

27 MARCH 2019

New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019

In news:

The Union Health Ministry notified New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. The aim is to promote clinical research in India, have predictable, transparent and effective regulations for such trials and also make faster accessibility of new drugs to the Indian population.”

Highlights of the rules:

- Patients will be enlisted for trials with informed consent to ensure safety. The ethics committee will monitor the trials and decide on the amount of compensation in cases of adverse events.
- Compensation in cases of death and permanent disability or other injuries to a trial subject will be decided by the Drug Controller General
- In case of injury to a clinical trial subject, medical management will be provided as long as required as per the opinion of the investigator or till such time it is established that the injury is not related to the clinical trial.
- Disposal of clinical trial applications by way of approval or rejection or seeking further information within 90 days for drugs developed outside India.
- However, in case of an application for conducting a clinical trial of a new drug or investigational new drug as part of discovery, research and manufacture in India, the application is to be disposed of within 30 days.
- In case of no communication from DCGI, the application will be deemed to have been approved, the rules stated.
- The requirement of a local clinical trial may be waived for approval of a new drug if it is approved and marketed in any of the countries to be specified by the DCG with the approval of government from time to time and certain other conditions.

Studying animal sounds for conservation

In news:

Aimed at building capacity among Indian researchers to study bioacoustics, the 10-day workshop was conducted at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati.

In brief:

Bioacoustics is the study of how humans and other animals use sound and acoustical perception, and how their various acoustical adaptations reflect their relationships with their habitat and surroundings. The field is still in its nascent stages in India.

Though many Indian researchers are interested in studying bioacoustics, the lack of any training available in the country has been a problem.

Sharda peeth corridor

Why in news?

Pakistan approves plan to open Sharda Temple corridor in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) for Hindu pilgrims.

Note



In Brief :

- Established in 237 B.C. during the reign of Emperor Ashoka, the 5,000 year-old Sharda Peeth is an abandoned temple and ancient centre of learning dedicated to the Hindu goddess of learning.
- Between the 6th and 12th centuries C.E, Sharda Peeth was one of the foremost temple universities of the Indian subcontinent.
- The Sharda Peeth corridor, when opened, will be the second religious tract after Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan-controlled territory that will connect the two neighbouring nations.



Global energy transition index

Why in news?

India ranks 76th on WEF’s global Energy Transition index
Sweden tops the list.

In Brief :

- World Economic Forum said India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.
- China is ranked even lower than India at 82nd position.
- Despite its low ranking, India is the second best in the BRICS block of emerging economies, with Brazil being the best at 46th place globally.
- The World Economic Forum said its index considers both the current state of the countries’ energy system and their structural readiness to adapt to future energy needs.



Top 10 Countries

Energy Transition Index 2019¹

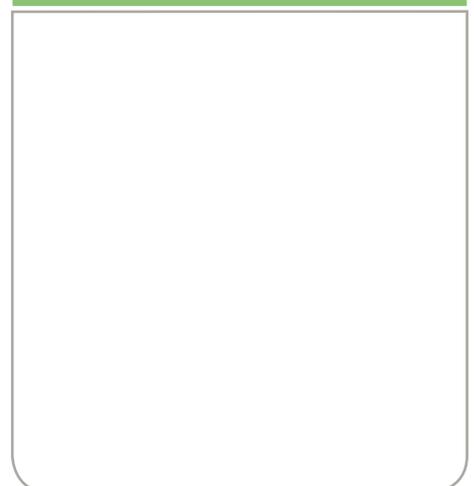
	Score	Rank
Sweden	74.9%	1
Switzerland	74.3%	2
Norway	73.4%	3
Finland	73.0%	4
Denmark	72.2%	5
Austria	70.7%	6
United Kingdom	70.2%	7
France	68.6%	8
Netherlands	68.5%	9
Iceland	68.5%	10

Note 1: The Energy Transition Index benchmarks countries on the performance of their energy system, as well as their readiness for transition to a secure, sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy future. ETI 2019 score on a scale from 0 to 100%.
Source: Fostering Effective Energy Transition Report 2019, World Economic Forum

India’s carbon dioxide emissions up 5%

1. India emitted 2,299 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2018, a 4.8% rise from last year, according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
2. India’s emissions growth this year was higher than that of the United States and China — the two biggest emitters in the world — and this was primarily due to a rise in coal consumption.
3. China, the United States, and India together accounted for nearly 70% of the rise in energy demand.
4. India’s per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average and contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden. The United States, the largest emitter, was responsible for 14%.
5. As per its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India has promised to reduce the emissions intensity of its economy by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

Note



Dark trend

The consumption of coal saw a significant rise in India, compared to the United States and China



	Coal primary energy demand (Mtce)	Growth rate (%)
	2018	2017-2018
United States	451	-4.5%
China	2,771	1%
India	600	5%
Europe	462	-2.6%
Rest of the World	1,113	1.4%
WORLD	5,397	0.7%

Source: IEA

- It has also committed to having 40% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030 and, as part of this, install 100 GW of solar power by 2022.
- However the IEA report, showed that India's energy intensity improvement declined 3% from last year even as its renewable energy installations increased 10.6% from last year.
- Global energy consumption in 2018 increased at nearly twice the average rate of growth since 2010, driven by a robust global economy and higher heating and cooling needs in some parts of the world.
- The United States had the largest increase in oil and gas demand worldwide. Gas consumption jumped 10% from the previous year, the fastest increase since the beginning of IEA records in 1971.
- India needs at least \$2.5trillion (Rs. 150 trillion approx.) to implement its climate pledge, around 71% of the combined required spending for all developing country pledges.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

- Autonomous intergovernmental organization
- Established in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.
- The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia
- India has become an associate member of IEA.
- Presently it has 30 member countries including India.
- The Agency's mandate has broadened to focus on the "3Es" of effectual energy policy:
 - * Energy security,
 - * Economic development, and
 - * Environmental protection
- The IEA has a broad role in promoting alternate energy sources (including renewable energy), rational energy policies, and multinational energy technology co-operation

Note



Reports Published:

- Global Energy & Co2 Status
- Tracking Energy Transitions
- World Energy Outlook.

Sharp rise in H1N1 cases**Why in News?**

In a matter of three weeks, the number of influenza A (H1N1) cases and deaths in India has risen sharply by about 6,200 and over 225, respectively. From 14,803 cases and 448 deaths till February 24 this year, the number of cases and deaths till March 17 has touched 20,977 and 677, respectively.

The figures have been collated by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, NCDC, Delhi, based on data from the States. The number of cases reported till March 17 this year is far more than what was reported in the whole of 2018 (14,992).

In Brief:

- Rajasthan continues to report the most number of cases and deaths, followed by Gujarat.
- Delhi has the third most number of cases; the number increased from 2,738 to 3,484. However, the number of H1N1 deaths in Delhi has remained constant at seven.
- The number of cases in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka has nearly doubled in three weeks.
- Karnataka, the number of cases has increased from 554 to 959; the number of deaths has increased from zero till February 24 to 14 till March 17.

About H1N1:

1. Swine flu is an infection caused by a virus. It's named for a virus that pigs can get. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. In 2009 a strain of swine flu called H1N1 infected many people around the world.
2. There are antiviral medicines you can take to prevent or treat swine flu. There is a vaccine available to protect against swine flu.

Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of infections caused by other flu strains and can include:

- Fever (but not always)
- Chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Watery, red eyes
- Body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Flu symptoms develop about one to three days after you're exposed to the virus.

Note

China destroys 30,000 ‘incorrect’ world maps

Why in news:

1. China claims the north-eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet. The country also routinely objects to Indian leaders visiting Arunachal Pradesh to highlight its stand.
2. Customs officials in China have destroyed 30,000 world maps printed in the country for not mentioning Arunachal Pradesh and Taiwan as part of its territory.

In Brief:

1. China claims the north-eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet. The country also routinely objects to Indian leaders visiting Arunachal Pradesh to highlight its stand.
2. India maintains that the State of Arunachal Pradesh is integral and inalienable part of the country and Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, just as they visit other parts of the country.
3. The two countries have so far held 21 rounds of talks to resolve the border dispute covering 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).
4. China also claims the estranged island of Taiwan as its part.
5. Almost 30,000 “incorrect” world maps, showing Taiwan as a separate country and wrong depiction of the Sino-Indian border, were destroyed by the customs authorities in Qingdao.



China’s justification:

1. It says that it was absolutely legitimate and necessary because sovereignty and territorial integrity are the most important to China.
2. Both Taiwan and South Tibet are parts of China’s territory which is sacred and inviolable based on the international law.

PRELIMS TIT BITS

AUSIINDEX 2019

Joint naval exercise between India and Australia to be conducted next month (April 2-16).

Note

