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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (14 December 2024)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA TO CHAIR 68th COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS & DRUGS
- INDIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
- HEALTHCARE IN INDIA
  - AYUSHMAN BHARAT
- MCQs

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## INDIA TO CHAIR 68TH COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS & DRUGS



- **India's Appointment:** India has been chosen to chair the **68th Session** of the **UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** for the first time.
- **Official Appointment:** Ambassador **Shambhu S Kumaran**, India's **Permanent Representative** to the **United Nations in Vienna**, formally assumed the chairmanship of the CND.

### ABOUT UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS & DRUGS

- **Mandate and Role:**
  - The **CND** is the **principal policy-making body** of the United Nations on drug-related matters.

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- It is responsible for **monitoring global drug trends, supporting Member States** in formulating balanced policies on **drug control, and overseeing the implementation** of three key **international drug conventions (1961, 1971, and 1988 Conventions)**.
- The **CND** is **mandated** to decide on the **scope of control of substances** under these conventions.
- **Organizational Structure:**
  - The **CND** operates as one of the **functional commissions** of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
  - It also serves as a **Governing Body** of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, which is headquartered in **Vienna**.
- **Member States and Regional Representation:**
  - The **CND** has **53 member states**, which are **elected by ECOSOC**.
  - The **CND** is guided by a **Bureau**, which includes one member from each **Regional Group** of countries (**e.g., Asia, Africa, Latin America**).
  - The Commission meets **annually** to adopt decisions and resolutions on global drug control issues.

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- **Intersessional meetings** are convened throughout the year, and at the **end of each year**, the Commission meets in a **reconvened session** to address **budgetary and administrative matters** as the governing body of the UN drug programme.
- **Subsidiary Bodies:**
  - The CND has **five subsidiary bodies** that focus on national drug law enforcement agencies in different regions:
    1. **Europe**
    2. **Latin America and the Caribbean**
    3. **Asia and the Pacific**
    4. **Africa**
    5. **The Near and Middle East**



## INDIA'S ROLE & SIGNIFICANCE AS CHAIR

- **Historical First:** This is the **first time** that India has been appointed to chair the **CND**, reflecting India's growing influence in international governance and its increasing leadership role on the global stage.

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- **Global Leadership:** India's selection underscores its **commitment to addressing global challenges** and contributing to international discussions on important issues, such as drug control, through **multilateral frameworks** like the United Nations.
- **Focus on the Global South:** As chair, **India is expected to advocate for the interests of the Global South**, aiming to balance the perspectives of developing and developed nations on drug policy.
- **Priority Areas:** India will focus on integrating the **concerns of emerging economies** with the priorities of developed countries, striving for **holistic and balanced approaches** to drug-related issues, especially in areas such as **illicit drug trafficking, substance abuse**, and the **availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes**.

## AGENDA FOR 68th SESSION

- The **agenda for the upcoming year** is expected to focus on the following key issues:
  1. **Strengthening international collaboration** to combat **illicit drug trafficking** and **substance abuse**.
  2. Addressing the **social and health impacts** of drug abuse globally.
  3. Ensuring the **availability of controlled substances** for **medical and scientific purposes** while minimizing misuse.

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4. Continuing to build on **multilateral dialogue** to promote **evidence-based solutions** for drug-related issues.
- India will work closely with **other member states** of the CND to advance **equitable, inclusive, and sustainable strategies** for addressing these global challenges.

## CONNECTION WITH ECOSOC

- **ECOSOC Overview:**
  - ECOSOC is one of the **5 principal organs** of the United Nations, established by the **UN Charter** in **1945**.
  - It is responsible for **coordinating and directing** the **economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities** carried out by the UN.
  - ECOSOC's mandate includes fostering **international cooperation** in addressing global issues such as poverty, human rights, and drug control.
- **Relationship with CND:**
  - As a **functional commission** of ECOSOC, the CND's activities and policies are shaped within the **broader framework of ECOSOC's objectives**.
  - ECOSOC plays an important role in **guiding the CND's work, ensuring that its decisions align with the UN's broader goals** for global development and peace.

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# INDIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM



- The **4th Edition** of the **India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)** will be held on **December 9-10, 2024**.
- **Venue:** The event will take place at the **Bharat Mandapam Convention Center, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.
- **Key Supporters:** The event is supported by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**.
- **Objective:** IIGF 2024 aims to **bring together India's multi-stakeholder community** to discuss critical aspects of **Internet governance**, promote meaningful dialogue, and highlight India's leadership in the global **digital landscape**.

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## THEME OF IIGF

- The theme for **IIGF 2024** is "**Innovating Internet Governance for India.**"
- This theme will guide discussions and activities focused on creating a **secure, inclusive, and ethically governed Internet.**
- The forum will explore the need for bridging the **digital divide**, improving **trust** and **safety** in the online environment, and utilizing **advanced technologies** for **nation-building.**

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

IIGF 2024 will focus on several critical themes to advance a **secure, inclusive, and sustainable** digital ecosystem:

- **Empowering Connections:**
  - Discussions will focus on enhancing **access** to the Internet, ensuring **inclusion**, and safeguarding **digital rights** to bridge the digital divide.
- **Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:**
  - The forum will explore ways to create balanced, **growth-oriented policies** that strengthen **Internet governance** while ensuring digital justice.
- **Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI):**
  - The forum will promote the **ethical** and **effective use** of **AI** for societal benefit, ensuring AI technologies align with values of inclusivity, fairness, and accountability.

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- **Building a Greener and Sustainable Internet:**

- IIGF 2024 will highlight **energy-efficient practices** and focus on **environmental sustainability** within the digital space, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of the internet infrastructure.

- **Trust and Safety:**

- Enhancing **cybersecurity** and fostering **user confidence** in the online environment will be a key discussion point. This includes strategies for building **trust** in digital platforms, data security, and privacy protection.

## ABOUT IIGF

- **Establishment:** The **IIGF** was launched in **2021** as the Indian chapter of the **United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF)**.

- **Mission and Purpose:**

- IIGF aims to foster **collaborative discussions** among **stakeholders** to address the **challenges** and **risks** of the digital world while maximizing the **opportunities** provided by the Internet.
- The forum is **multi-stakeholder** and promotes dialogue between representatives from **government, civil society, industries, technical communities, and think tanks**.

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- **Inclusive and Collaborative Approach:**

- The IIGF is known for its **inclusive approach**, involving diverse stakeholders in shaping policies that aim for an **open, secure, and accessible Internet**.
- It plays a significant role in addressing key issues like **cybersecurity, digital inclusion, data privacy**, and emerging technologies, while also looking to enhance **digital rights and infrastructure**.



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## HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

## AYUSHMAN BHARAT



Launched in **2018**, **Ayushman Bharat** is a transformative health initiative aimed at achieving **universal health coverage** for the most vulnerable populations in India, particularly in rural areas. The program is designed to provide **comprehensive healthcare** across all levels — primary, secondary, and tertiary care.

### ABOUT AYUSHMAN BHARAT

The Ayushman Bharat programme was launched in **2018** to address health issues at all levels – **primary, secondary, and tertiary**.

It has **two components**:

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- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, earlier known as the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)

- **Ayushman Arogya Mandir (earlier known as Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs))**

Ayushman Bharat is an **integrated approach** comprising **health insurance and primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare.**

**Targeted Beneficiaries: 12 Crore Households.**

## **HWCs & PM JAY**

The **HWCs are aimed at improving access to cheap and quality healthcare services at the primary level.**

**PM-JAY will cover the financial protection** for availing healthcare services at the **secondary and tertiary levels.**

Ayushman Bharat is the **largest government-funded healthcare programme in the world with over 50 crore beneficiaries.**

## **AYUSHMAN AROGYA MANDIR / HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRES**

### **(HWCs)**

HWCs are being created by **converting the existing primary health centres and sub centres.**

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They provide **comprehensive primary health care (CPHC)** including a child and maternal health services, non-communicable diseases, and also diagnostic services, and free essential drugs.

**HWCs are important** because they offer **CPHC** that is critical to enhancing health outcomes.

Primary healthcare plays a vital role in **preventing many disease conditions**. Providing CPHC decreases morbidity and mortality at a lower cost and greatly **reduces the requirement for secondary and tertiary care**.

## **PM JAN AROGYA YOJANA (PM JAY)**

- It is the largest government-funded **health insurance scheme** in world.
- The scheme offers **eligible families** an insurance cover of **Rs. 5 lakh per annum per family. (no cap on family size)**
- This amount is intended to **cover all secondary and most tertiary care expenditures incurred**.
- The cover will **include pre and post-hospitalization expenses**. It will also cover all pre-existing conditions. **3 days of pre-hospitalization** and **15 days of post-hospitalization** like medicines and diagnostics are covered.

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- The beneficiary will also receive a **defined transport allowance** per hospital.
- The beneficiaries can take **cashless treatment from any empanelled hospital anywhere in the country**. This includes both **public and private hospitals**. By default, **all government hospitals in the states that are implementing the scheme will be empanelled**.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The scheme is targeted to **cover 12 crore families** (deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban worker's families)

The beneficiaries are identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** data.

**The beneficiaries are different in rural & urban areas.**

## RURAL AREA BENEFICIARIES

Out of the total seven deprivation criteria for rural areas, **PM-JAY** covered all such families who fall into **at least one of the following six deprivation criteria** (D1 to D5 and D7) and automatic inclusion (Destitute/ living on alms, manual scavenger households, primitive tribal group, legally released bonded labour) criteria:

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**D1-** Only one room with kucha walls and kucha roof

**D2-** No adult member between ages 16 to 59

**D3-** Households with no adult male member between ages 16 to 59

**D4-** Disabled member and no able-bodied adult member

**D5-** SC/ST households

**D7-** Landless households deriving a major part of their income from manual casual labour

## **URBAN AREA BENEFICIARIES**

For urban areas, the following **11 occupational categories:**

- Ragpicker
- Beggar
- Domestic worker
- Street vendor/ Cobbler/hawker / other service provider working on streets
- Home-based worker/ Artisan/ Handicrafts worker/ Tailor
- SWEEPER / SANITATION WORKER / MALI
- CONSTRUCTION WORKER / PLUMBER /MASON / LABOUR / PAINTER / WELDER / SECURITY GUARD / COOLIE AND OTHER HEAD-LOAD WORKER

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- Transport worker/ Driver/ Conductor/ Helper to drivers and conductors/ Cart puller/ Rickshaw puller
- Shop worker/ Assistant/ Peon in small establishment/ Helper/Delivery assistant / Attendant/ Waiter
- Electrician/ Mechanic/ Assembler/ Repair worker
- Washer-man/ Chowkidar

## ROLE OF NHA

- NHA is the apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- It has been entrusted with the role of:
  - designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and
  - implementation of National Digital Health Mission to create a National Digital Health Ecosystem.
- To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) in the form of a society/trust have been set up by respective States.

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## RECENT UPDATE

**World's Largest Health Insurance Scheme Becomes Bigger!**

- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to provide Health Coverage to **all Senior Citizens of 70 years & Above** Irrespective of their Income
- 4.5 Crore families** with **6 crore senior citizens** to be benefitted
- ₹ 5 Lakh** free health cover per family
- Issuance of a **new Distinct Card** under AB PM-JAY
- Additional top-up of ₹ 5 Lakh** to seniors **aged 70+** belonging to families under **AB PM-JAY**

## HOW IS IT PERFORMING?

As of **September 12, 2024**, there are **1,74,453 AAMs** across the country, comprising:

- **1,12,617 Sub Health Centres (SHCs)**
- **23,903 Primary Health Centres (PHCs)**
- **5,123 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs)**
- **5,632 Urban Health and Wellness Centres (UHWC)**
- **12,178 Ayush-related Centres**
- As of **September 9, 2024**, **35.4 crore Ayushman cards** have been issued under the scheme.

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- The scheme is operational in **33 States and Union Territories (UTs)**, with the exceptions of **Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha**.



- The scheme has authorized **7.79 crore hospital admissions**, with a total expenditure of **Rs 1,07,125 crore** for these admissions.
- Initially, the scheme covered **10.74 crore vulnerable families**, which was expanded to **12 crore families** in **January 2022**, reflecting the population growth of India (11.7% increase since 2011).
- Further, it was expanded to include **37 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs)** and their families.

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## MCQs

1. Consider the following statements wrt Commission on Narcotics & Drugs and mark the correct one:

1. The CND is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations on drug-related matters.

2. The CND is a specialised agency under the UN.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 & 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Ans. (A)**

2. Under which Principal Organ is the Commission for Narcotics & Drugs?

(A) UN Secretariat

(B) UN General Assembly

(C) UN Security Council

(D) UN ECOSOC

**Ans. (D)**

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3. What was the theme for India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024?

- (A) Innovating Internet Governance for India
- (B) Building Responsible Internet.
- (C) Making Internet Inclusive.
- (D) None of the above

**Ans. (A)**

4. Consider the following statements wrt Ayushman Bharat Scheme and mark the correct one:

1. Ayushman Bharat deals with secondary & tertiary healthcare only.
2. Ayushman Bharat covers all the elderly above 70 years of age.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (B)**

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