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1. 5th Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyan (March 3, 2023)

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the **5th Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyan** across the country on 1st March.

An overview of the news

- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** has planned to organize several events in different cities from 1st to 7th March 2023 with focus on spreading awareness about **Jan Aushadhi Scheme**.
- The theme of Jan Aushadhi Diwas, 2023 was "**Jan Aushadhi Sasti Bhi - Achhi Bhi**" as well as the quiz was organized by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device Bureau of India (PMBI), Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.
- **PMBI (Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India)** and **MyGov** organized a quiz competition to raise awareness about Jan Aushadhi generic drugs.
- The objective of this quiz is to raise awareness among all children (13-16 years) about the quality of generic medicines.

About Jan Aushadhi Scheme

- The **Jan aushadhi scheme** was launched in **2008 by the UPA government**.
- This scheme was relaunched in the **year 2015**, by the **Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi**.
- This campaign was started across the country by selling generic medicines through "**Jan Aushadhi Medical Stores**".
- In 2015, the name of 'Jan Aushadhi Yojana' was changed to '**Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY)**', but it was changed to "**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Yojana**" in November 2016.
- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** scheme was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India with the objective of providing quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

2. National Conference on Economics of Competition law held in New Delhi (March 3, 2023)

On March 3, the **8th edition of the National Conference on Economics of Competition law** was held in **New Delhi**.

An overview of the news

- This conference has been organized every year by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI) since 2016.**
- **Dr. V Anant Nageswaran**, Chief Economic Advisor of the Finance Ministry, gave the main speech in the inaugural session.
- The conference brings scholars, doctors, academics and experts working in the field of economics of Competition law.
- The conference includes **a complete session and two technical sessions.**
- The theme of this year's conference is '**Antitrust and Regulation: Interface and Synergy**'.

The objectives of the conference

- To encourage research and debate on contemporary issues in the field of economics of competition law.
- Develop better understanding of relevant competition issues for the Indian context.
- Consult for enforcement of competition law in India.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the **chief national competition regulator** in India.
- It was set up under the **Competition Act, 2002**
- It comes under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- It promotes healthy market competition and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.
- CCI also approves combinations under the act so that two merging entities do not overtake the market.
- Headquarter - **New Delhi**
- Current Chairman - **Ashok Kumar Gupta**

3. SC made major changes in the appointment process of Election Commissioners (March 2, 2023)

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court gave an important judgement on 2 March 2023 that the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners would be appointed by the President on the advice of a committee. The committee will consist of **the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.**

An overview of the news:

- A **five-judge** constitution bench headed by **Justice KM Joseph**, in a unanimous judgement, said the rule would remain in force until Parliament enacts a law on the issue.
- According to the top court, if there is no Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the largest opposition party will be included in the committee on **appointment of election commissioners and chief election commissioner.**
- The Supreme Court agreed with the petitioners and made **five major** changes in the process of appointment of Election Commissioners. These are as follows:
 - The three officers will be appointed by the collegium of PM, LOP and CJI.
 - They can only be removed by impeachment in Parliament, a process similar to the removal of judges of the Supreme Court. Till now, he could be removed by the government.
 - The commission will have a separate budget. Till now, they used to get the share of the Union Budget allocated to the Law Ministry.
 - The Commission will have a separate secretariat like the Parliament.
 - The Commission will have the right to make its own rules wherever there is any vacancy or lack of clarity in the law.

Validity of the New Testament:

- A five-judge constitution bench (**Justice Ajay Rastogi, Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice CT Ravikumar**) unanimously said in its decision that this rule will remain in force until Parliament enacts a new law on the subject.
- According to the apex court, elections in a democracy must undoubtedly be fair and it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure its purity.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Raisina Dialogue (March 2, 2023)

Raisina Dialogue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the eighth edition of the **Raisina Dialogue** on Geopolitics and Geostrategy in **New Delhi** on 2 March.

An overview of the news:

- The Raisina Dialogue has been organised jointly by **the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF, established in 1990).** This dialogue will be organised from 2 to 4 March 2023.
- The theme of the eighth edition of the Raisina Dialogue is **“Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest.”**

- **Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni** has been invited as the chief guest in the inaugural session of the three-day event.
- This year's edition assumes special significance in the backdrop of India's G20 Presidency. The dialogue will have over 2500 participants in person and the proceedings will reach millions across various digital platforms.
- During the last eight years, Raisina Dialogue has grown steadily to establish itself as one of the leading global conferences on international affairs.
- Representatives of more than a hundred countries will participate in this dialogue program (Raisina Dialogue 2023), including ministers, former heads of state and government, military commanders, heads of industry, technology leaders, academicians, journalists, strategic affairs experts and experts. experts are involved.
- In this dialogue program in February 2023, it was in the limelight due to the refusal of the Foreign Minister of Iran to participate in this conference.

Raisina Dialogue:

- It was started in the year 2016.
- Its main objective is to explore possibilities and opportunities for Asian integration as well as better integration of Asia with the rest of the world.
- The headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs of India is located in Raisina Hill (South Block), New Delhi, hence it is known as Raisina Dialogue.

5. Wheat Crisis in India (March 1, 2023)

India is unlikely to ease restrictions on wheat exports. Agricultural scientists have recommended additional irrigation for rabi crops due to the unprecedented heat in the **month of February** this year.

An Overview of the news:

- Grain stocks in the world's second-biggest producer fell to around 106 million tonnes in 2022 after a **2.5% cut** in output due to heatwaves.
- India will not lift its ban on wheat exports for the time being and the government will have a sufficient amount of state-owned emergency reserves as required under the rules on April 1.
- The month of February has been unusually warm.
- For agriculture, it was a reminder of last year's unusual temperature in March and its impact on wheat, the important rabi crop.

Wheat in India:

- Wheat is the second most important cereal crop in India after rice, the staple food crop in the north and north-western part of the country.

- Wheat is a heat sensitive crop.
- Wheat is a rabi crop which requires cool growing weather and bright sunlight at the time of maturity.
- Required temperature: Between **10-15°C** (sowing time) and **21-26°C** (ripening and harvesting).
- Required Rainfall: About **75-100 cm**.
- Top Wheat Producing States: **Uttar Pradesh > Punjab > Haryana > Madhya Pradesh > Rajasthan > Bihar > Gujarat**.

6. Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela organised by IARI in Delhi (March 1, 2023)

The **Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela**, organised every year by the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)**, will be organised in **Delhi** from 2 to 4 March 2023.

An Overview of the news:

- Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela will be inaugurated by Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**. Narendra Singh Tomar is the chief guest in this event.
- The theme of the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela is **“Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna”**.
- The main attractions of the fair this year are- technical sessions on important and contemporary issues in agriculture, development of Shree Anna based value chain under International Shree Anna Varsh, smart farming / protected farming model, climate friendly and sustainable agriculture, agricultural marketing and export.
- Agri-startups, especially Shree Anna based startups will set up their stalls. This will motivate the youth to start startups as a source of livelihood.
- Live demonstrations of important varieties of wheat, mustard, gram, vegetables, flowers and fruits will be held at the fair.
- Farmers counselling stalls will help in solving the problems of the farmers.
- Awards will be given by the institute to encourage the farmers.
- During this, the Innovative Farmers' Conference will facilitate exchange of information among the farmers.

7. Two day meeting of Women-20 Inception in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (March 1, 2023)

The Women-20 (W20) Inception meeting was held at **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad)**, Maharashtra to discuss the improvement in the status and condition of

women across the world during India's G20 Presidency from February 27-28, 2023. Which was inaugurated by Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs **Smriti Zubin Irani**.

An Overview of the news:

- The main theme of the W20 meeting is '**The pursuit of gender equality, equity and dignity for women-led development**'.
- The main objective of the meeting is to promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women.
- The **five priority areas of the W20** under India's G20 Presidency are:
 - Enhancing participation of women in entrepreneurship sector
 - grassroots women leadership
 - bridging the gender digital divide
 - education and skill development and women as change makers and
 - Taking climate resilience action for girls.
- In the W20 Inception Meet to be held in India, these five issues were discussed to increase the participation of women in all fields. Apart from this, gender related issues were discussed during the meeting.

Three meeting of Women-20:

- A total of three meetings of the W20 Inception are being held in India during the **G20 Presidency**.
- - The first meeting was held from February 27-28, 2023 at Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
 - The second meeting will be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 13-14 April and
 - The third meeting will be held on June 15-16 at Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu on the sidelines of the W20 summit.

Women-20 Conference:

- Under Women-20, G20 aims to promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women in the world.
- It was established in 2015 during the presidency of Turkey.
- It aims to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into G20 discussions and translated into the G20 Leaders' Declaration in the form of policies and commitments.
- The President of the W20 is **Dr. Sandhya Purecha, President of the Sangeet Natak Akademi** during India's G20 Presidency.

8. DMRC plan to start 'Virtual Shopping App' (Feb. 28, 2023)

The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** is going to start the country's **first virtual shopping app** soon for its passengers, so that passengers can shop during their journey and can also provide delivery facility of goods ordered at destination stations.

An overview of the news:

- This Momentum 2.0 has been designed a specially designed, in which the app provides instantaneous and direct facilities to its users to custom made services such as **last mile connectivity options, e-shopping options and a digital locker for quick and safe delivery.**
- Along with this, the smart card of Delhi Metro in the app will also get facilities like recharge and other uses.
- In addition, this app will provide passengers to recharge their smart cards quickly from anywhere. The app has an auto-top-up facility for inbuilt smart cards.
- This app will also provide a smart payment facility. In this, by setting the instructions in automatic mode, payment like insurance, electricity, gas payment or fast tag recharge will be easily made.
- The apps available at the app metro stations will be able to provide detailed information like gates, lifts, escalators, platforms, train time, space and location in coaches.
- With this app, the passengers will be helpful in booking a bike-cab before getting out of the metro.

9. 'Grand start-up Conclave' on Animal Husbandry and Dairy in Hyderabad (Feb. 28, 2023)

A '**Grand Startup Conclave**' was organised by the Central Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department on 28 February 2023 for current and emerging startups in livestock, dairy and animal husbandry areas in **Hyderabad**. It was inaugurated by Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister **Purushottam Rupala**.

An overview of the news:

- The aim of the conference is to promote startups in livestock, dairy and animal husbandry areas in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board, Government of Telangana and Industry Organization Indian Industry (CII).
- This conference will bring entrepreneurs, investors and industry experts together to share its ideas and networks.
- The event was organised in partnership with the Department of Animal Husbandry of National Dairy Development Board, Startup India, CII and Telangana.

10. International Conference on Trade and Marketing of Coconut Products at Hyderabad (Feb. 28, 2023)

The Coconut Development Board in association with the **International Coconut Community (ICC)** organised a two-day **International Conference on Trade and Marketing of Coconut Products** with the participation of world stakeholders from February 27 to 28, 2023 at **Hyderabad**, Telangana.

An Overview of the news:

- The theme of the conference is **“Global Coconut Industry - Cruising to the Pinnacle”**.
- The objective of the program is to disseminate knowledge on coconut industry and innovative industry practices on market potential and work towards realising the potential opportunities of the sector.
- This hybrid mode conference was organised with the participation of representatives from national and international organisations, policy makers, entrepreneurs, exporters and other stakeholders of the industry.

Coconut production in India:

- According to Dr. Vijayalakshmi Nadendla, CEO of the Coconut Development Board, India is currently the largest coconut producer with a **30.93%** share in global production and ranks second in terms of **productivity - 9,346** nuts per hectare after **Vietnam** at 10,547 nuts per hectare. According to 2020 ICC data, India is the world's largest coconut producer with a 30.93% share in global production, followed by **Indonesia and the Philippines**.
The production of coconut in the country during 2020-21 stood at 21207 million nuts, which was 34 per cent of the global production.
- With the increase in coconut production, India has been exporting coconut oil to **Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka** since April 2017, whereas till March 2017, India used to import coconut oil.
- Now for the first time India is also exporting desiccated coconut in large quantities to America and other European countries.
- In India, coconut is cultivated in states including **West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **World Coconut Day - 2 September**