

15 May 2019: UPSC Exam PIB Summary & Analysis

Workshop on Artificial Bio Organs

Context

- In order to strengthen Indo-Australian Cooperation and achieve development of 3D printing industry in both the countries, Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) has recently organized a one-day workshop on Organ Bio Printing.

About Workshop

- The workshop explored 3D printing, an innovative technology that covers all medical disciplines and offers new opportunities in diagnostics and therapy.
- From diagnostic visualization to surgical planning, patient-specific models provide an added value for patients and physicians.

Organ Printing

- Artificially constructed device designed for organ replacement, produced using 3D printing techniques.
- The primary use of printable organs is in transplantation.
- Research is currently being conducted on artificial heart, kidney, and liver structures, as well as other major organs.
- Some printed organs are approaching functionality requirements for clinical implementation, and primarily include hollow structures such as the bladder, as well as vascular structures such as urine tubes.
- 3D printing allows layer-by-layer construction of a particular organ structure to form a cell scaffold.

Project 'SPARROW-CBIC' for APAR implemented

Context

- Project 'SPARROW-CBIC' for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) in SPARROW (Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window) for Group 'B' and 'C' Officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) implemented.

About the Project

- Online writing of APARs in SPARROW for IRS (C&CE) Officers has already been implemented w.e.f. 2016-17.
- As part of CBIC's constant endeavor for better HR management, online writing of APARs in SPARROW has now been launched for Group B & C officers of CBIC.
- SPARROW-CBIC is one of its kind in terms of Scale/ number of employees covered as far as Central Government Departments are concerned.
- It brings a complete change in APAR management of such large number of Group 'B' & 'C' Officers/ Staff of CBIC, which would, in turn, lead to better HR Management.
- This Project leverages modern technology for enhancing the overall efficiency and morale of the huge workforce working in Central GST and Customs formations of CBIC.

- The Project is an important milestone in the journey towards digitisation and paper less working.

Dr P. K. Mishra presents Country Statement at Global Platform

Context

- A high level Indian delegation headed by Dr P.K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister is participated in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 being held at Geneva, Switzerland.
- While presenting the Country Statement today, Dr Mishra briefed on the steps taken by India, after the adoption of the Sendai Framework.

Sendai Framework

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).
- The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement.
- The framework recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- It aims for the following outcome: The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

Seven Global Targets:

1. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
2. Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
3. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
4. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
5. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
6. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
7. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

The Four Priorities for Action

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery,

