

[pib] Swayam Prabha TV Channels

Governance | GS2: Health & Education

Note4Students | From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : SWAYAM prabha initiative

Mains level : Digital learning initiatives and their outreach in India

The HRD Ministry has taken several prompt, new and unique initiatives to ensure that the education of learners should not get affected by the challenging situation arising out of COVID 19. One of them is Swayamprabha TV channels.

There are various web/portals/apps with peculiar names such as YUKTI, DISHA, SWAYAM etc. Their core purpose is similar with slight differences. Pen them down on a separate sheet under the title various digital HRD initiatives.

SWAYAM Prabha

- The SWAYAM Prabha is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on a 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

- The channels are uplinked from BISAG, Gandhinagar. The contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU, NCERT & NIOS.
- The INFLIBNET Centre maintains the web portal.
- Every day, there will be new content for at least 4 hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience.

The DTH Channels shall cover the following:

Higher Education: Curriculum-based course contents at post-graduate and under-graduate level covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture, etc.

School education (9-12 levels): Modules for teacher's training as well as teaching and learning aids for children of India to help them understand the subjects better and also help them in preparing for competitive examinations for admissions to professional degree programmes.

Curriculum-based courses: These channels can meet the needs of life-long learners of Indian citizens in India and abroad.

Back2Basics: SWAYAM Portal

- SWAYAM is a Hindi acronym that stands for "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" is an Indian Massive open online course (MOOC) platform.
- It is an initiative launched by the Ministry of HRD, under Digital India to give a coordinated stage and free entry to web courses, covering all advanced education, High School and skill sector courses.
- It was launched on 9th July 2017 by Honorable President of India.
- The platform offers free access to everyone and hosts courses from class 9 till post-graduation.
- It enables professors and faculty of centrally funded institutes like IITs, IIMs, IISERs, etc. to teach students.

What is pooled testing, recommended by the ICMR?

Governance | GS2: Health & Education

Note4Students | From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : Pooled testing

Mains level : Intensive measures required for the containment the ongoing pandemic

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued an advisory for using pooled samples for testing of COVID-19 in order to increase the number of tests conducted by laboratories across the country.

COVID-19 containment measures are pacing up across the country. However, it is argued that we are lagging in the number of tests to be carried out. With certain limitations, pooled testing promises an edge over individual testings of suspected patients.

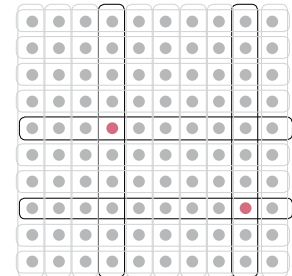
What is pooled testing?

- In a pooled testing algorithm, samples of multiple individuals are put together in a tube and screened through the PCR test.
- In case the pooled test turns out to be positive, individual samples are tested, which is referred to as pool de-convolution.

- If there's no positive result, all individual samples in the pool are regarded as negative, resulting in substantial cost savings.

What the ICMR has recommended?

- ICMR has advised that while more than two samples can be pooled together, the number should not exceed five samples to avoid sample dilution, which can lead to false negatives.
- This method can be used in areas where the prevalence of COVID-19 is low, which means a positivity rate of less than two per cent.
- In areas with a positivity rate between two to five per cent, sample pooling of PCR screening may be considered in a community survey of surveillance among asymptomatic individuals.



- Samples of individuals with known contact with confirmed cases or healthcare workers should not be included in the pooled samples.
- Also, ICMR has said pooling of sample is not recommended in areas or population with positivity rates of over five per cent.

Benefits of pooled testing

- Using this method, substantial costs and testing kits are saved.
- For instance, if a pooled sample consists of the samples of five individuals and it tests negative, the cost of four testing kits is saved and more number of people are covered with fewer resources.
- Significantly, pooled screening can also help in tracking down the asymptomatic cases of the disease, thereby tracking community transmission.
- But in case the sample tests positive, all individuals need to be tested separately.

TRAI wants set top boxes to be made interoperable

Governance | GS2: Governance, Transparency & Accountability, Citizens Charters

Note4Students | From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : TRAI

Mains level : TRAI and its regulations of telecom services

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended that all set-top boxes (STBs) in the country must be interoperable, meaning that consumers should be able to use the same STB across different DTH or cable TV providers.

The TRAI and Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal are quite often seen in the news. Most recent was the dispute risen due to AGR dues.

TRAI has a wide range of jurisdiction over Telecoms. Keep a track on all such news.

Why such a recommendation?

- TRAI noted that while the STBs deployed in the cable TV networks are non-interoperable, those by DTH players complied with licence conditions to support common interface module based interoperability.
- However, in practice, even in the DTH segment the STBs are not readily interoperable.

- The lack of interoperability of set-top boxes between different service providers deprives the customer of the freedom to change her/his service provider.
- It also creates a hindrance to technological innovation, improvement in service quality, and the overall sector growth.

About TRAI

- The TRAI is a statutory body set up under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- It is the regulator of the telecommunications and its tariffs in India.
- The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.
- TRAI regularly issues orders and directions on various subjects such as tariffs, interconnections, quality of service, DTH services and mobile number portability.

What is Post-intensive Care Syndrome (PICS)?

Governance | GS2: Health & Education

Note4Students | From UPSC perspective, the following things are important :

Prelims level : PICS

Mains level : Mental health concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic

- Various news reports in recent weeks have pointed out that for some COVID-19 patients who needed intensive care, the journey to recovery is a long one.
- After leaving the ICU, they may suffer from what is known as post-intensive care syndrome (PICS), which can happen to any person who has been in the ICU.

Infectious disease outbreaks, like the current Coronavirus (COVID-19), can be scary and can affect our mental health. This pandemic is going to leave a bigger trauma for those who had lost their dear ones as well those who recovered.

What is PICS?

- PICS comprise impairment in cognition, psychological health and physical function of a person who has been in the ICU.
- Further, such patients may experience neuromuscular weakness, which can manifest itself in the form of poor mobility and recurrent falls.
- The psychological disability may arise in a person in the form of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Its symptoms

- The most common PICS symptoms are generalized weakness, fatigue, decreased mobility, anxious or depressed mood, sexual dysfunction, sleep disturbances and cognitive issues.

- These symptoms may last for a few months or many years after recovery, the authors of the aforementioned article note.
- Patients who develop this may take at least a year to fully recover, until which time they may have difficulty in carrying out everyday tasks such as grooming, dressing, feeding, bathing and walking.

What causes PICS?

- A combination of factors can affect aspects of an ICU survivor's life.
- PICS may be induced if a person was on prolonged mechanical ventilation, experienced sepsis, multiple organ failure and a prolonged duration of "bed-restore deep sedation".

Treatment

- It is recommended that to avoid PICS, patients' use of deep sedation is limited and early mobility is encouraged, along with giving them "aggressive" physical and occupational therapy.
- Further, patients should be given the lowest dose of pain medications when possible and should be put on lung or cardiovascular rehabilitation treatments along with treatments for depression, anxiety and PTSD.