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SEPTEMBER
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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLG SCHEME)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

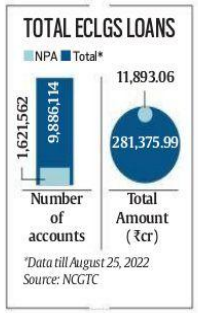
EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME

Covid distress: One in 6 MSME loan accounts under Govt pandemic relief package turns NPA

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

MIHIR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

IN AN indication of the continuing distress in the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, one in every six loans disbursed under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLG Scheme) launched as part of the Covid-19 relief package in May 2020 has turned bad in just 27 months, according to information obtained by *The Indian Express* under the Right to Information Act. The defaults are mainly in the lower end of the loan bands (up to Rs 20 lakh), the data reveals.



Replying to an RTI, the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) – a company set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to manage and provide guarantees to these loans – has said that loans to 16.22 lakh accounts, or 16.4 per cent of the total 98.86 lakh accounts, disbursed since May 2020 turned into Non-Performing Assets (NPA).

While the total NPAs or bad loans as per the RTI response dated August 25 this year stood at Rs 11,893.06 crore, the total loan amount disbursed till August 25 this year amounted to Rs 2,81,375.99 crore. The quantum of loans that could be provided by banks was increased

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Job creation, wealth distribution our focus areas, says Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

UNDERSCORING THAT the country's economic growth remains a priority for the government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Wednesday that job creation and equitable distribution of wealth were the other focus areas.

She also pointed out that inflation has come down to a "manageable level" over the past few months.



Sitharaman in New Delhi on Wednesday. *PTI*

Speaking at the India Ideas Summit, organised by the US-India Business Council (USIBC), Sitharaman said: "Some of course are red-lettered (priorities), some may not be. Red-lettered ones would of course be jobs, equitable wealth distribution and making sure India is moving on the path of growth. In that sense, inflation is not red-lettered. I hope it doesn't surprise many of you. We have shown in the past couple of months that we were able to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Context: one in every six loans disbursed under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLG Scheme) launched as part of the Covid-19 relief package in May 2020 has turned bad in just 27 months.



Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLG Scheme)

- In order to mitigate the stress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic on several sectors across the country, the government has announced an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which incorporates ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 and ECLGS 3.0.
- The ECLGS aims to provide 100 percent guaranteed coverage to the banks, non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) and other lending institutions in order to enable them to extend emergency credit to business entities that have suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are struggling to meet their working capital requirements.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 7

LIST OF SCHEDULED CASTES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 -Polity & Governance)

UP to seek Central law to include 17 OBC sub-castes in SC list

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 7

AFTER THE Allahabad High Court quashed two orders of the Uttar Pradesh government notifying 17 sub-castes of Other Backward Classes (OBC) as Schedule Castes (SC), the state BJP government is planning to send a proposal to the Centre, asking it to pass a law in Parliament to include those 17 OBC sub-castes in the Scheduled Castes list.

At present, there are 66 castes on the Schedule Castes list in Uttar Pradesh.

While quashing the two government notifications — one brought by the Samajwadi Party government in 2016 and the other by the BJP government in 2019 — the High Court had said that only Parliament has the power to add new castes to the Scheduled Castes list.

"We are preparing a draft proposal which will be sent to the Centre, requesting it to include the 17 sub-castes in the Scheduled Castes list. We are working on the proposal, which after due approval will be sent to the Centre seeking an amendment to the list of Scheduled Castes," UP Minister for Social Welfare Asim Arun told *The Indian Express*. Arun Tuesday met Minister of Fisheries and NISHAD party chief Sanjay Nishad and discussed the proposal.

The 17 OBC sub-castes are Kahar, Kashyap, Kevat, Mallah, Nishad, Kumhar, Prajapati, Dheevar, Bind, Bhar, Rajbhar, Dhimar, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machhua.

Context: The UP government is planning to send a proposal to the Centre, asking it to pass a law in Parliament to include 17 OBC sub-castes into the Scheduled Castes list.

Constitutional provision for listing a caste as an SC

- Article 341(1) of the Indian Constitution gives the president the power to notify which castes in the country, and in specific states come under the category of Scheduled Castes.
- According to Article 341 (2), the Parliament by law can include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes.
- Article 341 sub clause (2) of the Constitution, the power to make changes in the SC list lies only with Parliament.
- Scheduled Castes are those castes named in the Scheduled Castes order of the Government of India, promulgated in August 1950.
- The criteria for inclusion of a community/ caste in the Scheduled caste is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.
- Between 1950 and 1978, six Presidential Orders were issued recognising specific caste groups as SCs.
- The name 'Scheduled Caste' derives from the fact that this is annexed as a Schedule to the Constitution.
- As per the procedure to make additions or deletions to the Schedule by amending the concerned Presidential Order for a state under Article 341(2), state governments first propose to modify the Schedule.
- Only proposals agreed by both the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes are introduced as a Bill in Parliament.
- This procedure was adopted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 1999 and was amended in 2002.
- A similar provision exists for Scheduled Tribes under Article 342.

LIVEMINT

Page 1

DECOUPLING IN ECONOMY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

FII flows hint at likely decoupling from EMs

India's strong growth points to increasing economic independence

Ram Sahgal & Ujjval Jauhari

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

A significant gap has opened up between Indian stocks and other emerging markets which have swooned in the recent past on fears about a US recession, prompting some investors to conclude that India has decoupled itself from its peers.

While MSCI Emerging Markets Index fell about 21.8% in the 12 months to 31 August, MSCI India Index declined just 3.17%. Similarly, while the EM index shed 6.49% in the three months to end-August, MSCI India gained 6.14%.

Some experts suggested that India's strong economic growth despite economic troubles in the US and European nations shows India's recovery from the pandemic has diverged from most emerging and developed countries, underscoring India's increasing economic independence.

"India is in a sweet spot compared with its EM peers like China, Russia and Taiwan—one is weighed down by growth concerns, the other by crippling sanctions and the last on the brink of a face-off with its powerful neighbour," said Nilesh Shah, managing director and chief executive of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. "Amid these hotspots of distress, India stands out as an ideal investment destination, offering high economic and corporate earnings growth prospects, robust corporate governance standards and a focus on green initiatives. These will ensure our market continues to trade at a historic high premium to EMs and attract more investment flows, going forward."

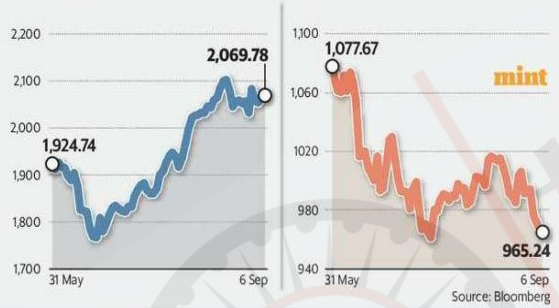
The one-year forward price-to-earnings multiple of MSCI India as of August end was 21.65. That compares with 11.09 for the MSCI EM.

With India likely to remain the fastest-growing economy over the next five years, stocks will continue to command a premium over other emerging markets, said Manish Jain, fund man-

TURN TO PAGE 6

PARTING WAYS

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index shed 6.49% in the three months to end-August, while the MSCI India index gained 6.14%.



Source: Bloomberg

HOME ADVANTAGE

INDIA is in a sweet spot when compared with its EM peers, say analysts

IT stands out as an ideal investment destination amid high growth hopes

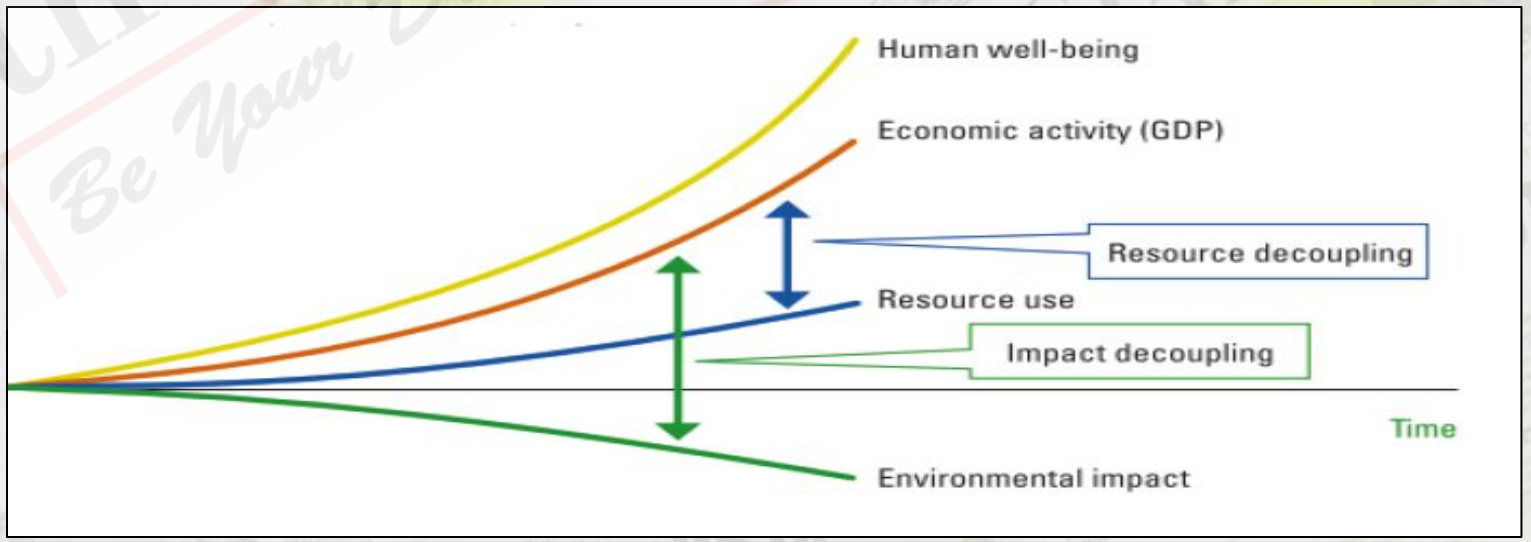
INDIAN stocks may continue to command a premium over other EMs

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

Context: A significant gap has opened up between Indian stocks and other emerging markets which have swooned in the recent past on fears about a US recession, prompting some investors to conclude that India has decoupled itself from its peers.

Decoupling in economy

- Decoupling means an economy is not affected from an economic incident occurred abroad.
- Decoupling is when the returns of an asset class that have been correlated with other assets in the past no longer move in-step according to expectations.
- Decoupling may also refer to a disconnect between a country's investment market performance and the state of its underlying economy.
- Investors can view a decoupling as an opportunity if they believe that the previous pattern of correlation will return, but there is no guarantee that it will.
- Relative decoupling refers to a decreasing correlation between two assets, while absolute decoupling means a zero or negative correlation.



LIVEMINT Page 9

RIGHTS OF SECURED CREDITORS UNDER THE IBC, 2016

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Insolvency rescue plans cannot ignore statutory dues, rules SC

'Creditors cannot secure their obligations at the expense of any other obligation'

Priyanka Gawande
priyanka.gawande@livemint.com

The Supreme Court in a judgment delivered on Tuesday held that a business resolution plan which ignores the statutory demands payable to any state government or a legal authority is liable to be rejected. The definition of secured creditor in the insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC) does not exclude any government or government authority, it added. "In our considered view, the Committee of Creditors—which may include financial institutions and other financial creditors—cannot secure its own obligations at the expense of any other obligations, including statutory obligations to any government or governmental authority," said a bench of justices Indira Banerjee and A.S. Bopanna.

The top court clarified that a company would have to be liquidated and its assets sold and distributed in accordance with Section 53 of the IBC if it is unable to pay its debts, which should include any statutory obligations to the government or other authorities, and there is no plan that contemplates dissipating those debts in a phased, uniform and proportional reduction.

The ruling came after a state tax officer filed a petition asking whether IBC provisions and, in particular, Section 53, overrode Section 48 of the GVAT (Gujarat Value Added Tax) Act.

> Ruling came after a state tax officer filed a petition asking whether IBC provisions and, in particular, section 53, overrode section 48 of the GVAT

Smita Paliwal, partner, Dispute Resolution at King Stubb & Kasiva Advocates and Attorneys, said, "This ambiguity in the interpretation of law created by the present judgment will have a ripple effect on the present and future proceedings under IBC. It would definitely have a negative impact on the claim of the operational creditors who are already at the bottom of the pyramid created by Section 53 of IBC and now with this ambiguous interpretation, the realization of debts would be a herculean task for such creditors. It is also yet to be seen now whether this subsequent interpretation also paves way for government departments being part of the Committee of Creditors".

In February 2019, the National Company Law Tribunal ruled that the government cannot claim first charge over the property of a corporate debtor, as Section 48 of the Gujarat Act which provides for first charge on the property of a dealer in respect of any amount payable by the dealer on account of tax, interest, penalty etc. under the VAT, cannot prevail over section 53 of the IBC.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016: Salient Features

Clear & Speedy Process for Early Identification & Resolution of Financial Distress for Corporates & LLPs (if underlying business found viable)	**Two Distinct Resolution Processes:** (a) Fresh Start; (b)Insolvency Resolution	**Adjudicating Authorities:** National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and Debt Recovery Tribunal	**Regulator:** Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India for IPs, IPAs & Information Utilities	**Insolvency Professionals (IPs):** To handle commercial aspects of Insolvency Resolution Process	**Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPAs):** To develop professional standards & code of ethics for insolvency professionals members	**Information Utilities:** To process financial information to be used in insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings.

Context: The Supreme Court in a judgment held that a business resolution plan which ignores the statutory demands payable to any state government or a legal authority is liable to be rejected.

Rights of Secured Creditors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

- A secured creditor is defined under section 3(30) of IBC as a creditor in favour of whom security interest is created.
- The term "Security Interest" has also been defined under section 3(31) of the Code.
- It means right, title or interest or a claim to property created in favour of, or provided for a secured creditor by a transaction which secures payment or performance of an obligation and includes mortgage, charge, hypothecation, assignment and encumbrance or any other agreement or arrangement securing payment or performance of any obligation of any person. However, the proviso to section 3(31) states that the term "Security Interest" does not include performance security.
- A secured creditor is not allowed to enforce its security interest against the corporate debtor during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in view of moratorium clause under section 14 of IBC.
- Section 14(1)(c) specifically provides that the Adjudicating Authority on insolvency commencement date, shall by order declare moratorium for prohibiting any action to foreclose, recover or enforce any security interest created by the corporate debtor in respect of property including any action under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.
- The rights of the secured creditors are restored only after the commencement of liquidation proceedings against the corporate debtor under section 33 of the Code.

THE HINDU Page 1

KARTAVYA PATH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1- Indian heritage & Culture)

Rajpath, Central Vista lawns renamed 'Kartavya Path'

Proposal passed day before PM inaugurates revamped avenue

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

Rajpath and Central Vista Lawns in the national capital will now be known as "Kartavya Path" after the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), in a special council meeting on Wednesday, approved a proposal to rename the iconic stretch.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the revamped Central Vista Avenue, which encompasses the stretch, lawns and adjoining areas, on Thursday.

Referring to the renaming, Union Minister and NDMC member Meenakshi Lekhi said that the name "Rajpath" reflected a "colonial mindset", which had to be done away with since "India adopted a democratic system after Independence". During British rule, Rajpath was known as Kingsway. Ms. Lekhi said the change came into effect "immediately" after the council meeting. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also an NDMC member, was not present at the meeting.

NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said the stretch and area from India Gate to the Rashtrapati Bhavan will now be known as "Kartavya Path".

Renaming signages

A senior official at the Central Public Works Department said that vinyl films will be pasted on signages in 14 locations highlighting the renaming. "The work will be completed before the inauguration of the revamped Central Vista Avenue on Thursday," said the official.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in a statement, said the renaming of the stretch symbolises a shift from the "erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment".

The statement issued by the PMO said Mr. Modi will on Thursday also unveil a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate, where a hologram of the late freedom fighter was installed earlier this year.

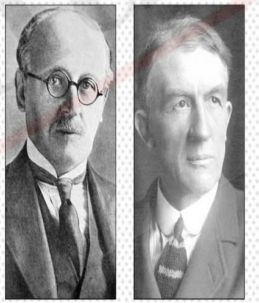
(with Bureau inputs)

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 3

Context: Rajpath and Central Vista Lawns in the national capital will now be known as "Kartavya Path".

About Kartavya Path

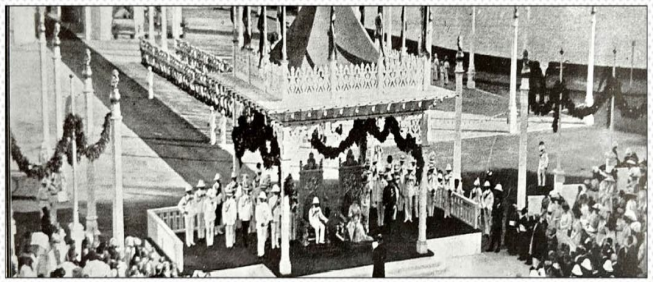
- Rajpath, officially named Kartavya Path, and formerly known as Kingsway, is a ceremonial boulevard in New Delhi, India, that runs from Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill through Vijay Chowk and India Gate, National War Memorial to National Stadium, Delhi.
- Considered to be one of the most important roads in India, it is where the annual Republic Day parade takes place on 26 January.
- It is also used for the funeral processions of key political leaders of India.
- Most of the buildings surrounding the Rajpath were designed by Lutyens and the second architect of the project, Sir Herbert Baker.
- When built the road was named King's Way, or Kingsway, in honour of the Emperor of India George V, who had visited Delhi during the Durbar of 1911, and where the Emperor formally proclaimed the decision to move the capital.
- The name was similar to Kingsway in London, which had been opened in 1905, and which was also a custom-built arterial road, and which had been named in honour of George V's father, Edward VII (as King of the United Kingdom).
- Following the independence of India the road was given its Hindi name, 'Rajpath', in place of its English designation.
- This represents a mere translation more than a substantial renaming, since 'Rajpath' in Hindi is broadly analogous in meaning to 'King's Way'.





ITS BRIEF
HISTORY
During British Rule
(Around 1920)

Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, architects of New Delhi, built a ceremonial boulevard that was **called Kingsway,** after **King George V,** who visited Delhi during the **Delhi Durbar of 1911** and shifted the capital from Calcutta to the city



NEWS18 creative

THE HINDU Page 12

NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 -Sci & Tech)

WHO to stress prevention of non-communicable diseases

Southeast Asia regional committee session in Bhutan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region on Wednesday resolved to accelerate progress for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including oral and eye afflictions.

"The region must build on the progress made in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Though the trends are in the right direction, we need to accelerate efforts to achieve global, regional, and national goals," Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said at the ongoing 75th regional committee session of the WHO Southeast Asia in Bhutan.

Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes, account for almost two-thirds of all deaths in the region.

Nearly half these deaths occur prematurely between the ages of 30 and 69 in 2021.

The meeting noted the continuing high burden of disease and death due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, a large number of untreated cases of dental caries and oral health conditions, and challenges in the provision of comprehensive eye care.

The member countries endorsed the road map for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, an action plan for oral health and another plan for an integrated people-centered eye care during the session.

Context: The member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region resolved to accelerate progress for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including oral and eye afflictions.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors.
- The main types of NCD are cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.
- People of all age groups, regions and countries are affected by NCDs.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes NCDs as a major challenge for sustainable development.
- WHO committed to develop ambitious national responses, by 2030, to reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment (SDG target 3.4).
- To support countries in their national efforts, WHO developed a Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020, which includes nine global targets that have the greatest impact on global NCD mortality. These targets address prevention and management of NCDs.

Status in India

- According to the study report "India: Health of the Nation's States"- The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative in 2017 by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), it is estimated that the proportion of deaths due to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in India have increased from 37.9% in 1990 to 61.8% in 2016.
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- The objectives of the programme include health promotion activities and opportunistic screening for common Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancer.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 16

8 novel genes cause infertility in Indian men, scientists find

Syed.Akbar@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: A group of Indian scientists, including those from Hyderabad, has for the first time identified a set of eight genes that are responsible for infertility in men in India. The researchers found mutations in these genes leading to malformed and low sperm production in the Indian male population. The study was published in the scientific journal Human Molecular Genetics.

The genes identified are new or novel and were not associated with reproductive defects in Indian men until now. The research team from Hyderabad was drawn from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) and Mamata Fertility Hospital. CDFD director K Thangaraj said the eight genes are defective in infertile men, adding that half of the country's cases of infertility are due to problems in men. CCMB director Vinay Kumar Nandicoori said the study could help in developing potential diagnostic markers for male infertility. For the study, the team studied a mutation in one of the eight genes, CETN1, to find out how it impacts sperm production. The team found the mutation in CETN1 stops the division of cells and leads to insufficient production of sperm.

INFERTILITY IN MEN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Context: A group of Indian scientists, including those from Hyderabad, has for the first time identified a set of eight genes that are responsible for infertility in men in India.

- The eight genes are BRDT, CETN1, CATSPERD, GMCL1, SPATA6, TSKS and ZNF318.

Causes of infertility in Men

- Obstruction of the reproductive tract causes dysfunctionalities in the ejection of semen. This blockage can occur in the tubes that carry semen (such as ejaculatory ducts and seminal vesicles) and is commonly caused due to injuries or infections of the genital tract
- Hormonal disorders lead to abnormalities in hormones produced by the pituitary gland, hypothalamus, and testicles. These hormones, such as testosterone, regulate sperm production and can sometimes even cause pituitary or testicular cancers
- Testicular failure to produce sperm can be due to varicoceles or medical treatments that impair sperm-producing cells (such as chemotherapy).
- Abnormal sperm function and quality.
- Environmental and lifestyle factors like smoking, excessive alcohol intake, and obesity can also cause infertility.
- **Currently, no treatments can improve the quality of a man's sperm.**
- However, various techniques can be implemented to increase the odds of conception using the existing sperm quality.
- Further, many men have sufficient sperm to fertilize their partner's eggs in a test tube, even if it is not possible during sexual intercourse.
- In most cases, the couple can be helped with assisted reproductive technologies (ART).
- ART procedures sometimes use donor eggs, sperm, or previously frozen embryos. It may also involve a surrogate or gestational carrier.

DOWN TO EARTH

Sept 8

NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES (NLEM)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice & Health)



HEALTH

Over half the antibiotic formulations India used in 2019 were unapproved

Despite being the largest antibiotic consumer in absolute volume globally, India lacks a formal system of antibiotic use surveillance

NEXT NEWS >

By Taran Deol

Published: Wednesday 07 September 2022

National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)

- The essential medicines list (EML) is a list of drugs that contains selected medications that are effective and safe in treating the most important disorders of the health system.
- The list is prepared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The principles of forming the NLEM state that any drugs that fulfill certain basic requirements are included in the NLEM, including that a drug must be essential and the disease concerned must be a public health concern.4 Once included, the drug should significantly contribute to a reduction of the burden of the disease concerned.

Context: Over half the antibiotic formulations used in India in 2019 were not listed in the national list of essential medicines (NLEM), a new study published recently in The Lancet has found.

Key points

- The study noted that fixed-dose combinations (FDC) in India were not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) either.
- India also had a high rate of consumption of FDCs discouraged by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- India lacks a formal system of antibiotic use surveillance despite being the largest antibiotic consumer in absolute volume globally.
- While several studies have analysed and concluded that India's antibiotic consumption is high, very few have done so using the AWaRe classification, "a stewardship framework advocated by the WHO to measure and improve appropriate antibiotic use."
- Under this, antibiotics are divided into three key categories:
  - The first is 'Access', which includes antibiotics typically used as the first or second-line of treatment.
  - The second is 'Watch', which includes broad-spectrum antibiotics which have a high chance of resistance and must only be used for specific indications.
  - Third is 'Reserve', the last resort antibiotics.
- In India, drugs which fall under the 'Watch' category, are used in high volumes, going against the reason behind its classification - to be used sparingly.
- The global goal is to have at least a 60 per cent share for 'Access' antibiotic, and in India the ratio is nearly reversed.
- Despite India having a low per-capita consumption of antibiotics compared to previously reported figures, overusing antibiotics remains a problem.

PIB

Sept 8

EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

English Translation of Address by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum 2022

Posted On: 07 SEP 2022 3:44PM by PIB Delhi

Context: Prime Minister delivered a video address at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum 2022 being held in Russia's Vladivostok.

Eastern Economic Forum 2022

- The Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) is an annual international forum that takes place in Vladivostok, Russia.
- It is sponsored by the organizing committee appointed by Roscongress, an association of the Russian Government, which also sponsors other international forums.
- It was established in 2015 for the purpose of encouraging investment in the Russian Far East.
- It is a platform for the discussion of key issues related to economic development, regional integration and development of new technological sectors.
- The forum's business program includes dialogues with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and ASEAN.

India's interest

- The Russian Far East has many petroleum resources which is of great interest to India.
- There are plans to connect the port of Chennai with Vladivostok, the largest city in the Russian Far East.
- This would provide both India and Russia an alternative sea-route with respect to the Suez Canal.
- The opening of the Chennai-Vladivostok sea route can be a suitable counter towards Chinese presence in the South China Sea and, by extension, the One Belt One Road initiative.
- It can also benefit Russia as India's presence can limit Chinese influence in the region.

SCIENCE REPORTER

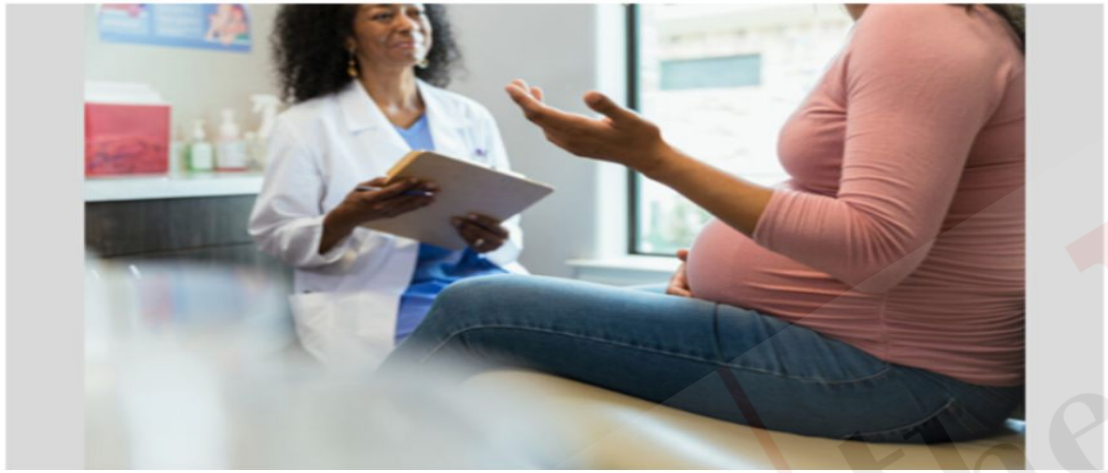
Sept 8

ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Dolutegravir-based Antiretroviral Therapies for HIV-1 Effective in Pregnancy

Press Release



Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapies (ART) for HIV-1 are more effective for pregnant people than some other ART regimens commonly used in the U.S. and Europe, according to a study led by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health researchers.

Context: Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapies (ART) for HIV-1 are more effective for pregnant people than some other ART regimens commonly used in the U.S. and Europe.

Key points

- Pregnant people who took dolutegravir-based regimens had a high probability of being virally suppressed at delivery.
- There were no observed differences in the risks of adverse birth outcomes (preterm birth, low birth weight, small for gestational age, or neonatal death) between dolutegravir-based regimens and the other contemporary regimens.
- Dolutegravir, a more recently approved antiretroviral drug, is part of a once-a-day regimen that has been shown to be more effective, easier to tolerate, and less likely to create new drug resistance in people with HIV-1 compared with other antiretroviral drugs.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART)

- The treatment for HIV is called antiretroviral therapy (ART). ART involves taking a combination of HIV medicines (called an HIV treatment regimen) every day.
- ART is recommended for everyone who has HIV. ART cannot cure HIV, but HIV medicines help people with HIV live longer, healthier lives. ART also reduces the risk of HIV transmission.
- HIV attacks and destroys the infection-fighting CD4 cells (CD4 T lymphocyte) of the immune system. Loss of CD4 cells makes it hard for the body to fight off infections and certain HIV-related cancers.
- HIV medicines prevent HIV from multiplying (making copies of itself), which reduces the amount of HIV in the body (called the viral load). Having less HIV in the body gives the immune system a chance to recover and produce more CD4 cells.
- Even though there is still some HIV in the body, the immune system is strong enough to fight off infections and certain HIV-related cancers.

THANK YOU!

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