

“Ex Khaan Quest 2022” **(GS Paper 3, Internal Security)**

Why in news?

- A **Multinational Peacekeeping exercise** “Ex Khaan Quest 2022” featuring participation from military contingents from **16 countries** has commenced in Mongolia.



Aim:

- The 14 day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.

Key Highlights:

- The exercise will enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of participating nations and will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures and demonstration.
- The military exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and participating countries especially with the Mongolian Armed Forces, which will enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

India’s participation:

- Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the LADAKH SCOUTS.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) gets revamped **(GS Paper 2, Governance)**

Why in news?

- The National Health Authority (NHA) under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) announced the release of its newly revamped and dynamic public dashboard that provides a granular view of PM-JAY scheme implementation data in a comprehensive manner.

Key Highlights:

- The dashboard is another step in the evolution of PM-JAY scheme that provides a transparent view about the progress of the scheme from a state/UT vantage point.
- It has an interactive interface which displays key performance indicators about the scheme through informative charts.

- It aims to provide deeper insights to the public and PM-JAY ecosystem stakeholders to understand the scheme's performance on a day-to-day basis.



AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA

Salient Features:

- The newly updated dashboard provides detailed information about the number of Ayushman Bharat Cards created, empanelled hospitals and authorised hospital admissions amongst others at both national and state level.
- It allows users to further view the data distributed according to gender and age. For e.g., in the 'Age Group' category under the '**Ayushman Cards Created**' panel, the pie chart reveals that the highest number of Ayushman Card holders are between the age group of 30 to 44 years while the age groups falling between 15 to 29 years and 45-59 years are trailing close behind.
- The dashboard also shows trends pivotable between types of time periods, i.e., either for last 7 days, 30 days or as aggregates since the launch of the scheme.
- Another insight added to the dashboard is regarding **top procedures and specialities availed** by the beneficiaries at the empanelled hospitals under the scheme. This data is also pivotable between count of such treatments availed or amount authorized on such procedures.
- Dashboard displays national as well as state level data for all these categories with an option to choose 'state' provided at top of the webpage.
- Further, users can also search and view list of patients availing treatment under the scheme at any empanelled hospital spanning across hundreds of districts in India.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PM-JAY)

- The scheme was launched in September 2018 and recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme having a central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission
- PM-JAY was earlier known as the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) before being rechristened.
- It subsumed the then-existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), which had been launched in 2008.

Leaders in Climate Change Management' (LCCM)

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- In conjunction with the World Environment Day, the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** and **World Resources Institute (WRI) India**, jointly announced 'Leaders in Climate Change Management' (LCCM), a practice-based learning program.
- The launch also marked the achievements of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs towards India's urban climate goals.

Tripartite MoU:

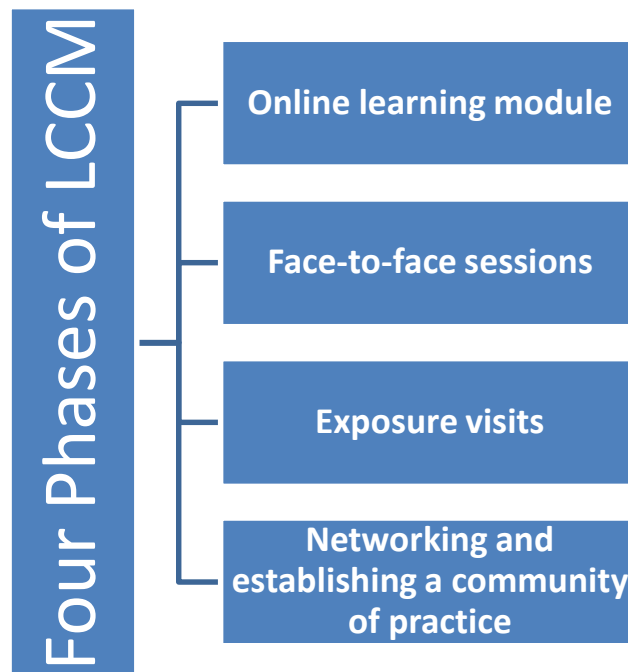
- To facilitate this face-to-face learning program, the Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru, also signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIUA and WRI India, becoming the first delivery partner of the LCCM program.

Aim:

- It aims at building capacity among urban professionals to lead climate action across sectors and geographies in India.
- LCCM envisions capacitating 5,000 professionals, including mid to junior-level government officials and frontline workers, and preparing them to champion climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions towards a coordinated effort to achieve India's climate commitments.

Background:

- At COP26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a five-fold strategy 'Panch Amrit' to global leaders, extending India's co-operation to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius targets.
- The LCCM program, designed and implemented in partnership with the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) and Indian School of Business (ISB), aims to strengthen India's workforce to achieve this goal.
- LCCM is a blended learning program for urban practitioners looking to upskill and prepare themselves to deliver effective climate action.



About Leaders in Climate Change Management (LCCM)

- Leaders in Climate Change Management is a capacity-building program that seeks to build a pool of leaders to champion and lead climate action - across sectors and geographies.

- The program has been designed and implemented through core partners, being, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), World Resources Institute (WRI) – India, United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP), and Indian School of Business (ISB).

About NIUA:

- Established in 1976, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is India's leading national think tank on urban planning and development.
- As a hub for the generation and dissemination of cutting-edge research in the urban sector, NIUA seeks to provide innovative solutions to address the challenges of a fast-urbanizing India, and pave the way for more inclusive and sustainable cities of the future.

About WRI India:

- WRI India, an independent charity legally registered as the India Resources Trust, provides objective information and practical proposals to foster environmentally sound and socially equitable development.
- Its work focuses on building sustainable and liveable cities and working towards a low carbon economy. Through research, analysis, and recommendations, WRI India puts ideas into action to build transformative solutions to protect the earth, promote livelihoods, and enhance human well-being.
- It is inspired by and associated with World Resources Institute (WRI), a global research organization.

Glacial advances in the Yankti Kuti Valley synchronizes with climate variability (GS Paper 3, Environment)

Context:

- Multiple events of glacial advances have been witnessed from the **Yankti Kuti valley** situated in the extreme **eastern part of Pithoragarh district**, Uttarakhand, since 52 thousand years (MIS 3) that synchronises with climate variability, according to a new study.



Background:

- Many researchers have provided information on the nature of glaciation in the Central Himalayas by employing various modern dating methods.
- However, the chronological data for glacial landforms in the Central Himalayas is still limited due to the lack of dating material in the study areas because of the inaccessibility of these areas.
- Thus a correlation between two major climatic systems: the Indian summer Monsoon and the mid-latitude westerlies and glacier advance remained speculative.

New Study:

- Scientists of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, has reported first time the oldest glacial advance during 52 Kilo years from the Central Himalaya, as the evidence of glacial advance during the Last Glacial Maxima and subsequently younger time periods have already been reported from many parts of the Central Himalaya.

Key Highlights:

- They found that **moisture-deficient valleys of semi-arid Himalayan regions respond sensitively to enhance precipitation**. The study suggests a regional synchronicity of glacier response to climate variability since MIS 3.
- The study carried out was in accordance with the synoptic-scale, climatic perturbation triggered by the North Atlantic millennial-scale climate oscillations.
- The research provides a robust chronology and climatic evidence indicating significant ice volume depicted by the height of glacial material (moraine) during MIS 3.

Way Forward:

- The study can help enhance the existing knowledge of the relationship between Himalayan climate and glacier dynamics and can help assessing the role of Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) versus westerlies in driving the valley glaciers in the Central Himalayan region.

Climate change poses serious risk to mental health: WHO

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that climate change poses **serious risks to mental health** and well-being and urged countries to include mental health support in their climate crisis response.

How climate change is a risk to mental health and well-being?

- Climate change has emerged as the biggest crisis on the planet with impacts being seen across the world. From melting of glaciers to uncontrolled wildfires to unpredictable flooding, climate-led extreme events have become more intense and frequent in the last few years.
- The findings released in the WHO's policy brief, **echo findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** published in February which stated that **fast-rising climate change poses a growing hazard to mental health and psychosocial well-being**, ranging from emotional distress to anxiety, sadness, bereavement, and suicidal behaviour.

The new WHO policy brief suggests five key approaches for governments to address climate change's mental health effects:



Global mental health burden:

- The impact of climate change on mental health is distributed on the basis of socioeconomic status, gender, and age, but it is obvious that climate change affects many of the social determinants that are already contributing to significant mental health burdens around the world.
- A survey conducted by WHO in 2021, among 95 countries, only nine included mental health and psychosocial support in their national health and climate change plans.
- WHO said that around **a billion people worldwide suffer from mental illnesses**, but **three out of every four do not have access to the necessary services** in low- and middle-income countries.

Approaches:

- WHO highlighted a national project in India that has scaled up disaster risk reduction in the country while also preparing cities to respond to climate risks and address mental health and psychosocial needs.

Way Forward:

- Climate change is affecting an already difficult situation for mental health and mental health services around the world.
- The countries should do more to protect people by increasing mental health and psychosocial assistance as part of disaster risk reduction and climate action.