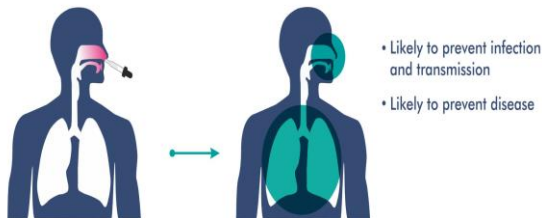


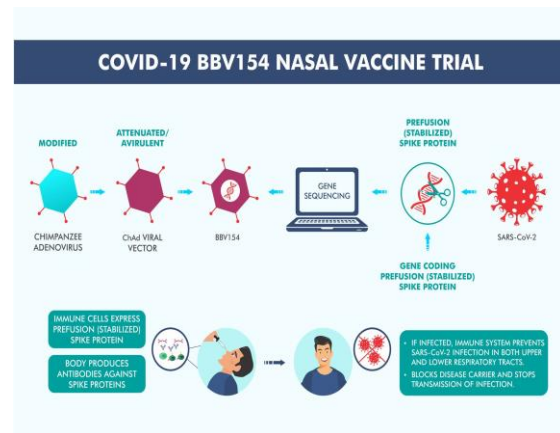
Intranasal vaccine

- An intranasal vaccine stimulates a broad immune response neutralizing IgG, mucosal IgA, and T-cell responses.
- Immune responses at the site of infection (in the nasal mucosa) are essential for blocking both infection and transmission of COVID-19.

Intranasal SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines



- The nasal route has excellent potential for vaccination due to the organized immune systems of the nasal mucosa.
- Non-invasive, Needle-free.
- Ease of administration does not require trained healthcare workers.
- Elimination of needle-associated risks (injuries and infections).
- High compliance (Ideally suits for children's and adults).
- Scalable manufacturing is able to meet global demand.



THE HINDU

Oxford Intranasal vaccine

- Oxford vaccine an adenovirus vector vaccine originally developed for intramuscular administration elicited antigen-specific mucosal antibody
- The Oxford vaccine, as an intranasal vaccine, did not elicit “consistent mucosal antibody response nor a strong systemic response.

THE HINDU

HPV

- The Lancet published this month showing that India accounts for the highest number of cervical cancer cases in Asia, followed by China.
- More than 58% of all cases of cervical cancer and deaths globally were estimated in Asia with India accounting for 21% of cases and 23%

of deaths, followed by China (18% and 17%).

- Cervical cancer is a preventable and treatable cancer.
- It is caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) and there are vaccines that protect against carcinogenic HPV
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a viral infection that's passed between people through skin-to-skin contact
- According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the WHO has specified that countries must reach and maintain an incidence rate of fewer than 4 new cases of cervical cancer per 1,00,000 women a year.
- To achieve that goal, it is necessary that 90% of girls will have to be fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15.
- To that end, the government's intent to introduce the HPV vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

THE HINDU

The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021

- India ranks poorly on multiple health financing indicators. Its public health expenditure as a percentage of its

GDP (1.28%) and share of general government expenditure dedicated to health (4.8%) remain akin to the poorest countries.

- Per capita, health spending growth has not kept pace with rising incomes.
- Private spending still constitutes nearly 60% of overall expenditure on health.
- This is driven by the dominant role of the private health sector.
- The typical Indian context of income disparities, backwardness, and under regulation incentivized the private sector to differentiate into a host of organizations of varying sizes and scopes, each serving its own customer base.
- The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021

Allied health professional:

- The Bill defines an 'allied health professional' as an associate, technician, or technologist trained to support the diagnosis and treatment of any illness, disease, injury, or impairment.
- Such a professional should have obtained a diploma or degree under this Bill. The duration of the degree /diploma should be at least 2,000

hours (over a period of two to four years).

Healthcare professional:

- A 'healthcare professional' includes a scientist, therapist, or any other professional who studies, advises, researches, supervises, or provides preventive, curative, rehabilitative, therapeutic, or promotional health services.
- Such a professional should have obtained a degree under this Bill. The duration of the degree should be at least 3,600 hours (over a period of three to six years).
- National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions:
- The Bill sets up the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions. The Commission will consist of: (i) the Chairperson, (ii) Vice-Chairperson, (iii) five members (at the level of Joint Secretary) representing various Departments/ Ministries of the central government, (iv) one representative from the Directorate General of Health Services, (v) three Deputy Directors or Medical Superintendents appointed on a rotational basis from amongst medical institutions including the AIIMS, Delhi and AIIPMR, Mumbai, and (vi) 12 part-time members

representing State Councils, among others.

Functions of the Commission

- The Commission will perform the following functions with regard to Allied and Healthcare professionals: (i) framing policies and standards for regulating education and practice, (ii) creating and maintaining an online Central Register of all registered professionals, (iii) providing basic standards of education, courses, curriculum, staff qualifications, examination, training, maximum fee payable for various categories, and (iv) providing for a uniform entrance and exit examination, among others.
- Offenses and penalties: No person is allowed to practice as a qualified allied and healthcare practitioner other than those enrolled in a State Register or the National Register. Any person who contravenes this provision will be punished with a fine of Rs 50,000.

THE HINDU

CAG Report on DRDO

- Assessing the Mission Mode (MM) projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Comptroller and Auditor

General (CAG) has flagged time and cost overruns in the completion of projects, irregular closure of projects declaring them successful despite non-achievement of one or more key objectives and parameters, and taking up of new projects for realizing the unachieved objectives of earlier closed projects declared as successful.

- Mission Mode (MM) projects are taken up by DRDO as high- priority projects based on specific user requirements with a definite time frame for their completion.

About CAG

- Defined as the “most important officer in the Constitution of India” by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is an independent jurisdiction authorized under Article 148 of the Indian Constitution.
- CAG of India, or also the “Guardian of the Public Purse”, is vested with the responsibility of inspecting and auditing all the expenditures of both the Central and the State Governments as well as of those organizations or bodies which the government significantly funds.

Duties of CAG

- He audits the accounts associated with all expenditures from the Consolidated Fund of India, the Consolidated Fund of every state, and UT has a legislative assembly.
- He audits all the expenditures from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India, and the Contingency Fund and Public Account of every state.
- He audits all the trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, and separate subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and State governments.
- He audits all the receipts and expenditures of the bodies and authorities extensively financed from the Central or State revenues, government companies, other corporations, and bodies when required by related laws.

THE HINDU

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010

- The ASI regulates construction around the protected monuments

through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Act, of 2010.

- The Act prohibits construction within 100 meters of a protected monument.
- The next 300-metre radius is regulated too.
- Proposed amendments seek to do away with the ban on construction within 100 meters of a monument and only regulate construction within 100--200 meters, under the Act that protects monuments and sites over 100 years old.
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 hereinafter referred to as the Amendment Act has been enacted to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and to make provision for validation of certain actions taken by the Central Government under the said Act.
- 2. The limits of prohibited areas and regulated areas around the monuments, archaeological sites, and remains declared by the Central Government as protected have been

specified in the principal Act as 100 m and 200 m, respectively.

- The limits so fixed may be further extended on the basis of gradation and classification of the monuments, archaeological sites and remains to be done by the National Monument Authority, which is to be constituted by the Central Government by virtue of the Amendment in the principal Act.
- 3. The Authority shall have a full-time Chairperson and five full-time and five part-time members having proven experience and expertise from the fields of archaeology, town and country planning, architecture, heritage, conservation architecture, or law with a tenure of three years.

THE HINDU

GI

- Joynagar moa, the popular Bengal sweetmeat available only during the colder months of the year, with the number of registered manufacturers witnessing a massive rise and its Geographical Indication tag getting a 10-year extension.
- The moa is a popped rice ball held together with fresh date- palm jaggery, extracted from the beginning of December till the end of February.

What is a geographical indication?

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin.
- Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production.

What rights does a geographical indication provide?

- A geographical indication right enables those who have the right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.
- For example, in the jurisdictions in which the Darjeeling geographical indication is protected, producers of Darjeeling tea can exclude the use of the term “Darjeeling” for tea not grown in their tea gardens or not produced according to the standards

set out in the code of practice for the geographical indication.

- For what type of products can geographical indications be used?
- Geographical indications are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- What is the difference between a geographical indication (GI), an appellation of origin (AO), a protected designation of origin (PDO) and a protected geographical indication (PGI)?
- The term “geographical indications”, in its broad sense, includes a variety of concepts used in international treaties and national/regional jurisdictions, such as appellation of origin (AO), protected designation of origin (PDO), and protected geographical indication (PGI). For instance,
 - “Geographical indication” is defined in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and in the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications.
 - “Appellation of origin” is defined in the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration

and in the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications.

- “Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)” and “Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)” are terms used within the European Union.

THE HINDU

Engineering goods

- The engineering goods sector comprises metal products, industrial machinery and equipment, automobiles and their components, transport equipment, bicycles, medical devices, and renewable equipment.
- India’s top five export destinations include the US, China, the UAE, Italy, and Germany
- India’s zero-duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has helped in this growth
- The EPCG scheme allows the import of capital goods for all stages of the production cycle.
- The engineering goods sector consists of metal products, industrial machinery, automobile component, and medical devices, among others.

“Recent trend

- Since the record postCOVID recovery last fiscal, global demand has again

exhibited signs of distress in the current fiscal,”

- “Demand continues to remain subdued in Europe primarily due to high energy prices and lower manufacturing activity.”
- While the withdrawal of the export duty on steel items may restore iron and steel exports.

THE HINDU
