

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA AND THE COMMITMENT TO SHAPING A FAIR MARKET ENVIRONMENT

Context

- The dawn of Amrit Kaal (next 25 years) signifies a period of significant technological advancements and global economic shifts.
- In this period, it is crucial to examine the role of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in navigating the complexities of these changes and fostering a competitive, inclusive, and resilient economic environment.

The Significance of the Competition Commission of India in India's Economic Journey

- **Enforcement Actions**
 - **Addressing Anti-Competitive Practices**
 - CCI is empowered to eliminate practices that have adverse effects on competition.
 - This includes investigating and acting against anti-competitive agreements between enterprises.
 - **Scrutinising Dominant Companies**
 - CCI closely examines the conduct of dominant companies to ensure they do not abuse their position in the market.
 - **Remedial Solutions**
 - In cases where anti-competitive behavior is identified, CCI has the authority to issue suitable punitive and remedial solutions.
- **Advocacy Measures**
 - **Fostering a Culture of Competition**
 - CCI engages in advocacy measures to promote a culture of competition in the markets.
 - **Educating Stakeholders**

- By enhancing awareness and understanding of the importance of fair competition, CCI contributes to the creation of a market where businesses operate on a level playing field.
- **Policy Recommendations**
 - Apart from enforcement actions, **CCI provides opinions and recommendations on policy matters affecting competition whenever sought.**
- **Broad Mandates of CCI**
 - **Elimination of Adverse Practices**
 - **CCI's mandate encompasses the elimination of practices having adverse effects on competition.**
 - This includes not only direct anti-competitive agreements but also actions that may indirectly harm the competitive landscape.
 - **Promotion and Sustenance of Competition**
 - **Beyond merely preventing anti-competitive practices, CCI is tasked with actively promoting and sustaining competition.**
 - This involves creating an environment where businesses can compete fairly and consumers have a wide range of choices.
 - **Consumer Protection:** CCI is committed to protecting consumer interests, ensuring fair prices, quality products, and diverse options in the market.

Conclusion

- As India's economy looks to the future, **CCI's commitment to building resilience and agility in regulatory practices becomes paramount.**
- **Proactive identification of potential market disruptions, research investments, expertise building, and technological leverage will be key** to shaping a future where competition thrives, innovation is encouraged, and consumer welfare is safeguarded.
- **On marking 75 years of independence of India, CCI reiterates its commitment** to steering India's economic journey towards competitiveness, inclusivity, and resilience.

WHAT IS INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD)?



A recent Scientific study investigated the association between migraine and the development of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

About Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD):

- IBD is a term that describes **disorders involving long-standing (chronic) inflammation of tissues in the human digestive tract.**
- For some people, IBD is only a mild illness. For others, it's a debilitating condition that **can lead to life-threatening complications.**
- **Types of IBD include:**
 - **Ulcerative colitis:** This condition involves **inflammation and sores (ulcers) along the lining of your large intestine (colon) and rectum.**
 - **Crohn's disease.**
 - This type of IBD is characterized by **inflammation of the lining of your digestive tract**, which often involves the deeper layers of the digestive tract.
 - Crohn's disease most **commonly affects the small intestine.** However, it can also affect the large intestine and, uncommonly, the upper gastrointestinal tract.
 - A third category, **indeterminate colitis IBD**, refers to IBD that **has features of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.**
- **Causes:** The exact cause of IBD is unknown, but IBD is the **result of a weakened immune system.** Possible causes are:
 - The **immune system responds incorrectly to environmental triggers**, such as viruses or bacteria, which **cause inflammation** of the gastrointestinal tract.
 - There **also appears to be a genetic component.** Someone with a family history of IBD is more likely to develop this inappropriate immune response.
- **Symptoms:**

- IBD causes a range of **problems in the colon and rectum**, but it can **also affect other parts** of the body.
 - Both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are usually characterized by **diarrhea, rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, fatigue**, and weight loss.
 - People with IBD may **experience flare-ups followed by periods with no symptoms**.
 - **Treatment:**
 - Although there is **no curative treatment** for IBD, it's **possible to reduce inflammation** and address symptoms **with a variety of therapies**.
 - IBD treatments may include **medications, surgery, and a range of diet and lifestyle changes** that help reduce inflammation and support the immune system.
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JAGANNATH TEMPLE

Recently, the Chief Minister of Odisha unveiled a sprawling heritage corridor around the Jagannath Temple in Puri.



About Jagannath Temple:

- It is located in **Puri, Odisha**.
 - It is one of the most famous and sacred Hindu temples in the world.
 - It is dedicated to **Lord Jagannath**, a form of the Hindu **deity Vishnu**.
 - It is believed to have been built during the reign of King **Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva**, of the **Eastern Ganga dynasty**, in the 12th century.
 - **Architecture:** The Jagannath Temple is a striking example of **Kalinga architecture**, a distinct style prevalent in the Odisha region.
 - The temple's main structure, **the sanctum sanctorum**, or the garbhagriha, houses the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra.
 - **Ratha Yatra** is a Hindu festival associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri in Odisha.
 - The most famous Rath Yatra festival begins on the second day of the bright half of the lunar month of Ashadha (June–July) and lasts for nine days.
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DISTRESS ALERT TRANSMITTER

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an improvised Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) with advanced capabilities and features for the fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats.



About Distress Alert Transmitter:

- The first version of DAT has been operational since 2010.
- The fishermen at sea send **emergency messages** from fishing boats.
- The messages are sent through a communication satellite and received at a **central control station** (INMCC: Indian Mission Control Centre) where the alert signals are decoded for the identity and location of the fishing boat.
- The extracted information is forwarded to **Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres** (MRCCs) under the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Using this information, the MRCC coordinates to undertake Search and **Rescue operations** to save the fishermen in distress.

What is Second Generation DAT?

- Taking advantage of technological developments in satellite communication and satellite navigation ISRO has improvised DAT with advanced capabilities and features evolving to Second Generation DAT (DAT-SG).
- The DAT-SG has the facility to **send back an acknowledgment to the fishermen** who activate the distress alert from the sea. This gives an assurance to him of rescue coming to him.
- Apart from transmitting distress signals from the Sea, DAT-SG can receive messages from control centers.
- Using this, advance alert messages can be sent to the fishermen at sea whenever there are **events of bad weather, cyclone tsunami, or any other emergencies**.

RESISTANCE TO MEDICINES ON THE RISE

Why in the News?

- With antimicrobial resistance on the rise, the Union Health Ministry has urged doctors to write down the exact reason when prescribing antibiotics.

About Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

- Antimicrobials – including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitic – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals, and plants.
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs **when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines** making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.
- As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.
- It is estimated that **bacterial AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019** and 4,95 million deaths were associated with drug-resistant infections.



Measures Taken by Govt. of India to Tackle AMR:

- The government is aware of the challenges posed by AMR in India and has taken the following measures to address the issue:
 - The AMR surveillance network has been strengthened by establishing labs in State Medical College. 36 sites in 26 States/UTs have been included in this network so far.
 - A national action plan on containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) focusing on the One Health approach was launched in 2017 to involve various stakeholder ministries/departments.
 - **AMR Surveillance Network:** ICMR has established an AMR surveillance and research network (AMRSN) comprising 30 tertiary care hospitals, both private

and government to generate evidence and capture trends and patterns of drug-resistant infections in the country.

- **AMR Research & International Collaboration:** ICMR has taken initiatives to develop new drugs /medicines through international collaborations to strengthen medical research in AMR.
 - **Red Line Campaign:** The Union health ministry’s “Red Line Campaign” **urges people not to use medicines marked with a red vertical line**, including antibiotics, without a doctor’s prescription.
 - This campaign is aimed at discouraging unnecessary prescription and over-the-counter sale of antibiotics causing drug resistance for several critical diseases including TB, malaria, urinary tract infection, and even HIV.
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[BAN ON COMMERCIAL RELEASE OF GM CROPS WILL BE AGAINST NATIONAL INTEREST: CENTRE TELLS SC](#)

Why in news?

- The Supreme Court has reserved its judgment on public interest litigations (PILs) challenging the government's decision to allow the commercial release of the GM mustard variant Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11).

GM Crop

- Conventional plant breeding involves crossing species of the same genus to provide the offspring with the desired traits of both parents.
- Genetic engineering aims to transcend the genus barrier by introducing an alien gene in the seeds to get the desired effects.
 - The alien gene could be from a plant, an animal, or even a soil bacterium.
 - E.g. Bt cotton has alien genes from soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).
 - It allows the crop to develop a protein, toxic to the common pest pink bollworm.

- In Bt brinjal, a gene allows the plant to resist attacks of fruit and shoot borer.
- Seeds produced using genetic engineering are called Genetically Modified Seeds.

Stand of govt. in SC

- **Increasing demand for edible oil**
 - In 2020-21, 13.45 million tonnes (54%) of the total edible oil demand was met through imports worth about ₹1,15,000 crore.
 - This included palm oil (57%), soybean oil (22%), sunflower oil (15%), and a small quantity of canola-quality mustard oil.
 - In 2022-23, 15.533 million tonnes (55.76%) of the total edible oil demand was met through import.
- **critical for food security in India**
 - Mustard is the most important edible oil and seed meal crop in India.
 - Strengthening of plant breeding programs, including the use of new genetic technologies such as GE technology is critical for meeting emerging challenges in Indian agriculture.
 - This is also vital for ensuring food security while reducing foreign dependency.
- **Economic losses of crops due to weeds**
 - The govt said India's annual economic losses of crops due to weeds is \$11 billion (Rs 1 lakh crore).
 - It also highlighted that the annual value of herbicide currently used in India is Rs 4,500 crore even without Herbicide Tolerant (HT) crops.
 - HT crops provide effective weed control and it will be detrimental to ban the development of HT crops for Indian agriculture as labor is expensive and not available.
- **DMH-11 hybrid has shown increased per-hectare yield** by 25-30% over the traditional varieties
 - It further added that mustard is one of the highest oil-bearing oilseeds in India. Hence, domestic production of edible oils will rise considerably.

BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK

Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park will soon be connected by rail as the proposed Jajpur Road-Dhamra railway line will pass through the park.



About Bhitarkanika National Park:

- **Location:** It is located in Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha.
- The national park that is sprawling across 672 km² of mangrove swamp is **situated on a delta formed by rivers, namely Brahmani, Baitarani, and Dhamra.**
- **Proximity to the Bay of Bengal makes the soil of the area enriched with salts; the vegetation and species of the sanctuary are those that are mainly found in the tropical and subtropical intertidal regions.**
- It is home to a multitude of **mud huts, creeks, backwaters, and estuaries.**
- The area was designated as the **Ramsar Site in 2002.**

Flora:

- It houses various **species of mangroves** spread across its forest region, marshy lands, creeks, etc.
- **Thespia, casuarinas, Sundari, and indigo bush grasses** are some of the other varieties of flora that flourish in the area.

Fauna:

- Bhitarkanika has one of the largest populations of endangered **saltwater crocodiles** in India.
- **Gahirmatha Beach**, which forms the boundary of the park in the east, is the **largest colony of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.**
- Other mammals include **monkeys, jackals, common langurs, otters, sambar deer, jungle cats, foxes, Mongoose, wolfs, fishing cats, hyenas, etc.**