



05-04-2024

Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA)

Why in News?

- Recently, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has mandated the compulsory linking of Central Government Health Services (CGHS) beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID in a move to integrate various government health schemes under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).



More About Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)

- Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) is an integral component of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), which is India's flagship national health protection scheme.
- ABHA is designed to facilitate cashless transactions and manage financial aspects related to healthcare services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- ABHA intends to create a digital health ecosystem & aims to promote digitization of healthcare. Any individual can enroll in Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to generate a Health ID or ABHA, free of cost.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts aim to

provide a seamless and efficient financial framework for implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme. It ensures transparency, accountability, and accessibility of funds allocated for healthcare services.

- ABHA enables cashless transactions for eligible beneficiaries seeking treatment at empanelled healthcare facilities. This reduces the financial burden on beneficiaries during medical emergencies.
- ABHA integrates electronic health records, facilitating the storage and retrieval of patient information. This helps in maintaining medical histories and streamlining healthcare delivery.
- ABHA incorporates real-time monitoring mechanisms to track the utilization of funds and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently. This helps in preventing misuse and optimizing the distribution of healthcare resources.
- By promoting digital transactions and maintaining electronic records, ABHA enhances transparency and accountability in the healthcare system. This reduces the scope for corruption and ensures that funds are utilized for their intended purpose.
- ABHA manages the allocation and disbursement of funds for healthcare services availed by beneficiaries. It ensures that funds are transferred to healthcare providers promptly and securely.
- ABHA incorporates audit and oversight mechanisms to monitor the utilization of funds and detect any irregularities or discrepancies. This helps in ensuring compliance with regulations and maintaining the integrity of the healthcare system.

- ABHA provides financial protection to vulnerable sections of society by covering the costs of healthcare services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. This reduces out-of-pocket expenses for beneficiaries and enhances access to quality healthcare.
- By facilitating cashless transactions and electronic health records, ABHA promotes efficiency in healthcare delivery. It minimizes administrative hassles and delays, allowing healthcare providers to focus on patient care.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Why in the News?

- NATO celebrated 75 years of collective defense across Europe and North America on 4th April which marked the moment the alliance’s founding treaty was signed on April 4, 1949, in Washington. A bigger celebration is planned when NATO leaders meet in Washington from July 9 to 11.



About NATO

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance of 32 member states - 30 European and 2 North American.
- Sweden is the latest country to join NATO, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine prompted it to leave 200 years of neutrality behind.

- NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.
- NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.
- These are carried out under the collective defence clause of NATO's founding treaty – Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

BIMSTEC Charter

Why in the News?

- Recently, Nepal’s Lower House Endorsed the BIMSTEC Charter. BIMSTEC charter can only be enforced after its endorsement by parliament.

More About the BIMSTEC

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- Initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), the organization is now known as BIMSTEC and comprises seven Member States with the admission of Myanmar on 22 December 1997, and Bhutan and Nepal in February 2004.



- BIMSTEC didn't have an official headquarters or secretariat until 2011 and 2014 respectively when the headquarters were established in Dhaka and its first Secretary General - Sri Lankan diplomat Sumith Nakandala was appointed.
- The member countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka. BIMSTEC countries comprise 21% of the world's population.
- The BIMSTEC Charter was signed and adopted during the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit held in virtual format in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 30 March 2022.
- The Bay of Bengal region, was one of the world's most integrated regions until the early twentieth century, according to a 2020 research paper by Constantino Xavier and Riya Sinha for the Vivekananda International Foundation. But after the 1940s, when members of the region became independent and pursued separate goals and alliance systems, "the region's sense of community has almost completely eroded."
- The aim of setting up the regional grouping was not to create a new region for cooperation but to revive the connectivity and common interests of the members of the Bay of Bengal region.
- The regional group constitutes a bridge between South and South East Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries.
- It is a sector-driven organization. This means the goals or areas of cooperation are divided between members, for instance, out of the multiple sectors like trade, energy, transport, fishery, security, culture, tourism and so on, India was made responsible for areas like transportation, tourism and Counter-Terrorism earlier.
- BIMSTEC has a coordinating body called the BIMSTEC Working Group, which has a rotating chairman based on which member country chairs the organization.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

Why in the News?

- Recently, the NGT took suo motu cognisance of a media report about illegal soil mining in Katha village, Baghpat district, Uttar Pradesh and directed the regional officer, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Lucknow to investigate the allegations in the article.



About National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- The National Green Tribunal has been established in October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.
- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters provides speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.



- The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.



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