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<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>THE HINDU PAGE NO.</th>
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### Title
1. Six European nations join Iran barter system (The Hindu Page 14)

### Syllabus
Mains: GS Paper II – International Relations

### Theme
International Organisations

### Highlights

#### Context:
Recently, six European nations have decided to join INSTEX (Instrument In Support Of Trade Exchanges) which has been set up to circumvent the economic sanctions on Iran by USA.

#### Background
- The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran deal, was signed in 2015 between Iran, the U.S., China, France, Russia, the U.K., Germany and the European Union. Under this deal, Iran agreed not to build nuclear weapons.
- However, in 2018, the US President Donald Trump recently decided to unilaterally pull out U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal and re-impose nuclear sanctions against that country. As part of economic sanctions, Iran was not allowed to deal in US dollars when selling oil to other countries. Since, most of the international financial system relies on dollars, such an economic sanction virtually cut off Iran from international trade in oil.

#### INSTEX
- It is a barter mechanism which has been setup by the Germany, UK and France to secure trade with Iran and bypass US sanctions. It is registered at Paris.
- Under this mechanism, Iran would import essential goods (food, medicines etc) from the European Union without any payment. The money to be paid by Iranian Government would then have to be compensated by exporting oil to the EU member countries.
- Recently, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have decided to join INSTEX.

### Note:
The Iranian Government has set up Special Trade and Finance Institute (STFI) which works similar to EU’s INSTEX.

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**Diagram:**

- **INSTEX** provides a barter mechanism for trade between Iran and the EU countries.
- Iran can import goods from the EU without paying, and must export oil to the EU member countries to compensate for the trade.
- The diagram illustrates the flow of goods and money between Iran, the EU, and the INSTEX mechanism.

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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Highlights</th>
<th>Context:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recently, six European nations have decided to join INSTEX (Instrument In Support Of Trade Exchanges) which has been set up to circumvent the economic sanctions on Iran by USA.</td>
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Title | 2. Who is a farmer? Government has no clear definition (The Hindu Page 13)
---|---
Syllabus | Mains: GS Paper III – Economic Development
Theme | Agriculture

**Highlights**

**Context:**
- This article highlights that there seems to be ambiguity as to who constitutes farmers in India. The Central Government has taken a narrow perspective with respect to the definition of the farmers.
- Such a narrow outlook and ambiguity on the definition of farmers can have serious implications for the design of various agricultural schemes.

**Centre’s Definition of Farmer**
- Recently, agriculture Minister was asked a question in the Parliament as to what the definition of farmer is and how many farmers are there in India according to that definition. However, the agriculture Minister failed to answer this question satisfactorily. The Agriculture Minister said that the Centre provides income support only to the land-owning families under the PM-KISAN Scheme.
- This shows that the Centre has adopted a narrow definition of the farmers to include only the land-owning farmers. The Centre’s definition has been criticized to be discriminatory and exclusionary in nature since it does not take into account the agricultural labourers, tenants, sharecroppers, women etc who are involved in the agricultural related activities.
- Such a narrow and exclusionary definition of farmers can have negative implications on the design of various agricultural schemes. For example, the various schemes provide benefit only to the land-owning farmers based upon the narrow definition of farmers. For instance, the PM-KISAN scheme provides income support only to the land-owning families. Thus, such a narrow definition fails to include the agricultural labourers, tenants, sharecroppers, women etc. as beneficiaries under the schemes.
- This comes quite important since according to the census 2011, there are 11.8 cultivators while there are around 14 crore agricultural workers. Similarly, the Indian agricultural agriculture has seen growing feminization wherein more number of women have taken up agriculture in the recent times. According to some estimates, almost 30% of the farmers in India are women. Since the land is rarely registered in the name of women, these women farmers fail to get benefit under the various schemes on account of the narrow definition of farmers.

**What should be done?**
- The National Commission on Farmers headed by M.S. Swaminathan has given a clear, unambiguous and comprehensive definition of farmer in India.
- Under this policy, almost everyone involved in agricultural related activity is considered as farmer. This includes - Operational Land holders, Cultivators, Agricultural Labourers, Sharecroppers, Tenants, Non-corporate planters, plantation labourers, people involved in allied activities such as livestock rearing, sericulture, agroforestry etc. It also includes the tribal families engaged in shifting cultivation and collection of minor forest produce.
- There is a need for a broad-based identification of farmers on the lines of the definition recommended by M.S. Swaminathan Committee. Such a broad-based definition has to be in turn integrated into the design of our agricultural policies and schemes.
Who is a farmer? Government has no clear definition

Issue with definition:
- Very narrow definition: only land owning families get benefit under schemes
- Criticized as discriminatory, exclusionary
- what should be done?
  - National Commission on farmers under his examination has given clear comprehensive definition of farmer
  - everyone involved in agricultural related activity
    - land holder, worker, tenant, sharecropper, labourers
    - involved in allied activity - prodcution, post harvest, etc.
    - tribals families involved in shifting cultivation etc.

Why need broad definition?
- increase in number of cultivators
- increase in number of agricultural workers
- growing feminization: 30% women out land not in their names
- failed to get benefit under schemes

Economy

Context:
- Agriculture minister said only land owning families get benefit under schemes
- Issue with definition?
- very narrow definition: only land owning families get benefit under schemes
- Criticized as discriminatory, exclusionary
- negative implication on design of various govt schemes - eg PM Kisan
Title 3. Operation Clean Art to crack down on illegal trade in Mongoose Hair (The Hindu Page 09)

Syllabus Prelims: Current Events

Theme Wildlife crimes

Highlights

Context:
Mongoose hair are used for the purpose of making paint brush. Operation Clean Art was the first Pan India operation to crack down on the smuggling of mongoose hair. This raid was planned by Wild Life Crime Control Board (WCCB)
The raid was conducted at multiple places like Sherkot (UP), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mumbai & Pune (Maharashtra) and Kerala.

Way forward:
- Mongoose hair are used as they are superior and hold colour better. At the same time, painters and artists should come forward and stop using paint brush made from Mongoose hair.
- There is also a need to do research to find alternative to the use of Mongoose hair.

In the context of the news, it is important for us to understand more about Indian Mongoose.
All mongoose species found in India are protected under Schedule II (Part II) of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which prohibits all trade of animals listed in it. Violation may lead to imprisonment up to seven years and/or a hefty fine. The species are also covered under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement between governments, with a complete ban on its commercial trade.

6 Species of Mongoose Found in the Indian Subcontinent
Mongeoses are fierce hunters from Herpestidae family, commonly found in the open forest, cultivated land and close to human habitation. There are five species of Mongoose are endemic to the island of the Indian-Subcontinent and also found in South Asia.

Indian Grey Mongoose
Indian grey mongoose or common grey mongoose is the most common species of mongoose found in forest, open fields and around human settlements. The grey mongoose usually omnivorous found single and preys on rodents, snakes, lizards, frog and scorpions.

Ruddy Mongoose
Ruddy Mongoose along with striped-neck and grey mongoose are known 3 species of mongoose endemic to India, and very closely related to each other. The carnivorous mammal native to Sri Lanka and India.

Stripe Necked Mongoose
Stripe necked mongoose are mostly found in southern part of India as well as many parts of the Western Ghats. The grizzled grey color mongoose prefer forested areas and was recorded from tiger reserve in Karnataka and Kerala.

Indian Brown Mongoose
Indian brown mongoose found in lowland rainforests of southwest India and closely related Short-tailed mongoose with dark brown body and black colour.

Crab Eating Mongoose
Crab-eating mongoose are found in north-eastern Indian subcontinent and also recorded at altitudes of Nepal. In Assam and Arunachal Pradesh of India, they have also observed on agricultural fields near human habitation and active in the mornings and evenings.

Small Indian Mongoose
The Indian mongoose or small Indian mongoose is treated as a separate species from Javan mongoose, also introduced to other parts of the world. The opportunistic feeder and fierce
hunter are ecologically important for their ability to fight and kill venomous snakes like Indian Cobra.
4. Delhi govt. rejects mercy petition in Nirbhaya case (The Hindu Page 10)

Syllabus
Prelims: Polity

Theme
Mercy Petition

Highlights

Abstract

- The Delhi government has recommended the rejection of mercy plea of one of the convicts of Nirbhaya case.
- The recommendation will now be sent to Lieutenant Governor who will then send his recommendation to Centre which is then forwarded to President for his final decision.

Personal Notes
## Title
5. Shivamogga residents oppose monkey park plan (The Hindu Page 09)

## Syllabus
Prelims: Environment, Ecology

## Theme
Kyasanur Forest Disease

### Highlights

#### Abstract
Locals in Shivamogga district of Karnataka have opposed the setting up of monkey park on account of fear of spread of Kyasanur Forest Disease.

### About Kyasanur Forest Disease

**Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) Virus Ecology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larva</td>
<td>Monkeys and small mammals are common hosts for KFDV. Infection with KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>Monkeys and small mammals are common hosts for KFDV. Infection with KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nymph</td>
<td>Monkeys and small mammals are common hosts for KFDV. Infection with KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>Monkeys and small mammals are common hosts for KFDV. Infection with KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission of KFDV to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most commonly a sick or recently died monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described.</td>
<td>Human cases occur more frequently in drier months (Nov-June) and in Southwest and South India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local residents visit the forest to collect firewood and can be infected through tick bites. People with recreational of occupational exposure to rural and outdoor settings (e.g., hunters, farmers, people making charcoal) in Karnataka State and South India are potentially at risk for infection.</td>
<td>Larger animals such as cattle, goats, or sheep may become infected with KFDV but play a limited role in transmission of disease to humans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hard tick *Ixodes spinipalpis* is the reservoir and vector of Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV). Once infected, ticks remain so for life and are able to pass KFDV to offspring via the egg.
Shivamogga residents oppose monkey park plan

Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) Virus Ecology

Transmission of KFDV in humans typically occurs after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most commonly a sick or recently dead monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described.

Lack of awareness on park dangers is often cited as the reason for this exposure. People with recreational activities in nearby areas are more at risk.

Personal Notes
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<th>6. Battling anti-microbial resistance (The Hindu Page 11)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>Mains: GS Paper II- Social Justice</td>
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<td>Theme</td>
<td>Anti-Microbial Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlights</td>
<td>Abstract</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Anti-biotic resistance is on the rise in India due to number of factors leading to antibiotics becoming ineffective.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• With no new class of antibiotics being discovered in the last 3 decades and most of the current antibiotics becoming ineffective, even minor infections may prove to be fatal.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Thus there is a need to accelerate the efforts towards better implementation of National Action Plan to combat Anti-Microbial Resistance that was launched in 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotic resistance in India</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• India is antibiotic popping capital of the world, consuming around 13 billion annually.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spread of antibiotic-drug resistance in India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Self-medicating by indiscriminately prescribing some irrational antibiotic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OTC- Over the counter medication.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Over-prescribing of antibiotics by doctors and unregulated use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Incomplete antibiotic dosage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Antibiotic use in agriculture and livestock. (used as growth promoters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Bad sanitation practices leading to spread of strains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of regulation of the discharge of antimicrobial waste into the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steps taken by India to combat AMR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLASS</td>
<td>Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) was launched in 2015 by WHO to support the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The aim is to support global surveillance and research in order to strengthen the evidence base on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and help informing decision-making and drive national, regional, and global actions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India has enrolled to GLASS system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redline campaign</td>
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<td></td>
<td>India has launched Red Line campaign to curb over-the-counter use of antibiotics.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The idea is to put a red line on antibiotic packages to curb their over-the-counter sale to counter the rising threat of superbugs.</td>
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<td>National Action Plan to combat Antimicrobial Resistance 2017</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In 2017 India developed a National Action Plan to combat Antimicrobial Resistance for a coordinated approach to fight antimicrobial resistance.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It is based on the One Health approach, which means that human health, animal health and the environment sectors have equal responsibilities and strategic actions in combating AMR.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| | In this direction, Delhi declaration was signed to adopt the multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial action plan and for collectively strategizing to contain AMR by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate
Change, Health & Family Welfare.

Objectives
- enhancing awareness
- strengthening surveillance
- improving rational use of antibiotics
- reducing infections
- promoting research

In addition, India aims to support neighbouring countries in collective fight against infectious diseases.

Challenges
- The health of humans and animals falls in the domain of State authorities.
- The magnitude of the problem in India remains unknown.

Way forward
- Surveillance networks have been established in human health and animal health.
- Indian Network for Fishery and Animals Antimicrobial Resistance is working on data collection monitoring trends.
- It is critical to expand similar surveillance networks.
- Augment capacity for regulatory mechanisms, infection control practices and diagnostics support.
- Biosecurity in animal rearing practices
- Community-based activities for spreading awareness

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Why AMR an issue?
- New antibotic discovered in 3 decades
- Takes 10 years + heavy investment
- Indiscriminate use leads to resistance

Steps taken by India
1. GASS (Global AMR Surveillance system) by WHO
2. Launching of ATD to stop misuse of antibiotics
3. National campaign to curb over the counter use of antibiotics
4. National action plan to combat AMR, 2017
5. Based on one health approach – human, animal and environmental health
6. Mission Indradhanush

Way forward
- Biosecurity in animal rearing practices
- Community based activities for spreading awareness
- Increase capacity for regulatory mechanisms, diagnostics, Infection control
- Establishing exposed surveillance network
- Increase capacity for regulatory mechanisms, diagnostics, Infection control

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Personal Notes

(Handwritten notes:)
- Why AMR an issue?
- Steps taken by India
- Way forward
Title | 7. Making Air India’s disinvestment work (The Hindu Page 10)
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Syllabus | Mains: GS Paper III – Indian Economy
Theme | Disinvestment

### Highlights

**Abstract**
- The government-run airline Air India has witnessed a continuous decline in the last 4 decades unable to withstand the competition from the private airlines that have entered the market.
- Besides, the efforts towards disinvestment ever since late 1990s have not yielded fruition due to number of issues.

**Context**
- Air India is ridden with a number of issues including high debt more than Rs. 30000 Crores and declining service standards.
- Despite government efforts to revive the airline through a bailout package of Rs. 30000 Cr in 2012 through 2021 has not yielded the desired results with the airline booking losses to the tune of 4000-5000 Cr per annum consecutively.
- Besides, government in 2018 had decided to divest 76% of its shares in accordance with Niti Aayog recommendation.
- However the divestment efforts failed to attract bidders due to number of factor.
- Now the government has once again stepped up efforts to divest its shares in the airline.

**Challenges**

### High Debt
- The government wants the potential acquirer to absorb the high debt in the airline making it unattractive for the bidder.

### Opposition from trade unions
- The employees are demanding a job security in the aftermath of takeover by a private player. This has been a thorny issue as the employees in the airline over a period of time have become inefficient and may not be able to cope up with change.
- In a recent meet, the CEO of Air India had ensured that around 12,000-odd employees would be ensured job security only for a year after the airline’s sale.
- Other benefits including medical support, free travel, provident benefits etc would also be subject to change.
- Despite the efforts are on for divestment, the terms governing these issues are not yet clearly laid out.
- This has resulted in opposition for divestment from the trade unions

### Element of inefficiency
- Being a government-run carrier, inefficiency has crept in the airline management due to bureaucratic redtapism.
- This inertia is difficult to overcome and thus private players are hesitant to take over.

### Irreplaceable role
- Air India being a government carrier has played significant role in a number of evacuation efforts including Operation Raahat that evacuated Indian from conflict-ridden Yemen.
- This role cannot be taken up by private sector which is primarily profit-oriented.

**Way forward**
- It is a no-brainer that divestment particularly strategic divestment is the way forward as it is important to infuse private sector virtues of efficient management in the airline and remove bureaucratic control and political interference.
- Besides this will also reduce the burden of government in bail out exercise which will in
turn ease the fiscal deficit.

**Market the advantages**

- Being the oldest airline, Air India commands a number of advantages which should be well-marketed by the government to make it attractive for the bidders.
- **Advantages**
  - Air India has around 13% market share in the domestic routes and about 19% market share for international routes.
  - Besides Air India also has an extensive global network that no other Indian carrier can match. It has landing slots in US, Canada, Europe, Gulf etc. Building this network would take any airline several years.

**Clearly lay down post-sale terms**

- The government should clearly lay down post-sale conditions for employees with respect to benefits.