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1. What is the National Health Claim Exchange?

Why in News?

The Health Ministry along with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) are working on measures aimed at allowing patients to access quality healthcare swiftly and with reduced out-of-pocket expenditure.

The Ministry and IRDAI are launching the National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX), a digital platform which will bring together insurance companies, healthcare sector service providers and government insurance scheme administrators.



How is the NHCX expected to work?

The NHCX will serve as a gateway for exchanging claims-related information among various stakeholders in the healthcare and health insurance ecosystem. The integration with NHCX is expected to enable seamless interoperability of health claims processing, enhancing efficiency and transparency in the insurance industry,

benefiting policyholders and patients, said the Health Ministry.

What about cashless claims?

A timeline has been fixed for insurance claims of cashless claims. The insurance authority has said that all cashless claims have to be processed within three hours of the receipt of discharge authorisation from the hospital. The insurance regulator has set the insurance provider a deadline of July 31 to put systems and processes in place to ensure the smooth facilitation of this latest directive.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Economics

Source: The Hindu

2. Why is China probing the far side of the moon? What is the latest in its ambitious space odyssey? How did China's other moon missions fare?

Why in News?

In the pre-dawn hours (IST) of June 4, a small spacecraft bearing lunar samples took off from the moon's far side, headed for an orbit that would bring it in contact with an orbiter waiting for it. There, the spacecraft 'handed over' the samples to a capsule on the returner, which will bring the samples back to the earth in a two-week journey. Scientists will thus finally have

access to pieces of moon soil and rocks from its far side. This is China's ambitious and ongoing Chang'e 6 mission.

What are the Chang'e missions?

China's moon missions are called Chang'e, named for the goddess of the moon in Chinese mythology. The Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA) launched the Chinese Lunar Exploration Programme (CLEP) in 2003, and the first Chang'e mission happened in 2007. Chang'e 1 created a map of the moon's surface.

With Chang'e 2, CLEP launched phase I of its moon missions, and equipped the orbiter with a better camera. Its images were used to prepare the Chang'e 3 mission's lander and rover for their descent on the moon, which they successfully achieved on December 14, 2013, starting CLEP's phase II missions.

In 2019, Chang'e 4 carried the first lander and the rover to descend on the moon's far side and explore this more mysterious region.

Phase III began with the Chang'e 5 mission. In late 2020, it deployed a lander on the moon's near side. It included a mission component called an ascender, which, after collecting and stowing some lunar soil samples, launched itself into orbit. There, an orbiter collected the samples, transferred them to a returner, which brought them to the earth.

Chang'e 6 is attempting to replicate its predecessor's feat but from the moon's far side. The scientific goal here is to understand why the far side is so different from the near side.

What is the far side?

The lunar hemisphere facing the earth will always face the earth, and the hemisphere facing away (far side) will always face away. The far side has rockier terrain and fewer smooth plains. Thus, it's harder to land a spacecraft on the far side — more so since it's impossible to communicate directly from the earth with a spacecraft here: there's no line of sight. A workaround is to have a second spacecraft in space that relays signals between ground stations on the earth and the surface spacecraft. This makes the mission more complex.

The far side is expected to be a good place to install large telescopes, which would have a view of the universe unobstructed by the earth. ISRO and scientists at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, are currently working on such a device, called PRATUSH.

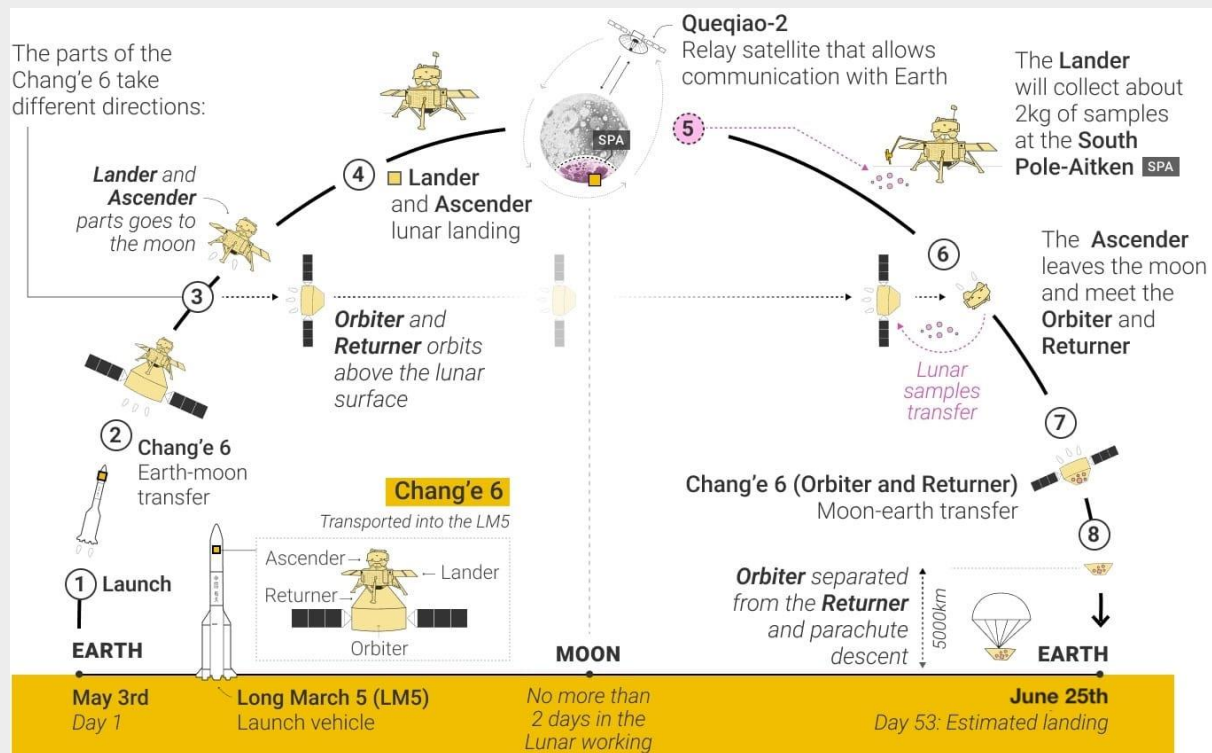
What is the status of Chang'e 6?

CNSA launched the 8.3-tonne Chang'e 6 orbiter-lander assembly on May 3 and it entered a lunar orbit on May 8. On May 30, the lander complex split from the orbiter and descended over a large crater called Apollo on June 1.

CLEP scientists coordinated this part of the mission with help from the Queqiao 2 relay satellite, which the CNSA launched in February this year into an elliptical orbit around the moon. Once within Apollo, a drill plunged into the soil, and with help from a scoop extracted about 2 kg of material, and transferred it to the ascender. On June 4, the ascender took off for moon orbit.

There, it rendezvoused with the orbiter and transferred the samples to a capsule in the returner on June 6.

The returner is expected to bring them to the earth on June 25.



Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Science & Technology

Source: The Hindu

3. What are Cabinet committees, and why is the CCS the most important of them all?

Why in News?

What are the CCS, and other important committees of the Cabinet, including the CCEA (Cabinet committee on economic affairs) and CCPA (Cabinet committee on political affairs)? What is the composition of the Cabinet committees — and their role and functioning in the government apparatus?

What are the various Cabinet committees?

Once the Union Cabinet is sworn in and ministerial portfolios are allocated, the next step would be the formation of the high-profile Cabinet committees. The Prime Minister sets up these committees with selected members of the Cabinet and assigns specific functions to these committees. The Prime Minister may change the numbers of committees, and modify the functions assigned to them.

The membership of each committee varies from three to eight. Usually, only Cabinet ministers are members of these committees. However, it is not unheard of for non-Cabinet ministers to be members or special invitees to committees. If the Prime Minister himself is a member of any such committee, he acts as the head of that committee.

CABINET COMMITTEES



The committees resolve issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet and take decisions on matters assigned to them. The Cabinet is empowered to review such decisions.

There are eight Cabinet committees at present — the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committee on

Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development, and Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

The committees on investment and employment were innovations introduced by the Modi government in 2019. All committees except the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the PM.

Why is CCS so important?

With the Prime Minister helming it, the CCS has the ministers for Finance, Defence, Home Affairs and External Affairs as its members. It is responsible for debates, discussions and appointments of/ in the national security bodies. Major decisions with respect to the significant appointments, issues of national security, defence expenditure of India are taken by CCS.

Besides dealing with defence related issues, the CCS also brainstorms on issues relating to law and order and internal security, and policy matters concerning foreign affairs on security-related issues. It also considers matters relating to atomic energy.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express