable infrastructure
Technology	Limited	Digital infrastructure stack

- Strengthen Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat autonomy.
- Institutionalise independent social audits.
- Ensure technology supports inclusion instead of exclusion.

Constitutional & Governance Linkages

- Article 38: Promote social and economic justice.
- Article 39: Adequate livelihood.
- Article 41: Right to work within State capacity.
- 73rd Constitutional Amendment: Decentralised rural governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- 16th Finance Commission recommendations influence normative allocation.

Conclusion

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 represents a paradigm shift from welfare-oriented

employment generation to infrastructure-led rural transformation. Its long-term success depends on balancing fiscal sustainability, cooperative federalism, digital inclusion, local self-governance and the statutory right to work while creating resilient rural livelihoods.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims PYQ

Q. Among the following who are eligible to benefit from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act? (UPSC Prelims 2011)

- Adult members of only SC/ST households
- Adult members of BPL households
- Adult members of households of all backward communities
- Adult members of any household

Answer: (d)

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Why in News

- Recent policy discussions have focused on strengthening PMKSY for improving irrigation efficiency, water security and climate-resilient agriculture.
- PMKSY continues to support the goal of 'Har Khet Ko Pani' and 'More Crop Per Drop' through integrated water resource management.

Background

- Launched in 2015 to improve irrigation coverage and water-use efficiency.
- Nodal Ministries: Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and Department of Land Resources.
- Vision: Ensure every farm receives assured irrigation while promoting sustainable use of water.

Objectives

- Expand irrigation coverage to uncovered agricultural land.
- Improve water-use efficiency through micro-irrigation.
- Promote scientific water management and groundwater recharge.
- Reduce dependence on monsoon rainfall.
- Enhance agricultural productivity, cropping intensity and farmers' income.
- Conserve soil and water resources.

Major Components

- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP): Completion of major and medium irrigation projects.
- Har Khet Ko Pani: Creation of irriga-



tion infrastructure, repair and restoration of water bodies, groundwater development and command area expansion.

- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC): Promotion of drip and sprinkler irrigation, precision farming and efficient water use.
- Watershed Development Component (WDC-PMKSY): Soil conservation, rainwater harvesting, afforestation, pasture development and livelihood enhancement in rainfed areas.

Important Features

- Convergence of irrigation, agriculture and watershed programmes.
- Use of GIS, remote sensing and digital



monitoring.

- Promotion of community participation and Water User Associations.
- Climate-resilient agriculture through water conservation.
- Support for micro-irrigation under PMKSY.

Significance

- Improves irrigation potential and agricultural productivity.
- Reduces water wastage through efficient irrigation.
- Supports food security and farmer income.
- Enhances drought resilience and groundwater recharge.
- Generates rural employment through watershed activities.
- Promotes sustainable agriculture and resource conservation.

Achievements

- Expansion of micro-irrigation coverage across states.
- Completion of several long-pending irrigation projects.



- Improved command area development.
- Increased adoption of drip and sprinkler irrigation.
- Better watershed treatment in rainfed regions.

Challenges

- Uneven implementation among states.
- Groundwater over-extraction in several regions.
- High initial cost of micro-irrigation.
- Maintenance issues in irrigation infrastructure.
- Limited awareness among small and marginal farmers.
- Climate variability affecting water availability.

Way Forward

- Expand micro-irrigation with greater financial support.
- Strengthen participatory irrigation management.
- Integrate PMKSY with digital agriculture and precision farming.
- Promote crop diversification towards less water-intensive crops.
 - Enhance groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting.
 - Improve monitoring through

satellite and GIS technologies.

Constitutional & SDG Linkages

- Article 48: Scientific organisation of agriculture.
- Article 39(b): Equitable distribution of material resources.
- Supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Conclusion

PMKSY is India's flagship irrigation and water management programme that integrates infrastructure creation, efficient water use and watershed development. Its long-term success depends on stronger Centre-State coordination, wider adoption of micro-irrigation, community participation and climate-resilient water governance to ensure sustainable agricultural growth.

Prelims PYQ

Q. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), consider the following statements:

1. 'Per Drop More Crop' promotes efficient irrigation practices.
 2. PMKSY aims to improve irrigation coverage and water-use efficiency.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

16th India–Japan Annual Summit 2026

Why in News

- 16th India–Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi (1–3 July 2026) between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.
- The summit strengthened the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership with emphasis on economic security, defence, technology and resilient supply chains.

Background

- India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership.
- Both countries cooperate in defence, infrastructure, connectivity, Indo-Pacific security, trade, clean energy, technology and people-to-people exchanges.

Major Outcomes

- Joint Declaration on Economic Security covering semiconductors, critical minerals, AI, ICT and clean energy.
- First India–Japan defence co-development project: Naval Radio Antenna System.
- Next Generation Mobility Partnership Framework for railways, automotive, aviation and sustainable mobility.
- Expanded cooperation on hydrogen, renewable energy and green manufacturing.
- Supply-chain resilience through cooperation on semiconductors, APIs and critical



- minerals.
- Support for establishment of 1,000 biogas and organic fertilizer plants in India.
- Enhanced cooperation in space research, geological surveys and mineral exploration.
- Greater educational, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Analysis

- Economic security is now a strategic pillar of bilateral relations.
- Partnership supports resilient global supply chains and reduces dependence on single-country sourcing.
- Defence cooperation shifts from buyer-seller relationship to co-development and co-production.
- Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India and Indo-Pacific stability.

Economic & Strategic Importance

- Likely increase in Japanese investments.
- Technology transfer and skill development.
- Growth in semiconductor ecosystem and advanced manufacturing.
- Strengthened maritime security and regional stability.

Challenges

- Complex semiconductor supply chains.
- Need for stable policy and faster project clearances.
- Technology security and export control concerns.
- Legal limitations on Japanese defence exports.

Way Forward

- Fast-track implementation mechanism.
- Expand joint R&D and skill development.
- Strengthen critical mineral partnerships.
- Harmonise technology and data-security standards.

Conclusion

- The 16th India–Japan Annual Summit 2026 represents a major step in transforming bilateral relations into a comprehensive strategic partnership centred on economic security, resilient supply chains, advanced technology, clean energy and defence co-development. It strengthens India's manufacturing ambitions while reinforcing regional stability and a rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Prelims PYQ (Related)

Q. With reference to India–Japan relations, consider the following statements:

1. The 16th India–Japan Annual Summit adopted a Joint Declaration on Economic Security.
2. India and Japan agreed on their first defence co-development project.
3. The Summit resulted in a mutual defence treaty requiring military assistance.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only.



Why in News

- Kisan Sarathi Platform has gained importance as a digital agriculture initiative to provide integrated advisory services to farmers.
- It supports the Digital Agriculture Mission by improving farmers' access to scientific information, government schemes and expert guidance.

Background

- Kisan Sarathi is a unified digital platform developed to provide timely, reliable and location-specific agricultural information.
- It connects farmers with experts from ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), agricultural universities and government departments.
- The platform aims to bridge the information gap between research institutions and farmers.

Objectives

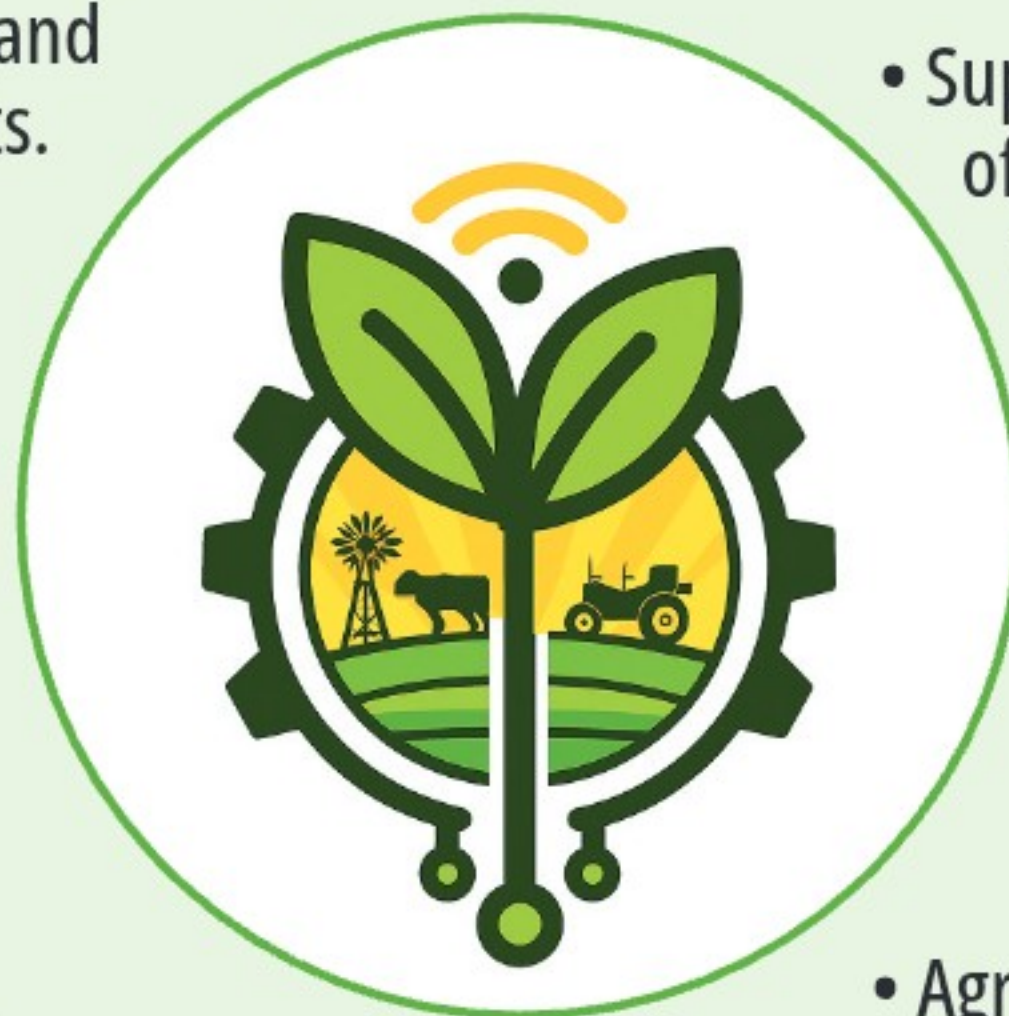
- Provide one-stop digital access to agricultural information.
- Deliver real-time crop advisories and weather information.
- Promote scientific farming and sustainable agriculture.
- Improve awareness about Central and State agricultural schemes.
- Increase farmers' income through informed decision-making.
- Strengthen digital inclusion in agriculture.

Major Features

- Single digital interface for agricultural services.
- Crop-wise and location-specific advisories.
- Weather forecasts and agro-meteorological guidance.
- Information on pest and disease management.
- Market price information to support better marketing decisions.
- Details of government schemes, subsidies and financial assistance.
- Direct interaction with agricultural experts.
- Multilingual support for wider accessibility.
- Integration with KVKs and agricultural institutions.

Institutional Framework

Kisan Sarathi Platform



- Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- Technical support from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras act as field-level knowledge centres.
- Agricultural universities contribute research-based recommendations.

Significance

- Reduces information asymmetry in agriculture.
- Encourages adoption of modern technologies.
- Supports climate-smart agriculture.
- Improves productivity and resource-use efficiency.
- Promotes digital governance in agriculture.
- Helps small and marginal farmers access expert advice.
- Strengthens the goal of doubling farmers' income through knowledge-based farming.

Benefits

- Quick access to reliable agricultural information.
- Better crop planning using weather forecasts.
- Reduced crop losses through timely pest advisories.
- Improved market awareness and price discovery.



- Easy access to government welfare programmes.
- Higher productivity through scientific farming practices.

Challenges

- Digital divide in rural areas.
- Low digital literacy among some farmers.
- Internet connectivity issues in remote regions.
- Need for regular updating of advisory content.
- Language and regional customization challenges.
- Awareness regarding the platform remains limited.

Way Forward

- Expand broadband connectivity in rural India.
- Strengthen digital literacy programmes.
- Increase integration with Digital Public Infrastructure.
- Use Artificial Intelligence for personalized advisories.
- Promote farmer awareness through Panchayats and FPOs.
- Improve multilingual and offline access.

Conclusion

The Kisan Sarathi Platform represents an important step towards technology-driven agricultural extension by bringing scientific knowledge, government services and digital advisories onto a single platform. Its success depends on expanding digital infrastructure, improving farmer awareness and ensuring inclusive access so that every farmer benefits from timely, accurate and location-specific information.

Prelims Question

Q. With reference to the Kisan Sarathi Platform, consider the following statements:

1. It provides integrated digital agricultural advisory services to farmers.
2. It connects farmers with experts from ICAR and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
3. It is intended to improve scientific farming and awareness of government schemes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 only

Answer: (c)

Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA)

Why in the News?

- Recent discussions on Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) have highlighted the rapid expansion of India's digital health ecosystem under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- The initiative aims to provide every citizen with a secure digital health identity and improve continuity of healthcare through consent-based sharing of medical records.
- The topic is important for UPSC because it relates to digital governance, health infrastructure, e-governance, public policy and Digital Public Infrastructure.

Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA)

- ABHA is a 14-digit unique digital health identifier created under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- It links an individual's health records through a secure digital ecosystem.
- It is free to create and is not a health insurance card.

Meaning and Purpose

- Acts as a lifelong digital health identity.
- Links prescriptions, laboratory reports, discharge summaries and treatment history.
- Promotes portable, paperless and connected healthcare.
- Improves continuity of treatment across hospitals and states.

How ABHA Works

- Generated through the ABDM platform.
- Health information is shared only with informed consent of the individual.
- Enables secure exchange of records among verified hospitals, laboratories, doctors and healthcare providers.
- Creates a Personal Health Record (PHR) accessible whenever required.

Major Features

- Unique 14-digit identifier.



- Consent-based data sharing.
- Digital record storage and retrieval.
- Portability across healthcare providers.
- Reduced paperwork and repeated diagnostic tests.

Importance

- Improves quality and continuity of healthcare.
- Supports faster diagnosis through access to previous medical records.
- Reduces duplication of investigations.
- Strengthens Universal Health Coverage.
- Enhances efficiency of healthcare delivery and public health management.

Relationship with ABDM

- ABHA is one of the foundational building blocks of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
- ABDM creates India's digital health infrastructure while ABHA provides the digital identity enabling record linkage.
- Supports secure, interoperable and standardised health data exchange.

Benefits

- Easy access to health records.
- Better clinical decision-making by doctors.
- Convenience for migrant population and rural citizens.
- Improved transparency and digital governance.

- Better monitoring and planning of public health programmes.

Challenges

- Protection of sensitive personal health data.
- Cybersecurity and privacy concerns.
- Digital divide and limited internet access in remote areas.
- Need for higher digital literacy.
- Wider adoption by hospitals and healthcare providers remains essential.

Conclusion

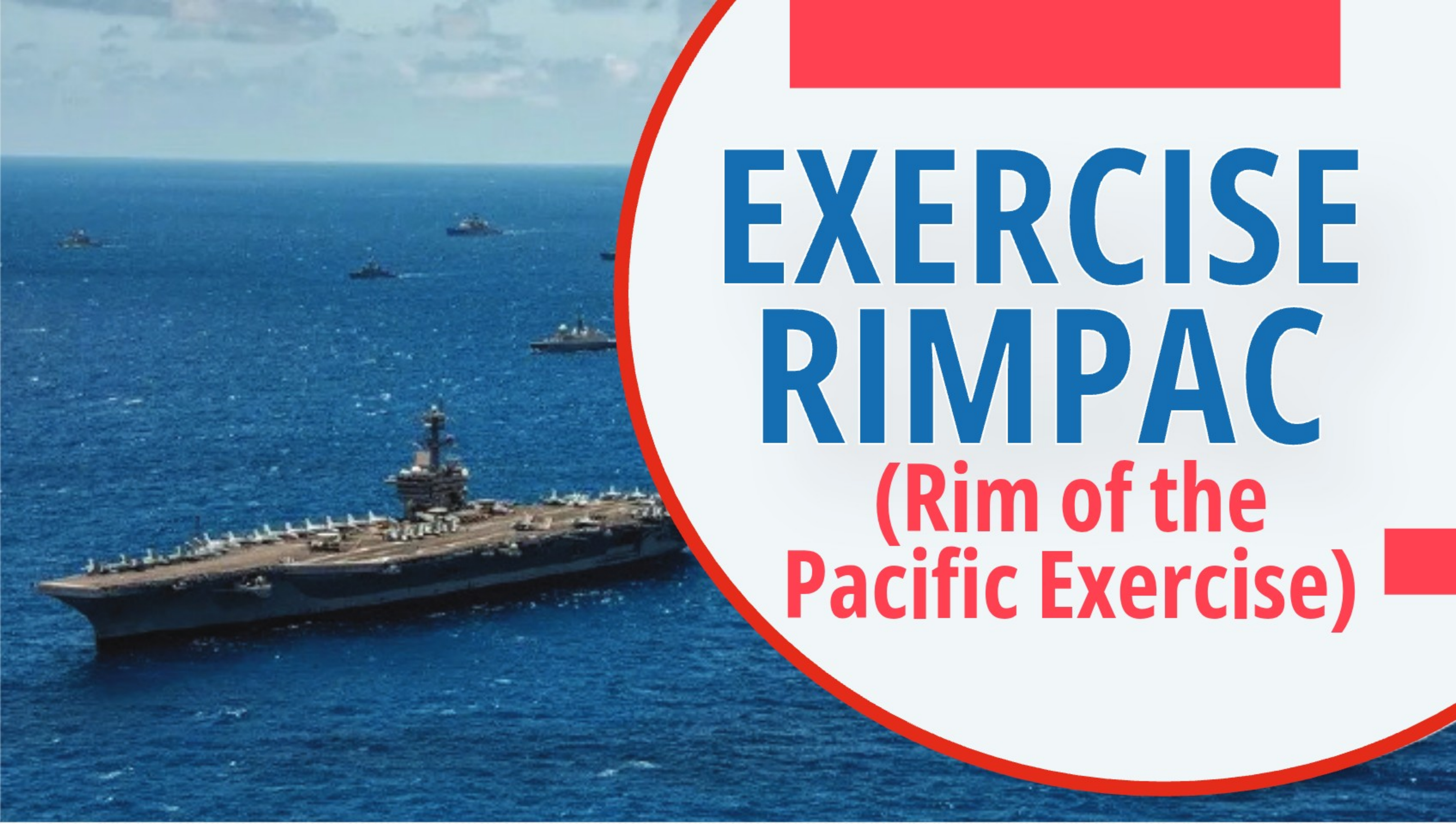
Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts represent a major step towards building an integrated, citizen-centric digital healthcare ecosystem in India. By ensuring secure, consent-based and portable health records, ABHA can improve healthcare delivery, reduce administrative burden and strengthen Universal Health Coverage. Continued focus on privacy, cybersecurity and digital inclusion will determine its long-term success.

Prelims Practice Question

With reference to Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), consider the following statements:

- It is a 14-digit unique health identifier.
 - It is an integral component of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
 - Health records can be shared without the user's consent.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

Answer: 1 & 2 only



EXERCISE RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise)

Why in News

- India participated in Exercise RIMPAC 2026.
- RIMPAC is the world's largest multinational naval exercise and strengthens Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation.

About RIMPAC

- Organised biennially by the United States Navy.
- Conducted in and around Hawaii.
- Started in 1971.
- Focuses on interoperability and maritime security.
- RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise) is the world's largest multinational naval exercise, hosted every two years by the United States Pacific Fleet around Hawaii. RIMPAC does not have permanent members. Countries participate only when they are invited.

RIMPAC 2026 Participating Countries (30)

1. Australia
1. Brunei
3. Canada
4. Chile
5. Colombia
6. Denmark
7. Fiji
8. Germany
9. Greece
10. Guatemala
11. India
11. Indonesia

13. Israel
14. Italy
15. Japan
16. Malaysia
17. Mexico
18. Netherlands
19. New Zealand
20. Peru
21. Philippines
21. Poland
23. Republic of Korea (South Korea)
24. Singapore
25. Spain
26. Sri Lanka
27. Thailand
28. Tonga
29. United Kingdom
30. United States

- **Easy mnemonic to remember the 30 RIMPAC 2026 participating countries :** "All Brave Canadians Chase Clever Dolphins; Friendly Germans Grow Great Ideas. Indians Invite Israelis Into Japan. Many Mexicans Need New Peruvian Pineapples. Smart Spanish Students Take The United States."

Objectives

- Improve interoperability.
- Enhance maritime domain awareness.
- Conduct anti-submarine, air defence, amphibious and HADR exercises.
- Promote a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

India's Participation

- Indian Navy participates with frontline assets including P-8I aircraft.
- Improves operational capability and defence diplomacy.

Importance

- Supports SAGAR vision.
- Strengthens Indo-Pacific partnerships.
- Enhances maritime security and freedom of navigation.
- Supports disaster relief cooperation.

Challenges

- Strategic competition.
- Technology protection.
- Supply-chain and cyber threats.

Way Forward

- Expand naval cooperation.
- Strengthen indigenous capability.
- Promote international maritime law including UNCLOS.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Which statements are correct regarding RIMPAC?

1. It is the world's largest multinational naval exercise.
 2. It is hosted by the United States Navy.
 3. It is conducted every year.
- Options: (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1,2,3 (d) 1 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only.

Why in the News?

- Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare organised a National Multis-takeholder Consultation in New Delhi on World Zoonoses Day (6 July).
- Discussion focused on the draft National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses based on the One Health Approach.
- The consultation aimed to strengthen coordinated action among human health, animal health and environmental sectors.

World Zoonoses Day

- Observed every year on 6 July.
- Commemorates Louis Pasteur's suc-cessful administration of the first rabies vaccine in 1885.
- Theme (2026): "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses."

Major Outcomes

- Draft National Action Plan will provide a strategic framework for prevention and control of zoonotic diseases.
- States and Union Territories will prepare context-specific State Action Plans based on local ecological and epidemiological conditions.
- Learning Resource Package launched covering 10 priority zoonotic diseases: Anthrax, Brucellosis, Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), Crimean-Congo Haem-orrhagic Fever (CCHF), Nipah, Mpox, Rabies, Leptospirosis, Scrub Typhus and Zika.
- Specialised e-learning modules intro-duced for healthcare workers, veterinari-ans and frontline personnel.
- Expansion of sentinel surveillance and real-time cross-sectoral data sharing through IHIP 2.0 emphasised.
- NCDC to lead integrated disease surveillance, risk communication and inter-ministerial coordination.

Zoonotic Diseases

- Zoonoses are infectious diseases nat-urally transmitted between vertebrate animals and humans.
- They may be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites or fungi.

Modes of Transmission

- Direct contact: saliva, blood, urine or faeces of infected animals (Rabies).
- Indirect contact: contaminated environ-ments or surfaces.
- Vector-borne: mosquitoes, ticks or fleas (KFD, Scrub Typhus, Zika).
- Food-borne: contaminated meat,

World Zoonoses Day



unpasteurised milk or water (Anthrax, Brucellosis).

One Health Approach

- Recognises the interconnected health of humans, animals and the environment.
- Promotes joint surveillance, early warning systems, coordinated outbreak response and multidisciplinary collabora-tion.
- Essential to address emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance and pandemic preparedness.

Challenges

- Weak surveillance in some regions.
- Human-animal interface due to } deforestation and urbanisation.
- Climate change increasing vector distribution.
- Need for stronger laboratory capacity and inter-sectoral coordination.

Way Forward

- Implement the National Action Plan through State Action Plans.
- Strengthen One Health governance.
- Improve surveillance using IHIP 2.0.

- Promote public awareness, vaccination and food safety.
- Enhance collaboration among Health, Animal Husbandry and Environment Ministries.

Conclusion

World Zoonoses Day highlights the growing importance of preventing dis-eases transmitted between animals and humans. India's proposed National Action Plan based on the One Health Approach will strengthen surveillance, prepared-ness, inter-sectoral coordination and public health resilience, making it highly relevant for UPSC Prelims and Mains.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to the One Health Approach, consider the following statements:

1. It integrates human, animal and environmental health.
2. It is useful for preventing zoonotic diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Answer: 1 and 2 only

