

August 31 , 2022

First vaccine against cervical cancer:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ In a first , India will get its first vaccine against cervical cancer on September 1 , 2022. **The cervical cancer vaccine , Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) has been developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).**
- ➔ It will be launched by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh.



First virtual school:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 31 August 2022 launched country's first virtual school. Students from all across the country will be eligible for admission.**
- ➔ The school is for classes 9-12 and the application process for the Delhi Model Virtual School (DMVS) began on the same day. The classes will be online and recorded lectures will also be uploaded online.



LIC holds 11th spot:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ LIC is no longer part of the top ten companies by market capitalization as it has been replaced by Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission.
- ➔ **LIC holds 11th spot in the list , whereas Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission have taken 10th and 9th spot , respectively , in the overall ranking.**
- ➔ Adani Transmission entered the list with a market value of ₹ 4.43 lakh crore on the BSE as on August 30 , 2022.



Inter Modal Station:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ An MoU has been signed between NHLML (National Highways Logistics Management Limited) and Katra Development Authority.
- ➔ **As part of the initiative , Inter Modal Station is being developed in Katra to improve the travelling experience of pilgrims who are visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Temple.**
- ➔ Government is developing these stations across the country for improving passenger infrastructure development.



Carbon fibre plants:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **Reliance Industries will set up India's first and one of the world's largest carbon fibre plants in Hazira , Gujarat.**
- ➔ The plant will have a capacity of 20,000 million metric tonnes per annum. The first phase of the plant will be completed in 2025.
- ➔ Carbon fibre is a lightweight material with high conductivity that has the potential to replace steel.



' Meghdoot ' machines:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ Indian Railways have set up ' Meghdoot ' machines at Dadar , Thane and other stations of the Mumbai Division.
- ➔ **These unique ' Meghdoot ' machines use innovative technology to convert water vapour in the air into potable water.**
- ➔ The contract for setting up these ' Meghdoot ' machines for a period of 5 years has been awarded to Maithri Aquatech Pvt Ltd.



EAF:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **Tata Steel has signed an MoU with the Punjab Government for setting up a steel plant with a scrap - based electric arc furnace (EAF) in Ludhiana.**
- ➔ This EAF - based steel plant would produce construction - grade steel rebar under the Company's flagship retail brand ' Tata Tiscon ' .
- ➔ In FY 2021-22 , Tata Steel became the first steel rebar manufacturing company to receive Green Pro certification.



Agreement for sale of Power:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ **NHPC Ltd on 30 August 2022 signed an MoU with PTC India Ltd for the sale of " power to be generated from the upcoming West Seti and Seti River - 6 hydropower projects in Nepal.**
- ➔ As per the MoU , PTC shall purchase the Contracted Capacity of these projects from NHPC for onward sale in India and the neighbouring countries . NHPC Limited Founded : 1975.



ICAT:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-5/5)

- ➔ The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) has signed an MoU with Gurugram - based North Cap University to conduct joint research in the field of electric vehicles & related emerging technology.
- ➔ **Under this pact , several courses will also be conducted for skill development in this field . ICAT , established in 2006 , is a division of the Ministry of Heavy Industries , Government of India.**



IMF:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) convened a meeting of its executive board on August 29 , 2022 to approve a bailout package for cash - starved Pakistan. This includes a disbursement of about USD 1.18 billion.
- ➔ The IMF had announced on July 13 a staff - level agreement with Pakistan on a nine - month extension in tenor and a USD 1 billion increase in the size of the bailout package to USD 7 bn.



VAR technology:

(UPSC Prelims cum Mains Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology will be used for the first time at a FIFA U - 17 Women's World Cup , to be held in India in October 2022. **The VAR technology supports the decision - making process of the referee in game - changing situations.**
- ➔ It will be the third FIFA women's tournament to utilise VAR following the U - 20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022 & the Women's World Cup France 2019 .



Important Editorial Analysis:

Flogging the dead:

- ➔ Sometimes, only a thin line separates use of power from its misuse. Political calculations, not medical sense or public interest, went into the setting up of the inquiry commission probing the circumstances that led to the death of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in December 2016.
- ➔ In order to ease the process of re-integrating himself with the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) after a period of isolation, former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam laid a precondition for his coming back to the fold — a probe into Jayalalithaa's death.
- ➔ The AIADMK's Edappadi K. Palaniswami found it easy to acquiesce as the purported antagonist — V.K. Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's aide — was a common enemy. Thus, the A. Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry (CoI) was constituted in September 2017.
- ➔ The first sign of trouble in this post mortem deconstruction was when Apollo Hospitals, where Jayalalithaa was treated until her death, claimed the CoI was seeking to fix criminal intent on the part of the hospital.
- ➔ The hospital approached the Madras High Court pleading that the CoI was not qualified to inquire into the correctness of treatment meted out, and went on to suggest, as it did to the CoI in 2018, that a medical board be constituted to assist the judge, but it was rejected. The Supreme Court stayed the proceedings before the CoI in April 2019.
- ➔ In 2021, the Supreme Court favoured the constitution of a medical panel from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, to advise the CoI. This panel submitted its report earlier this month, agreeing with the hospital's submission that Jayalalithaa had suffered a matrix of diseases, for which she was given correct and appropriate treatment, and averred with the final diagnosis.
- ➔ After umpteen extensions, the CoI finally submitted its report on August 27. It has recommended that the government conduct an inquiry into the role of a few persons, including Sasikala, who did not depose in person before it. Interestingly, the man who was responsible for the CoI, Mr. Panneerselvam too delayed his deposition until March this year, and remained largely non-committal even when he appeared.
- ➔ Evidently, the political advantage the commission provided for the AIADMK had ceased to be relevant. In the interregnum, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has taken over the reins of the State.
- ➔ To now flog this issue beyond death would be sorely lacking in sagacity, and mark a new low in politicking. The government will do well to put this non-issue to rest once and for all. No political mileage can be squeezed from this report by anyone.

Floods and Foes:

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message, in a tweet on Monday evening, expressing condolences to the victims of the flooding in Pakistan, is a welcome gesture, especially after weeks of silence over what has been one of the worst natural disasters in the neighbourhood in recent times.
- ➔ More than 1,100 people have died, and over 33 million people have been affected, as officials say one-third of the country is under water, and estimate about \$10 billion in damage to homes, roads and infrastructure.
- ➔ The floods have also affected standing crops, and as the waters recede, fears of disease as well as food shortages are expected to rise. In addition, the worry that the devastating floods

have been caused due to climate change is a worry for all of South Asia, one of the world's regions most vulnerable to global warming.

- ➔ On Tuesday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched a global appeal for aid to Pakistan, that he said had been hit by a “monsoon on steroids”, indicating unnatural climate patterns. Countries such as the U.K., the U.S., China, the UAE, Qatar and Turkey have already dispatched aid to Pakistan, and many others have promised help, while the IMF announced a \$1.1 billion bailout tranche on Tuesday, as part of ongoing negotiations with the country that is already steeped in an economic crisis.
- ➔ Given that the crisis will only deepen at this point, Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail also said on Monday that he may propose lifting the trade ban imposed on India after the Jammu-Kashmir reorganisation in 2019, so as to import Indian vegetables and essential commodities.
- ➔ Thus far, Islamabad has only made exceptions for pharmaceutical imports from India during the COVID-19 pandemic, and India's humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Despite the poor state of India-Pakistan ties, both New Delhi and Islamabad must put aside their domestic considerations, and seize the moment to help those stranded in the flooding as best they can.
- ➔ India cannot pride itself as being the “first responder” in the neighbourhood — as it has been for Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Afghanistan — if it fails to see the suffering right at its land boundary with Pakistan. It would be churlish and short-sighted of Pakistan to reject an opportunity to lift the trade ban with India that has only hurt its own interests, and to give up a source of affordable supplies at a time of such calamity.
- ➔ And it would be both tragic and ridiculous if the enmity between the two countries would not allow them to work together at a time such as this, even as their governments allow their cricket teams to play each other for financial considerations.
- ➔ Significantly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif are due to travel to Uzbekistan in September for the SCO summit.
- ➔ While a more lasting dialogue, that has been suspended between the two countries for nearly a decade over the terrorism issue, is unlikely, the leaders must find the time to discuss ways to mitigate the catastrophe at hand.