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1. What is New Collective Quantified Goal?

Why in News?

A climate meeting in Bonn, Germany, has failed to make much headway on the crucial issue of defining a new climate finance goal. By the end of 2024, countries have to finalise a new sum of money — above the existing figure of \$100 billion per year — that the developed world must mobilise for the developing countries to help them fight climate change.

The Bonn talks, an annual fixture in June, were expected to give at least some indicative numbers. They could have been worked upon before COP29 — scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November — where they have to be finalised. But this did not happen.

Search for a new New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

Money is central to climate action. It is needed not just for facilitating mitigation or adaptation works — mundane tasks of collecting and reporting climate data, mandatory under the 2015 Paris Agreement, also require substantial sums of money, especially in developing and poor countries, where there is a large capacity gap for this kind of work.



Under the international climate architecture set by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), rich and developed countries are obliged to provide money to developing countries to fight climate change. This is because the rich and developed countries are primarily responsible for causing climate change.

In 2009, the developed countries promised to mobilise \$100 billion every year from 2020 towards this purpose. A report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a grouping of rich countries, two weeks ago claimed that this \$100 billion target had been met for the first time in 2022.

However, developing countries contest these claims, citing double-counting and innovative accounting, and have often blamed the developed world for not keeping its promise on climate finance.

The 2015 Paris Agreement says that developed countries must periodically increase this sum after 2025, considering the rapidly growing requirements for climate finance. The increased target, or the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), for the post-2025 period, is to be finalised this year.

Requirements of funds

It is widely acknowledged that developing countries now need trillions of dollars, not billions, annually. A UNFCCC assessment last year said these countries needed about \$6 trillion between now and 2030 just to implement their promised climate actions. Only for their adaptation needs, some of which are part of their climate actions, developing countries require between \$215 billion and \$387 billion annually, it said. The assessment also said the global transition to clean energy (not just in developing countries) needed investments of about \$4.3 trillion every year till 2030, and about \$5 trillion annually after that till 2050 to reach a global net zero status.

These are assessments of a few specific needs. The overall requirement for climate finance is much greater.

Demand by Developing Nations

A few months back, India formally proposed that developed countries should commit themselves to providing at least \$1 trillion every year after 2025. The Arab countries have said this figure should be at least \$1.1 trillion. African countries have demanded \$1.3 trillion.

The developed countries have not made any offer publicly. They have just acknowledged that the new amount has to be higher than \$100 billion per year.

Debate over contribution

According to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, only the countries listed in Annexure 2 of UNFCCC — 25 of them and the European Economic Community — are responsible for providing climate finance to developing countries. The listed countries, however, have been trying to shift the responsibility to others as well. They argue that many other countries are now economically better off than in the early 1990s when the list was made. They also argue that the requirements are too huge for the original group of listed countries to meet. China, the world's second-largest economy, oil-rich Gulf countries, and others like South Korea are not part of Annexure 2. In Bonn, China said it was playing its part in the global fight against climate change, but had "no intention" of taking additional responsibility.

All eyes on Baku

NCQG is the biggest thing on the climate change agenda this year. An agreement on this has to happen at COP29. The \$100 billion figure was not a negotiated outcome. The offer was made in a statement by then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at COP15 in Copenhagen. It was later agreed upon by all the other Annexure 2 countries.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Environment

Source: Indian Express

2. Bypassing statute of limitation, stay on sedition law: Why UAPA has been invoked against Arundhati Roy



UAPA will be invoked against Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain for speeches made in Delhi in 2010.

Why in News?

The invocation of stringent UAPA charges, 14 years after an FIR was first registered against author-activist Arundhati Roy and Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain, former professor at the Central University of Kashmir, for allegedly “delivering provocative speeches in public,” allows the state to bypass the statute of limitation.

In October last year, the Delhi Lt Governor had in the same case granted sanction to prosecute Roy and Hussain under IPC sections 153A, 153B and 505. These provisions, the trifecta often invoked to deal with hate speech cases, all carry a maximum sentence of up to three years.

However, under Section 468 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, courts are barred from taking cognizance of offences which are brought after an undue delay or after the lapse of the period of limitation.

Period of Limitation

The period of limitation, if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding one year but not exceeding three years, is three years under the statute. This means, the state could not have brought a case against Roy and Hussain for promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony (Section 153A); making imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration (Section 153B); or for making statements conducing to public mischief (Section 505).

The FIR, filed in 2010, also carried IPC Section 124A which penalises sedition. While the sedition charge could have removed the limitation bar under Section 468 CrPC, the Supreme Court in May 2022 stayed the operation of the provision, underlining its overbroad definition and rampant misuse.

With the stay on sedition law, invocation of UAPA charges against Roy and Hussain is crucial to ensuring a court accepts the case.

Case under UAPA

Section 13 of the UAPA deals with punishment for unlawful activities for advocating, abetting or inciting any unlawful activity and is punishable with imprisonment up to seven years. The UAPA also grants the state more powers than it has in ordinary criminal law – from relaxing timelines for the state to file chargesheets and its stringent conditions for bail.

Crucially, the definition of “unlawful activity” includes phrases used in the sedition provision. Unlawful activity under the UAPA is defined to include an act which causes “disaffection against India” among others.

Sedition and its interpretation

IPC Section 124A also criminalises an act to “excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India.”

In the 1962 landmark ruling in *Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar* which issued guidelines on invoking sedition law, the Supreme Court said “it is only when the words, written or spoken, etc. which have the pernicious tendency or intention of creating public disorder or disturbance of law and order that the law steps in to prevent such activities in the interest of public order.”

“A citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the Government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence against the Government established by law or with the intention of creating public disorder,” the Court had said.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

3. Why the Centre has extended the Digital Health Incentive Scheme

Introduction

The central government has given a year-long extension to the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) meant for digitising patients’ health records and linking them with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID). The scheme, which was launched on January 1, 2023, will now remain in effect till June 30, 2025. The Centre has also sought details from states and union territories on the utilisation of funds received through the scheme.

Under the scheme, government and private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic labs, and pharmacies are paid Rs 20 for each additional record they digitise, over and above the threshold of 100 transactions a month. The scheme is applicable to both public and private hospitals and digital solution companies (DSCs) creating digital health records. Under it, each facility or digital solution company can earn incentives up to Rs 4 crores.

Why has the scheme been extended?

The scheme was launched by the National Health Authority (NHA) on January 1, 2023 to promote digital health transactions and to provide a boost to the healthcare providers for adopting digital health.

Subsequently, the NHA has come up with some relaxations like reduced transaction limits in the existing scheme in April 2023. It is meant to incentivise providers of digital health solutions such as hospital's health management information system (HMIS) and laboratory management information system (LMIS) to make available the right software at an affordable cost.

national health authority

To promote the adoption of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

NHA to incentivize the stakeholders of the digital health ecosystem

to boost digital health transactions

Incentives for

HMIS/ LMIS solution providers

Labs

Hospitals

Pharmacies

Insurance Companies

abdm.gov.in/DHIS **14477**

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What impact will it have on hospitals?

The scheme helps reimburse hospitals their expenditure on digitising their facility. This expenditure was often reported as a significant bottleneck for hospitals to move to digital health.

Hospitals and clinics have to install computers and laptops, purchase an internet connection, and software (HMIS/LMIS) to go digital. A behaviour change component is also involved in moving from physical mode of working to digital. The scheme is on the lines of the incentives given for promotion of UPI.

How can it be beneficial for the patients?

DHIS equips the care providers to become digital, thereby enabling better healthcare services and more convenience for patients. By enabling digital transactions – the patient's waiting time gets reduced. Patients will be able to scan a QR code and avail quick OPD registrations. They can also securely view, access, and share their health records with the care providers.

Without the scheme, hospitals are likely to recover the digitisation costs from the patients. With digital records being maintained, patients are less likely to get same tests done repeatedly due to loss of records, especially in cases of migrant workers and patients travelling from one state to another.

What is an ABHA ID and what is its purpose?

ABHA ID is a unique identity for people — just like an Aadhaar ID — that allows one to store and share their medical records digitally. So far, around 64 crore ABHA IDs have been created, according to the NHA.

Once the ID is created – whenever a patient avails a healthcare service at centres linked to the digital framework – all their records are linked to it. This ID can then be used to securely store, access, and share the healthcare records, such as doctor's prescriptions, diagnostic test results.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

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