

13 APRIL 2019

Narendra Modi to get Russia's highest civilian award

In news:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, the highest civilian award of the Russian Federation through a Presidential decree.

In brief:

The award is being given to the Prime Minister for his distinguished achievement in developing the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between Russia and India and deepening the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries.

The award which is given for exceptional services has, since its inception in 1998, been conferred on 18 distinguished personalities.

It is the highest order and the oldest state order of Russia, first established in 1698. It was abolished under the Soviet Union but re-established in 1998.

Previous recipients include Chinese President Xi Jinping, and presidents of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.



Other highest civilian awards:

Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud - Saudi Arabia

State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan - Afghanistan

Grand Collar of the State of Palestine - The highest honour granted to foreigners by Palestine

Order of Zayed - United Arab Emirates

State of world population 2019

Why in news?

The United Nations Population Fund has released the State of World Population 2019 report.

Key Findings of the report:

- India's population grew at an average annual rate of 1.2 per cent between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion. It was more than double the annual growth rate of China.
- The total fertility rate per woman was 5.6 in 1969. It dropped to 3.7 in 1994 and 2.3 in 2019.
- India has recorded an improvement in life expectancy at birth. The life

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expectancy at birth in 1969 was 47 years, growing to 60 years in 1994 and 69 years in 2019.

- 7 per cent of India's population was in the age bracket of 0-14 years and 10-24 years each, while 67 per cent of India's population was in the 15-64 age bracket. Six per cent of India's population was of the age 65 and above.

About UN Population Fund:

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a UN organization agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled".
- It is active from 1969 and has its headquarters at New York, United States.
- Their work involves the improvement of reproductive health; including creation of national strategies and protocols, and birth control by providing supplies and services.
- The organization has recently been known for its worldwide campaign against child marriage, obstetric fistula and female genital mutilation.

Press council of India

Why in news?

Recently the Press Council of India issued guidelines on election reporting and paid news.

In Brief :

- The guidelines called the newspapers not to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns, exaggerated reports about any candidate or party during the elections.
- It also cautioned the press to eschew the news reports which might kindle religious animosity.
- The PCI guidelines ordered the media to refrain from paid news which is defined as "any news or analysis appearing in any media (print & electronic) for a price in cash or kind as consideration."...



About Press Council of India:

- The Press Council of India was first set up on 4 July 1966 by the Parliament to regulate the press in India. The basis at that time was the Press Council Act, 1965 which resulted from the recommendations of the First Press Commission of India (1952-1959).
- Hence the Press Council of India is a statutory & quasi-judicial body in India that governs the conduct of the print media.
- It adjudicates the complaints against and by the press for violation of ethics and for violation of the freedom of the press respectively.
- It is headed by the Chairman, who should be a retired judge of the Supreme court of India.
- The Council has 28 members of which 20 have to represent the press by being nominated by the press organizations, agencies and other bodies.
- 5 members are nominated by the 2 houses of the parliament and 3 represents cultural and legal fields and one nominee of the Bar Council of India.
- However, it is also empowered to hold hearings on receipt of complaints and take suitable action where appropriate. It may either warn or censure the errant journalists on finding them guilty.

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Powers of the Council

- They have the power to censure any rule which generally violates the journalists’ ethics and the public taste.
- They can hold any enquiry against any editor of the journal if they found that any misconduct has been taken place with regard to any matter related to the press.
- The proceedings should be taken place with regard to the judicial hearing under Section 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code.

Display information on 7 common antibiotics: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

In News:

Display information on 7 common antibiotics: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation CDSCO sends letter to manufacturers.

In Brief:

1. Alerted by the Union Health Ministry’s pharmaceutical watchdog, the National Co-ordination Centre of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), on adverse reactions that were being reported from some commonly-used antibiotics, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has now asked manufacturers to ensure that this information be made available to the general public.

Know your medicine
The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has asked manufacturers to inform the general public about known symptoms/side effects after the intake of some popular antibiotics



Antibiotics	Known/possible side effects
Cefotaxime	Swelling under the skin due to the accumulation of fluids
Ofloxacin	Rashes/blisters on the skin and mucous membranes
Cefixime	Pain, diarrhoea, nausea and headache
Tranexamic Acid	Nausea, diarrhoea and seizures
Quetiapine	Involuntary leakage of urine
Sulfasalazine	Decreased appetite, headache & nausea
Sodium Valproate	Drowsiness and unsteadiness

2. CDSCO has written to drug manufacturers, to mention in leaflets inserted into drug packets or on promotional literature, information about the adverse reactions of these medicines. All of the seven formulations — antibiotics Cefotaxime, Ofloxacin and Cefixime; Tranexamic Acid, used to control bleeding; antipsychotic drug Quetiapine; anti-rheumatoid drug Sulfasalazine and the anti-epileptic medicine Sodium Valproate — have been instructed to warn patients of the “new” side effects.

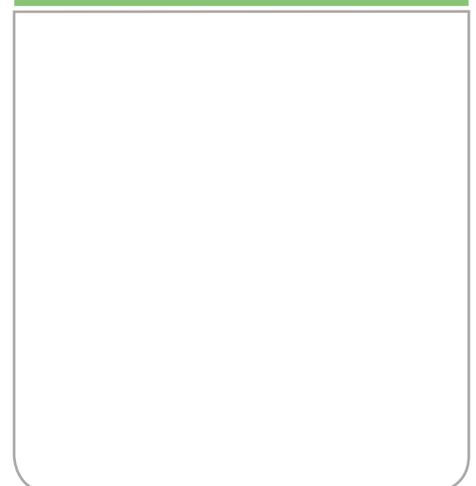
Additional reaction

1. All zonal and sub-zonal officers have been instructed to direct the manufacturers of these formulations to mention the additional reaction in the package insert or promotional literature of the drug notes the letter sent the State Drug Controllers.
2. The Union Health Ministry was alerted about the adverse reactions last year in August.
3. Antibiotic Cefixime is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections and is known to have adverse reactions, including pain, diarrhoea, nausea and headaches.

About PharmaCovigilance Programmme:

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), New Delhi, under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has initiated a nation-wide pharmacovigilance programme in July,

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2010, with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi as the National Coordinating Centre (NCC) for monitoring Adverse Drug Reactions (ADR) in the country to safe-guard Public Health.

In year 2010, 22 ADR monitoring centres (AMCs) including AIIMS, New Delhi had been set up under this Programme. To ensure implementation of this programme in a more effective way, the National Coordinating Centre was then shifted from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ghaziabad, (U.P.) in April, 2011.

Mission:

1. The mission of PvPI is to safeguard the health of the Indian population by ensuring that the benefit of use of medicine outweighs the risks associated with its use.
2. Since there exist considerable social and economic consequences of adverse drug reactions and the positive benefit/cost ratio of implementing appropriate risk management - there is a need to engage healthcare professionals and the public at large, in a well structured programme to build synergies for monitoring adverse drug reactions in the country.
3. The purpose of the PvPI is to collate data, analyze it and use the inferences to recommend informed regulatory interventions, besides communicating risks to healthcare professionals and the public.
4. The broadened patient safety scope of pharmacovigilance includes the detection of medicines of substandard quality as well as prescribing, dispensing and administration errors.
5. Counterfeiting, antimicrobial resistance, and the need for real time surveillance in mass vaccinations are other pharmacovigilance challenges which need to be addressed.
6. The vision of PvPI is to improve patient safety and welfare in Indian population by monitoring drug safety and thereby reducing the risk associated with use of medicines.

Who bought electoral bonds, SC asks parties

In News:

Give info to ECI on each donor, each electoral bond in sealed covers: SC orders political parties

In Brief:

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said the issue of electoral bonds and their lack of transparency is a “weighty” one and requires in-depth hearing.

Refusing the government’s advice to steer clear of the electoral bonds scheme of political funding, the Supreme Court on Friday passed interim directions, directing political parties to provide full information on each and every political donor and contributions made through electoral bonds in sealed cover to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The court ordered the political parties to start providing forthwith the Election Commission of India (ECI) with details of each donor, every electoral bond through which contribution was received and the amount received on each bond till date.

The parties have been given time to provide all the details before May 30. The information is to be provided to the ECI in sealed covers. The poll body would keep them secure. The court said it did not want to “tilt the balance” in anyone’s favour as of now. However, adequate safeguards

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needed to be taken now itself. The CJI said the final and detailed hearing in the case would take place later at an “appropriate” time.

Why now?

The court’s directions comes a day after the government claimed that voters do not need to know where funds come to political parties from.

1. The ECI had submitted to the apex court that electoral bonds have legalised anonymity of political donors and the parties receiving contributions.
2. The ECI had said the right to vote meant the right to make an informed choice. The Commission said knowing the candidate was only “half the exercise.” The voters should also know the source of funding of political parties who prop up these candidates.

It is more important to know the principal than the agent.

Quetta blast

In news:

At least 20 people were killed and 48 injured when a bomb claimed by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni Muslim militant group ripped through a fruit market in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Friday.



In brief:

The Suicide attack hit the city’s Hazarganji district, which is home to a large community from the Hazara Shia Muslim minority.

Quetta, the capital of Pakistan’s restive south-western province of Balochistan, is often targeted by militants.

In December 2017, a suicide bomber attacked a church packed with worshipers, leaving seven people dead. Just months later, another bomber attacked police and troops in the city, killing six officers and injuring eight.

In July 2018, 149 people were killed and 186 injured in a suicide attack in the Mastung area south of Quetta, which targeted the convoy of a political candidate. ISIS claimed responsibility for that bombing, the second deadliest terror attack in Pakistan’s history.

About Hazaras:

- Hazaras are one of Afghanistan’s largest ethnic minorities, accounting for up to 20 percent of Afghanistan’s 30 million inhabitants. Significant populations of the Hazara people are also found in Quetta, Pakistan and Mashad, Iran.
- The Hazaras are primarily Shia Muslims.
- They are said to be descendants of Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol empire

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- Their Asiatic features and language - a dialect of Persian - set them apart from other Afghans.
- In the late 1900s, Pashtun King Amir Abdul Rahman Khan ordered the killing of all Shias in central Afghanistan, leaving tens of thousands of Hazaras dead, according to anthropologist Thomas Barfield.
- Hazaras were sold as slaves as late as the 19th century.
- The 2004 Afghanistan Constitution granted Hazaras equal rights, and they were well-represented in the administration of former Afghan President Hamid Karzai.
- Hazara Afghans are among the millions of refugees fleeing to Europe in search of a better future.

PRELIMS TIT BITS

BOLD KURUKSHETRA - India and Singapore Joint Military exercise



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