

NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING BILL 2021

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS)

CONTEXT: Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the National Anti-Doping Bill 2021 that **seeks to create a statutory framework for the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**.

Piloted by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, it was first introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2021.

The bill will protect the interest of sportspersons as it will provide ample space for them to put forth their versions, especially when they face anti-doping charges.

PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- The Bill prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel and other persons from engaging in doping in sport.
- Anti-doping rule violation may result in **disqualification of results including forfeiture of medals, points, and prizes, ineligibility to participate in a competition or event** for a prescribed period, financial sanctions etc.
- The Bill provides for constituting this **National Anti-Doping Agency as a statutory body**, headed by a **Director General** appointed by the central government. Functions of the Agency include:
 1. Planning, implementing, and monitoring anti-doping activities,
 2. Investigating anti-doping rule violations,
 3. Promoting anti-doping research.
- The Bill establishes a **National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports** to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping regulation and compliance with international commitments on anti-doping.
- The Board will **oversee the activities of the Agency and issue directions to it**.
- The existing **National Dope Testing Laboratory will be deemed to be the principal dope testing laboratory**.
- The central government may establish more National Dope Testing Laboratories.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BILL

- The bill attempts to achieve time-bound justice to athletes, apart from enhancing cooperation among agencies in fighting doping.
- It is also an attempt to reinforce India's commitment to fulfil international obligations for clean sports.
- The bill would help in establishing a robust, independent mechanism for anti-doping adjudication.
- The bill also would lend legal sanctity to the functioning of NADA and National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).

ISSUES WITH THE BILL

- The **qualifications of the Director General are not specified** in the Bill and are left to be notified through Rules.
- The central government **may remove the Director General from the office on grounds of misbehavior or incapacity or “such other ground.”**
- Leaving these provisions to the discretion of the central government may affect the independence of the Director General.
- This also goes against the mandate of the World Anti-Doping Agency that such bodies must be independent in their operations.
- Under the Bill, the **Board has powers to remove the members of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeal Panel** on grounds which will be specified by regulations and are not specified in the Bill.
- Further, there is **no requirement to give them an opportunity of being heard**. This may affect the independent functioning of these panels.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (HEALTH, GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTIONS)

CONTEXT: World Hepatitis Day is observed each year **on 28th July to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis**.

The theme for the year 2022 is **“Bringing hepatitis care closer to you”**.

It aims to highlight the need to bring hepatitis care closer to primary health care facilities, and so communities, to ensure better access to treatment and care.

ABOUT HEPATITIS

- The word hepatitis refers to any **inflammation of the liver — the irritation or swelling of the liver cells from any cause**.
- It can be acute (inflammation of the liver that presents with sickness — jaundice, fever, vomiting) or chronic (inflammation of the liver that lasts more than six months, but showing no symptoms).

CAUSES

- Usually caused by a group of viruses known as the **“hepatotropic” (liver directed) viruses, including A, B, C, D and E**.
- Other viruses may also cause it, such as the **varicella virus** that causes chicken pox.
- SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19 may injure the liver too.
- Other causes include **drugs and alcohol abuse, fat buildup in the liver (fatty liver hepatitis) or an autoimmune process** in which a person’s body makes antibodies that attack the liver (autoimmune hepatitis).
- Hepatitis is the only **communicable disease where mortality is showing an increasing trend**.

TREATMENT

- Hepatitis **A and E are self-limiting diseases** (i.e., go away on their own) and require no specific antiviral medications.
- For Hepatitis B and C, effective medications are available.

GLOBAL SCENARIO

- Approximately **354 million people** are suffering from **hepatitis B and C**.
- Southeast Asia has **20% of the global morbidity burden of hepatitis**.
- **About 95% of all hepatitis-related deaths** are due to **cirrhosis and liver cancers** caused by the hepatitis B and C virus.

INDIAN SCENARIO

- Viral hepatitis, caused by **hepatitis viruses A through E**, remains a major public health problem in India.
- India has **“intermediate to high endemicity” for Hepatitis B surface antigen** and an estimated **40 million chronic HBV infected people**, constituting approximately **11% of the estimated global burden**.
- Population prevalence of chronic HBV infection in India is around **3-4 %**.

CHALLENGES

- Access to healthcare services is often out of reach for communities as they are available at **centralized/specialized hospitals at a cost which cannot be afforded by all**.
- People continue to die because of **late diagnosis or lack of appropriate treatment**. Early diagnosis is the gateway for both prevention and successful treatment.
- In the **Southeast Asia region**, only about 10% of people with hepatitis know their status; and of them, only 5% are on treatment.
- Of the estimated 10.5 million people with hepatitis C, just 7% know their status, of which around one in five are on treatment.

PRELIMS FACTS

REPLACEMENT LEVEL FERTILITY ACHIEVED

- India has achieved replacement level fertility with **31 States and Union Territories reaching a Total Fertility Rate (an average number of children per woman) of 2.1 or less**.
- Replacement level fertility is the **level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next**, i.e., the level of fertility needed to keep the population the same from generation to generation.
- The government data showed an overall positive shift towards spacing methods that would be instrumental in impacting positively maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.
- The Family Planning Programme in India is now over seven decades old, and in this period, the country had witnessed a paradigm shift from the concept of **population control to population stabilization to interventions being embedded toward ensuring harmony of continuum care**.

CRYPTO JACKING

- According to a report, Crypto jacking attacks on computer systems have gone up by **30% to 66.7 million in the first half of 2022** compared to the first half of last year.
- Crypto jacking is a **cyber-attack wherein a computing device is hijacked and controlled by the attacker and its resources are used to illicitly mine cryptocurrency**.

- In most cases, the malicious programme is installed when the user clicks on an unsafe link, or visits an infected website — and unknowingly provides access to their Internet-connected device.
- Crypto jacking is hard to detect and the victims of these attacks mostly remain unaware that their systems have been compromised. Some telltale signs are the device slowing down, heating up or the battery getting drained faster than usual.

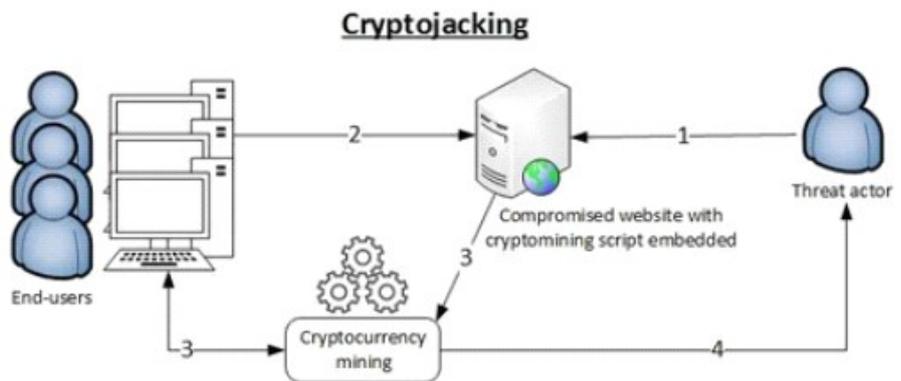
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)

- India contributed \$2.5 million to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

- It was established in 1949 with the mandate to provide assistance and protection to about 5.6 million Palestinian refugees (in West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan).

- **Funding:** Only through voluntary contributions.

- As a part of the **Link West Policy**, India has de-hyphenated its relationship with Israel and Palestine in 2018 to treat both the countries as mutually independent and exclusive.



- Steps**
1. The threat actor compromises a website
 2. Users connect to the compromised website and the cryptomining script executes
 3. Users unknowingly start mining cryptocurrency on behalf of the threat actor
 4. Upon successfully adding a new block to the blockchain, the threat actor receives a reward in cryptocurrency coins

MULTI AGENCY GROUP FOR INVESTIGATION OF FOREIGN ASSET CASES

- Indian Government has set up a “Multi-Agency Group for investigation of Foreign Asset Cases.”
- The Group comprises of representatives from various enforcement Agencies and Organizations. It will be headed by the **Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
- It will involve in the investigation of various categories of foreign asset cases such as **Paradise paper leaks, Panama paper leaks, and Pandora paper leaks.**

International Consortium of International Journalist (ICIJ) in an investigative report (Pandora Paper) released in October 2021 claimed that 380 Indians are in list of global elites who has been exposed for ring-fencing their wealth through the shadowy financial transaction and using offshore tax heavens to hide assets worth millions of dollars.

