

# AAKAR TODAY

## 1. Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Disease and Nutrition

### Why in News?

Recently, Union Minister addressed 16th Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Disease and Nutrition (ASCODD) at Kolkata. Delegates from India and other South East Asian countries, African countries, US, European countries joined the conference virtually.

### Key Details

#### What are the Key Highlights of the Conference?

- The theme of the ASCODD was "Prevention and control of cholera, typhoid and other enteric diseases in low and middle-income countries through community participation: beyond the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic".
- The conference program focuses on the latest issues in enteric infections, nutrition, policy, and Practice including roadmap to end Cholera by 2030, Cholera vaccine development and rapid diagnostics, contemporary perspectives of antimicrobial resistance of enteric bacteria: new Initiatives and challenges, enteric bacterial infections, including Shigella spp, epidemiology, burden, and vaccines against other viral infections, including Hepatitis, lessons learned about diarrhoea research during the COVID pandemic.
- Indian initiatives under Digital India initiative such as Online Registration System, eHospital for hospital management, eSanjeevani telemedicine app were highlighted.

#### What is Diarrhoeal Disease?

- **About:**
  - Diarrhoea is defined as the passage of three or more loose or liquid stools per day (or more frequent passage than is normal for the individual).
  - The most severe threat posed by diarrhoea is dehydration.
  - During a diarrhoeal episode, water and electrolytes (sodium, chloride, potassium and bicarbonate) are lost through liquid stools, vomit, sweat, urine and breathing.
  - Dehydration occurs when these losses are not replaced.
- **Statistics:**
  - Diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old.
  - Each year diarrhoea kills around 525,000 children under five.
  - Globally, there are nearly 1.7 billion cases of childhood diarrhoeal disease every year.
- **Clinical Types:**
- **Acute Watery Diarrhoea** – lasts several hours or days, and includes cholera;
- **Acute Bloody Diarrhoea** – also called dysentery; and
- **Persistent Diarrhoea** – lasts 14 days or longer.
- **Causes:**
- **Infection:** Diarrhoea can be caused by bacterial infections such as cholera and typhoid, or by viral

and parasitic organisms, most of which are spread by faeces-contaminated water.

- **Malnutrition:** Children who die from diarrhoea often suffer from underlying malnutrition, which makes them more vulnerable to diarrhoea.
- **Contaminated Food and Water:** Contamination with human faeces, for example, from sewage, septic tanks and latrines, is of particular concern. Animal faeces also contain microorganisms that can cause diarrhoea.
- **Prevention:**
  - Access to safe drinking-water;
  - Use of improved sanitation;
  - Hand washing with soap;
  - Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life;
  - Good personal and food hygiene;
  - Health education about how infections spread; and
  - Rotavirus vaccination.

#### What are the Related Initiatives by India?

- **Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF):** To increase awareness about use of ORS and Zinc in diarrhoea, ICDF is being observed during pre-monsoon/ monsoon season, with the aim of 'zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea' since 2014.
- **Integrated Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (IAPPD):** In 2014, India launched the Integrated Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (IAPPD) to undertake collaborative efforts towards prevention of diarrhoea and pneumonia-related under-five deaths.
- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** It was launched by the government in 1985 and prevents mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases including pneumonia and diarrhoea.
- **Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign:** It seeks to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% of deaths of children under the age of five annually.
- **Rotavirus Vaccine Drive:** In 2019, the government of India launched a rotavirus vaccine drive across all states and Union Territories, which was an unprecedented national scale-up of the rotavirus vaccine.

## 2. India-US Economic and Financial Partnership Meet

### Why in News?

Recently, the 9th Ministerial meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership was held. The Indian delegation was led by the Union Minister for

Finance & Corporate Affairs and the USA delegation was led by the Treasury Secretary.

### Key Details

#### What are the Key Highlights of the Meet?

- **Efforts to Increase Climate Ambition:**
  - Both countries shared the re-energized global efforts to increase climate ambition as well as respective domestic efforts to meet publicly expressed climate goals.
- **Macroeconomic Challenges:**
  - In the context of the conflict in Ukraine, both discussed the current headwinds to the global macroeconomic outlook including increased commodity and energy prices as well as supply side disruptions, and reemphasized their commitment to the central role of multilateral cooperation in addressing these global macroeconomic challenges.
- **Multilateral Development Banks:**
  - They acknowledged the importance of working through MDBS to help India access and mobilize available financing to support development objectives, including climate action.
  - Both plan to continue engaging on these and other global economic issues multilaterally and bilaterally.
- **G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment:**
  - Both reiterated commitment to step efforts to implement the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment in a predictable, timely, orderly and coordinated manner.
- **Collective Quantified Goal:**
  - Both agreed to mobilize USD 100 billion every year till 2025 from public and private sources for developing countries, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation.
- **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act:**
  - The two sides will continue to engage in discussions relating to the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) for sharing of financial account information.

#### How have been India's Relations with the US?

- **About:**
  - The U.S.-India strategic partnership is founded on shared values including a commitment to democracy and upholding the rules-based international system.
  - The United States and India have shared interests in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity.
  - The United States supports India's emergence as a leading global power and a vital partner in efforts to safeguard the Indo-Pacific as a region of peace, stability, and growing prosperity.
- **Economic Relations:**
  - In 2021, overall U.S.-India bilateral trade in goods and services reached a record USD 157 billion.
  - The United States is India's largest trading partner and most important export market.
  - America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus. In 2021-22, India had a trade surplus of USD 32.8 billion with the US.
- **International Cooperations:**

- India and the United States cooperate closely at multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, G-20, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization.
- The United States welcomed India joining the UN Security Council in 2021 for a two-year term and supports a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member.
- Together with Australia and Japan, the United States and India convene as the Quad to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific and provide tangible benefits to the region.
- India is also one of twelve countries partnering with the United States on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).
- India is a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), at which the United States is a dialogue partner.
- In 2021, the United States joined the International Solar Alliance headquartered in India, and in 2022 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

#### What are the Associated Challenges of India-US Ties?

- **Tariff Imposition:** In 2018, the US imposed a 25% tariff on certain steel products and a 10% tariff on certain aluminum products from India.
  - India retaliated in June 2019, by increasing tariffs on 28 products worth about USD 1.2 billion on US imports.
  - However, after the imposition of the Section 232 tariffs, steel exports to the US declined by 46% year-on-year.
- **Misunderstanding Self-Reliance as Protectionism:** The Atmanirbhar Bharat Campaign has exacerbated the view that India is increasingly becoming a protectionist closed market economy.
- **US' Hostility towards Other Countries:**
  - Some of the differences between India and the US are not direct consequences of India-US relationship but due to US' hostility towards third countries like Iran and Russia – the traditional allies of India.
  - The other issues that are challenging India-US relationship include India's ties with Iran and India's purchase of S-400 from Russia.
  - The US' call for India to distance itself from Russia may have a far-reaching consequence to South Asia's status quo.

#### PRACTICE QUESTION

##### Prelims

Q. Consider the following countries:

- |              |           |          |
|--------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Australia | 2. Canada | 3. China |
| 4. India     | 5. Japan  | 6. USA   |

Which of the above are among the 'Free-trade partners' of ASEAN?

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 | (b) 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 | (d) 2, 3, 4 and 6 |

##### Mains

Q. What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self-esteem and ambitions'. Explain with suitable examples.

(200 words)