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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
PM unveils ‘Act Far East’ policy

India lends $1 billion for Russia’s Far East

India on Thursday announced an “unprecedented” $1 billion line of credit for the development of Russia’s Far East, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that New Delhi would work “shoulder-to-shoulder with Moscow in its quest for the development of this resource-rich region.”

At the plenary session of the FIFTH EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM (EEF) here, India’s Act Far East policy was announced. The Prime Minister said that it was an “unprecedented” move by India to invest in the development of the Far East region of Russia. Modi also said that the government will create a special credit line of $1 billion for the development of the region.”

PM said it will help to develop region

India on Thursday announced an “unprecedented” $1 billion line of credit for the development of Russia’s Far East, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that New Delhi would work “shoulder-to-shoulder with Moscow in its quest for the development of this resource-rich region.”

At the plenary session of the FIFTH EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM (EEF) here, Modi said: “India has a unique case of India providing such special credit line to another country. For the development of the Far East, India will provide a line of credit worth $1 billion. My government has actively engaged East Asia as part of its ‘Act East’ policy,” he said. “I am confident that this step will give a new impetus to the development of economic diplomacy and growth of ties between the regions of our friendly states. We will remain active partners in our priority cooperation.”

Calling it an “unprecedented move”, Modi said that this was a “new blossoming pad” in the Far East, where India is “very active”. He said the friendship between the two countries was not restricted to governmental interactions in capital cities, but was about people and close business relations. India’s connection to the Far East goes back a long way. India was the first country to open a consulate in Vladivostok,” he said.

NEWS

* India to provide line of credit of $1 billion USD for development of Russia’s Far East

* India’s Act for East Policy

* India - First country to open a consulate in Vladivostok

* Requirement of India’s skilled and semi-skilled labour force

* New Investment opportunities
Eastern Economic Forum

* Established by Russian President in 2015

* Objectives:
  1. To support economic development of Russia’s Far East
  2. To expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

* Forum’s business programme
  ➤ business dialogues with leading partner countries in Asia-Pacific Region and ASEAN

Russia

* ranks first in
  ➤ oil and natural gas production
  ➤ export of steel, primary aluminium and nitrogen fertilizers

* largest in terms of reserves in tin, zinc, titanium, niobium, nickel, iron ore, drinking water, natural gas, woods, diamond and silver

WHO SE Asia Region plans to banish measles, rubella by 2023

Resolution was adopted at the WHO Regional Committee

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi

Member-countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region have resolved to eliminate highly infectious childhood diseases measles and rubella by 2023.

“The new target to eliminate both the diseases will leverage the existing momentum and a strong political commitment, which is being demonstrated through unprecedented efforts, progress and successes in recent years,” said Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia.

A resolution to eliminate the diseases was adopted at the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in September.

Measles is particularly dangerous for the poor, as it attacks malnourished children and those with reduced immunity. It can cause severe complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea, ear infection and pneumoconiosis, while rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) causes irreversible birth defects.

“Eliminating measles will prevent 500,000 deaths a year in the region, while eliminating rubella/CRS would avert about 50,000 cases of rubella and prevent health and well-being of pregnant women and infants,” Dr. Singh said.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
News
⇒ WHO - South-east Asia region → To eliminate Measles and Rubella by 2023

Measles
* Caused by a virus called Paramyxovirus
* Humans → natural hosts of virus
* Highly contagious disease
* Human - to - Human transmission is possible
  ▸ Droplets from nose, mouth or throat of the infected persons
  ▸ Sneezing / Coughing

Symptoms
⇒ Fever
⇒ Conjunctivitis
⇒ Cough
⇒ Common cold (Coryza)

Serious health complications
⇒ Blindness
⇒ Ear Infections
⇒ Encephalitis
⇒ Pneumonia
⇒ Diarrhoea

Severe Measles
⇒ Poorly nourished young children (Vit A deficiency)
⇒ Weakened immune systems
⇒ Prevention through Vaccination

Rubella
* Caused by Rubella Virus
* Contagious infection
* Humans → only known hosts of virus
* Symptoms
  ⇒ Rashes
  ⇒ Nausea
  ⇒ Low fever
  ⇒ Mild conjunctivitis
* Symptoms in Women → more common
  ⇒ Arthritis
  ⇒ Painful joints
* Congenital Rubella Syndrome
  ⇒ In pregnant women → virus passed on to foetus
  ⇒ Causes miscarriage, still birth or severe birth defects

Prevention through vaccination
⇒ Monovalent formulation (or) Combinations
  ⇒ Measles Rubella Vaccine (MR)
  ⇒ Measles Mumps Rubella Vaccine (MMR)
  ⇒ Measles Mumps Rubella and Varicella Vaccine (MMRV)

Immunization Program of India
* Expanded Programme of Immunization (1978)
* Universal Immunization Program (1985)
  ↓
* Intensified Mission Infracranun (2017)
  ← Mission Infracranunush (2014)
* India uses Measles Rubella vaccine (MR)
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Measles is caused by a virus.
2. Human to human transmission of Measles is possible.
3. India has eliminated Measles.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
Institute of Eminence tag for five

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to IIT-Madras, IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University and University of Hyderabad, said an official statement.

Four private universities – Vellore Institute of Technology, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Jamia Hamdard and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology – were issued Letters of Intent to grant them the status. The new greenfield Bharti Institute, a project of Airtel’s Satya Bharti Foundation, has also been issued the letter.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Institutions of Eminence (IoE)

- Institutions of Eminence status granted under Institutions of Eminence Scheme

Institutions of Eminence Scheme

- Empower higher educational institutions and help them become world class teaching and research institutions
- Ten public + Ten private institutions are to be identified
- Aim: To bring IoE to the top 500 institutions of the world; in the next 10 years; then to top 100

‘Institutions of Eminence’ Tag

- 2018 - 3 public + 3 private institutions
  Public - IISc, Bengaluru
  IIT, Bombay
  IIT, Delhi

- 2019 - 5 public institutions
  Public:
  IIT, Madras
  IIT, Kharagpur
  Delhi University
  Banaras Hindu University
  University of Hyderabad
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. ‘Institutions of Eminence’ tag to institutions is declared by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India.

2. At present, 10 public and 10 private institutions from among the existing institutions have been granted the ‘Institutions of Eminence’ Tag.

Which of the above statement/s is/are wrong?

a) 1 only 
b) 2 only 
c) Both 1 and 2 
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL) has been developed by which of the following?

a) Ministry of Power
b) NITI Aayog
c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
d) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
A weak chase

Gaining the hepatitis B vaccine for universal vaccination of newborns

Of the 8.9 million deaths occurring in the world due to liver cirrhosis, 1.4 million are caused due to hepatitis B. According to the high prevalence, India is the number one in terms of hepatitis B. However, the Government failed to vaccinate the infants at the right age, and 20% of the infants in India are not vaccinated. In recent years, the number of hepatitis B cases has increased at an alarming rate, and there is a need to implement effective vaccination programs to control the spread of hepatitis B.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER III

General Studies—II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

\[\Rightarrow \text{WHO: South East Asia Region (SEARO)}\]

\[\Rightarrow \text{Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand - first to successful control hepatitis B}\]

\[\Rightarrow \text{Hepatitis B: Viral infection - attacks liver}\]

\[\star \text{Mother to child - birth; contact with body fluids}\]

\[\star \text{Safe and effective vaccination - available}\]

\[\star \text{Vaccine provided through Universal Immunization Programme}\]

\[\star \text{Feb, 2019 - 40 million people in India infected}\]

\[\star \text{1,60,000 premature deaths - due to liver cirrhosis and liver cancer}\]

\[\Rightarrow \text{2013 study: Low coverage of hepatitis B vaccine}\]

\[\Rightarrow \text{WHO: hepatitis B 3rd dose coverage - 86% in 2015}\]

\[\star \text{Still high prevalence - suboptimal birth dose coverage}\]

\[\star \text{Birth dose coverage - 45% in 2015, 60% in 2016}\]

\[\star \text{Birth dose - prevents vertical transmission}\]

\[\text{-70-90% newborns infected \rightarrow chronic carriers}\]

\[\text{-20-30% carriers in India \leftarrow vertical transmission}\]
* fear of wastage of vaccine – 10 dose vial might get contaminated
* WHO open vial policy
* Increase public awareness on merits of birth dose

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. ‘Institutions of Eminence’ tag to institutions is declared by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India.
2. At present, 10 public and 10 private institutions from among the existing institutions have been granted the ‘Institutions of Eminence’ Tag.

Which of the above statement/s is/are wrong?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims
Q3. State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL) has been developed by which of the following?
a) Ministry of Power
b) NITI Aayog
c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
d) Ministry of Commerce & Industry