



# PLUTUS ACADEMY

Argasia Education PVT.Ltd.(GST NO-09AAPCA1478E1ZH)  
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold  
Building gate, Sector 2, Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh  
201301, CONTACT NO- 8448440231

**CONTENT BY - JITHIN LAL VJ**  
**GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY**

## ***1. Defence Minister releases new Defence Acquisition Procedure***

***The Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh released a new Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020. It has special incentives for products that are designed and developed by Indian vendors. Also, the procedure includes a manufacturing category that encourages foreign investors and manufacturers to set up manufacturing facilities in the country.***

### ***Key Highlights***

***The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020 replaces the procedure that was released in 2016. The 2020 DAP hosts new ideas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), special alloys and Made in India high end materials. Under the procedure, the following categories are to be exclusively reserved for Indian vendors***

- ***Buy (Indian-IDDM)***
- ***Make in India I and II***
- ***Production Agency in Design and Development***
- ***Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Unit.***

### ***Key Features***

- ***Indigenous Content of various categories has been increased by 10%. This has been done to support the Make in India initiative.***
- ***New Category called Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) has been introduced. The items under this category will hold a minimum of 50% indigenous content on cost basis of total contract value.***
- ***Another new category called “Leasing” has been introduced to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments.***
- ***Price Variation Clause has been introduced. This is applicable to all cases where the total cost of the contract is more than Rs 1,000 crores.***

- *Also, the new procedure provides a long-term product support that would be between three and five years after the warranty period is over.*

### **What is Defence Acquisition Procedure?**

*It contains processes that should be followed by the Government entities while procuring defence items. It is framed to simplify defence procurement procedure and to achieve the objective of self-reliance. Also, the procedure aims to promote indigenous design and manufacturing of defence weapons in a time bound manner.*

*The first Defence Acquisition Procedure was promulgated in 2002. Since then it has been revised several times to provide impetus growth to domestic industries and also to achieve self-reliance.*

**2. The Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched a vaccine portal for COVID-19. The portal aims to create awareness among masses.**

### **Highlights**

- *The portal will provide vaccine related information. This will include efforts made in India towards vaccine development against COVID-19.*
- *Alongside, the Minister also launched a history timeline of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) displaying key milestones and programme interventions. The timeline depicted 108 year journey of the council. Also, a history book was launched on the 100-year journey of ICMR.*
- *The Minister also launched a data collection programme called "Mapping of nutrition and health status". The programme will collect data on dietary intake through crowdsourcing approach.*
- *A report titled "What India Eats" was also released. The report provided information about dietary patterns in India. This is important for the policy makers to understand the distribution of diet among various populations.*
- *The All India Institute of Medical Sciences launched a National Clinical Registry for COVID-19. It will collect data and will inform research and clinical experts and also those formulating guidelines and policy.*
- *ICMR-NIN portal was launched. It is the first of its kind that was developed to collect data about COVID-19. Earlier, a similar portal was used to provide E-learning modules. The modules focused on food fortification, anaemia, nutrition, yoga, etc.*

### **About the Portal**

**The portal will be available on the site of ICMR. Initially, the portal is to be used to provide information about COVID-19 vaccines. Slowly, it is to be extended to all the other vaccines. Three vaccines are under clinical trial in India. They are as follows**

- **COVAXIN developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited which is at second phase of human trial**
- **COVISHIELD developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India is under phase III of clinical trial**
- **Zyodus Cadila developed a vaccine that is under the process of receiving approval to conduct a third phase of clinical trials.**

### **3. Govt releases "Health in India" report**

**The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation recently released a report titled "Health in India". The main objective of the report was to gather quantitative information on India's health sector.**

#### **Highlights**

**The report highlighted the health of religious communities in the country.**

#### **Key Findings of the Report**

**The report said that around 7.5% of Indians suffered from ailments. In rural India, around 6.8% suffered from ailments. In Urban India, the numbers were 9.1%.**

**Among all the religions, the Zoroastrians were the most susceptible to ailments. According to the National Sample Survey that was released in July 2020, around 31.1% of Zoroastrians reported that they suffered from ailments. The percentage of people sick in other communities were as follows**

- **Jains: 11.2%**
- **Sikhs: 11%**
- **Christians: 10.5%**
- **Muslims: 8.1%**
- **Buddhists: 8%**
- **Hindus: 7.2%**

**The survey has also found that women remained more susceptible to suffering than men. In rural India. Around 6.1% of males were suffering from ailments and 7.6% of rural women were suffering from ailments. On the other hand, in urban areas, 8.2% of males were sick and 10% of females were sick. This shows that in both urban and rural areas a greater number of females suffered from ailments as compared to men.**

#### **Ailment**

*The survey defines ailment as a deviation faced by the person in his or her physical well being.*

### **Background**

*The report has been prepared based on the information provided by the NSS Schedule 25.0 (Household Consumption: Health). The data was collected through a sample survey. It surveyed 1.13 households including 5.55 lakh people.*

### **Significance of religion in health**

*The relation between health and religion is highly important. This is because religious practices help reduce the likelihood of certain diseases. Also, studies suggest that religious practices mainly guard against blood pressure and help to increase the immune system of the human body.*

## **4.India's Sandalwood trees facing serious threats from Sandalwood Spike Disease**

*The Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD) has infected several aromatic sandalwood trees in Kerala and Karnataka. This was founded based on the study by Institute of Wood Science and Technology.*

### **Highlights**

*According to the study, the sandalwood trees in Marayoor forests of Kerala and several other forest regions in Karnataka are heavily infected with SSD. The disease is caused by bacterial parasites that are transmitted by insect vectors. Currently there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease.*

*Every year, around 1% to 5% of sandalwood trees are lost in India due to the disease. Currently, there is fear that delay in controlling the disease may spread to cultivated sandalwood trees as well.*

### **SSD**

*The disease was first reported in 1899 in Kodagu. Between 1903 and 1916 around million sandalwood trees were removed in Mysore region due to the disease. The Maharaja of Mysuru thus announced a reward of Rs 10,000 for those who find a remedy to the disease.*

*Following this, between 1980 and 2000 the number of sandalwood trees in the state of Karnataka reduced by 25% of usual growing stock. This forced the International Union of Conservation of Nature to declare Sandalwood as "Vulnerable".*

### **Background**

*The current spread of the disease is mainly due to the restrictions on green felling in forests. The restrictions allow the vectors to spread the disease to healthy trees as well. The production of sandalwood in India has greatly reduced from 4,000 tonnes in 1930s to mere 300 tonnes now. The price of sandalwood trees has increased from Rs 12,000 per kg to Rs 29,500 per kg.*

*In 1792, Tippu Sultan declared Sandalwood tree as the "Royal Tree of Mysore". This shows that India has been a traditional leader of sandalwood production. India exported sandalwood oil since 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Unfortunately, the trees are under great threat over a long period of time.*

## **5. September 28: World Rabies Day**

*Every year, World Rabies Day is celebrated on September 28 by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control. The day is also celebrated by the World Health Organization and other international organizations.*

### **Background**

*The day was endorsed by international organizations such as Pan American Health Organization, World Organization for Animal Health, WHO and the USA Centres for disease control and prevention.*

### **Highlights**

*The day is marked on the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur who developed the first rabies vaccine. The day aims to create awareness about the impact of rabies on animals and humans. Also, the day focuses on providing information and advice on preventing the disease.*

*The first World Rabies Campaign took place in 2007. In 2009, it reached to more than 100 countries. By then the message had reached 100 million people and more than 3 million dogs were vaccinated.*

*This year the World Rabies Day is celebrated under the theme*

*Theme: Vaccination and Collaboration*

### **GARC**

*The main aim of Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) is to prevent human deaths from dog-mediated rabies. It aims to eliminate such deaths completely by 2030.*

### **Rabies in India**

*India accounts for 36% of rabies death in the world. This is mainly because of insufficient dog vaccines and poor awareness. India launched the National Rabies*

**Control Programme to control the disease in the country. The Programme has two components namely the animal component and the human component. Under the animal component, the following are being carried out**

- **Mass Vaccination of dogs**
- **Management of dog population**
- **Population survey of dogs**

**Under the human component, the following are carried on**

- **Laboratory strengthening**
- **Training of health professionals**
- **Strengthening of surveillance of human rabies**

**Every year, more than 20,000 people die of rabies in India. This is because, India has more than 30 million stray dogs that cause 96% of rabies in human**

### **About Rabies**

**Rabies is a viral disease caused by Encephalomyelitis in all warm-blooded animals.**

## **6. India pays homage to Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary**

**India paid homage to Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary. Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.**

### **About Bhagat Singh**

**Bhagat Singh was an Indian Socialist revolutionary who shot 21-year old British Police officer John Saunders in Lahore.**

### **Background**

**In 1928, Simon Commission was set up by the British Government. As no Indians were given membership in the commission, certain political parties boycotted the commission. To protest against the commission, Lala Lajpat Rai led a march. James Scott ordered a lathi charge against the protest and Rai was injured badly. Later he died of heart attack. Doctors said that his death hastened due to the injuries.**

**Bhagat Singh was a prominent member of HSRA (Hindustan Socialist Republican Association). HSRA was founded by Chandrasekhar Azad. He vowed to avenge Rai's death.**

### **HSRA**

**In 1920, the Non-Cooperation movement was launched against British rule. The movement was suspended by Gandhiji after the Chauri Chaura incident. This created a political vacuum in the country. Several movements arose all over India against British rule. One such strong was the HSRA. HSRA created two bomb factories. One of the**

**bomb factories at Ferozpur has been declared a national monument by the Government of Punjab.**

### **Chauri Chaura incident**

**It took place in Gorakhpur. On February 4, 1922, a large group of protestors participating in the Non-Cooperation Movement clashed with police. The police opened fire and in return the protestors attacked the police station killing its occupants.**

### **Simon Commission**

**The Simon Commission was set up under Government of India Act, 1919. The Commission was a group of seven MPs who were sent to India in 1928 to study and recommend constitutional reforms. It was headed by Sir John Simon.**

**The Commission recommended abolition of diarchy. Also, it recommended representative governments in the provinces. The commission led to Government of India Act, 1935.**

## **7.CAG Report: Gujarat Tree Cover shrank between 2006 and 2017**

**The Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) recently submitted its reports at both the houses of the parliaments. According to the report, forest cover in Gujarat decreased between 2006 and 2017.**

### **Highlights**

**The report says that the tree cover in the state was 8,390 square kilometres. It shrank to 6,910 kilo metres in 2017. According to the report, tree cover includes exclusive forest cover and tree patches outside the forest area. The total forest cover in the country is 21.67%. Of this, Gujarat contributes 7.57%. The forest cover in the country increased from 690.90 thousand square kilometres to 712.25 thousand square kilometres**

### **What is the issue according to CAG?**

**Forest Cover in India includes lands more than one hectare with tree canopy density of more than 10% irrespective of legal status and ownership rights. According to the report, the Indian State of Forest Report said that the forest cover in the state increased to 14,860 square kilometres. However, the tree cover in the state has decreased. This is contradictory.**

### **Indian State Forest Report, 2019**

**The Indian State Forest Report is released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It is a biennial publication. It assessed the tree cover, forest cover, carbon stock, forest fires and bamboo resources. For the first time in 2019, the report assessed the qualitative nature of forest cover. This was done by including biodiversity**



*listings and types of trees and plants found. Previously the report was generated in 2017.*

*The total carbon stock was estimated at 7124 million tonnes. The total wetland region increased to 8.13%. Gujarat has the largest area of wetlands according to the report followed by West Bengal.*

*Maharashtra had the highest increase in tree cover in 2019. The forest cover in the north-east region declined in 2019. Around 765 square kilometres of forest cover decreased in the region except for Tripura and Assam.*

## **8. Govt to increase public health care expenditure from 1.15% to 2.5% by 2025**

*The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that the Government of India is to increase the health care expenditure in the country by 2.5% of GDP by 2025.*

*Currently, the government is spending 1.15% of GDP to fulfil health care needs.*

### **Highlights**

*The increase is being done based on the recommendation of the fifteenth finance commission high-level group. The information of increase was provided by the minister during his "Sunday Samvaad".*

### **Sunday Samvaad**

*It is an interactive programme of Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan with the social media users. During the programme, the minister answers to questions raised by several social media users.*

### **Background**

*The National Health Policy, 2017 targeted the increase in public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP. The pandemic has established a need to hasten the process. Also, there is an urgent need to strengthen the public health sector, public health management, prevent and promote health care with special focus on urban health.*

### **Why should India increase the expenditure?**

*India is more vulnerable to epidemics as compared to Italy and China where the pandemic was at its peak. India ranked 57<sup>th</sup> in Global Health Security rank. India's spending on health is the lowest as compared to other advanced economies.*

### **Challenges**

*In India, the health expenditure is driven by the states. This is because Health is state subject. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme has been relaunched multiple times as it struggles for manpower and resources. The programme is considered to be the first line of defence against epidemics in India.*



**The Health Management Information System that was set up to plug the data gaps lags to maintain physical records according to CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) report, 2017.**

**The health expenditure in the country is not up to the need. Only 7% is spent on preventive health care and 80% on treatment and cure.**

## **9. International Day for Universal Access to Information**

**Every year, the United Nations celebrates International Day for Universal Access to Information on September 28. This year the day focuses on the right to information in the times of crisis.**

### **Highlights**

**The day is celebrated to highlight the advantages of having statutory, constitutional policies to provide public access to information and build trust.**

### **Programmes under United Nations**

**The UNESCO has launched the Information for All Programme and International Programme for Development of Communication to provide a platform to make sure all the stakeholders participate in the international discussions in the area of access to information.**

### **Background**

**The day was declared by UNESCO in 2015. It was then called "Access to Information Day". Later after several international organizations and civil societies celebrated the day, it was adopted by the United Nations as well.**

**The day was celebrated as "International Right to Know Day" from 2002 until UNESCO adopted it with a different name.**

### **Right to Information in India**

**In India, it is governed by the Right to Information Act, 2005. It was replaced by the Freedom of Information Act, 2002. The following are the key features of the act**

- **Right to Information means the right to access information held by public authority. This includes inspection of work, documents and records; taking certified samples; taking extracts, notes or copies of documents or records, obtaining information from floppies, diskettes, tapes or other electronic devices.**
  - **Public Authority is an institution or body that was established under constitution or by law made by parliament of state legislature or NGOs that are funded directly or indirectly by Gol and bodies owned and financed substantially.**

- ***Under the act, if the information sought concerns life of a person, then it has to be provided within 48 hours.***
- ***The act provides appointment of Information Commissioners***

### ***Jammu and Kashmir***

***The act was earlier not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. It was governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act, 2009. However, in October 2019, the Gol had written to the J&K Information Commission to transit J&K RTI, 2009 act to Centre's RTI act. This is still pending before the commission. The centre has also requested to transfer the complaints and appeals pending before the J&K Information Commission to the Central Information Commission.***