

**21-03-2022**

India's Draft Medical Device Policy

Why in newspapers?

Recently, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DOP) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers released an approach paper for the draft National Policy for Medical Devices, 2022.

Quick Issue?

- Presently about 80 per cent of the medical equipment sold in the country is imported, especially high-end equipment. The new policy aims to reduce India's import dependence by about 30% in the next 10 years.
- The policy aims to increase India's per capita spending on medical equipment. India has the lowest per capita spending on medical devices at \$3, compared to the global average of \$47 per capita consumption.

Historical Background?

- Building competitiveness through financial and financial support to encourage development of the local manufacturing ecosystem with private sector investment.
- Encouraging core technology projects and exports through tax refunds and exemptions.
- Adopt public-private partnerships to reduce costs of health care and drive efficiency.
- Create a single window clearance system for licensing of medical devices.
- Identify important suppliers and promote local sourcing.
- Encourage cross-industry collaboration.
- Increase the share of medical technology companies in research and development to about 50%.
- A dedicated fund to encourage joint research involving existing industry players, reputed academic institutions and start-ups.
- Incorporate a framework for a coherent pricing regulation to make available quality and effective medical equipment at affordable prices to all citizens.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS?

Government's initiatives so far

- PLI scheme to promote domestic manufacturing of medical devices.
- Promotion of medical equipment parks.
- Medical devices have been recognized as a sunrise sector under the 'Make in India' campaign in 2014.



Likely Question Asked in Preliminary Exam

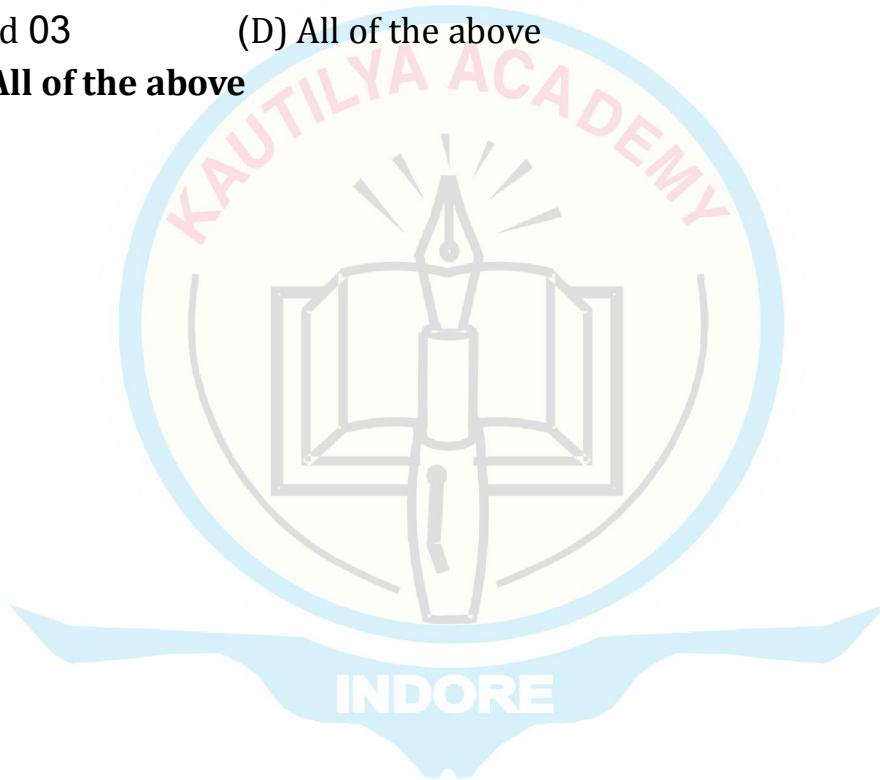
Question: Consider the following statements:

1. At present, about 80% of the medical equipment sold in the country is imported, especially high-end equipment. The new policy aims to reduce India's import dependence by about 30% in the next 10 years.
2. The policy aims to increase India's per capita expenditure on medical equipment. India has the lowest per capita spending on medical devices at \$3, compared to the global average of \$47 per capita consumption.
3. A dedicated fund to encourage joint research involving existing industry players, reputed academic institutions and start-ups.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

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|---------------|----------------------|
| (A) 01 and 02 | (B) 02 and 03 |
| (C) 01 and 03 | (D) All of the above |

Answer – (D) All of the above





United Nations Mission in Afghanistan

Why in newspapers?

The United Nations Security Council has approved a stronger mandate for its political mission in Afghanistan following the takeover of the Taliban last August

New Mandate?

The new mandate authorizes the United Nations mission, known as UNAMA (The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan), to promote gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, the human rights of all Afghans, and an inclusive and representative government

Quick Issue?

- The Norwegian-draft resolution was adopted by a vote of 14–0, with Russia not participating.
- Russia has criticized the council for not consulting the host country (Afghanistan) on UN presence, saying “substantial cooperation” between UNAMA and the Taliban will help the UN achieve its objectives.
- The mandate of the United Nations Mission also includes coordinating and distributing much-needed assistance.
- The Council authorized UNAMA to “facilitate dialogue between all relevant Afghan political actors and stakeholders, the region and the wider international community”.
- The Security Council sent a clear message that UNAMA has an “important role in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and supporting the Afghan people as they face unprecedented challenges and uncertainty.”

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS?

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

- The United Nations Security Council has extended the duration of the UN Special Political Mission in Afghanistan for one more year. It is noteworthy that in August 2021, seven months after the Taliban took control of the country's power, this Security Council decision has set a number of priorities for the political mission in Afghanistan, from continuing humanitarian aid, monitoring of human rights and Dialogue includes mediation.

Historical Background ?

- Access to education for girls - With the US withdrawal after 20 years of war (2001–2021), the Taliban took over the country. The Taliban in power has denied girls and women their right to education and barred them from public life. The



Taliban are now allowing girls to attend primary school but older girls are still denied education.

- Restrictions on working women – A large number of working women in Afghanistan are not allowed to go to their workplaces, except in certain areas such as health care and education.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS?

United Nations Security Council

- Intolerance towards minorities – There are reports of attacks and threats against minority groups and civil society, and detentions and forced disappearances along with retaliation against former government officials.
- Fear of supporting an extremist group The Taliban have not yet demonstrated that extremist groups are no longer able to thrive in the country.
- Power sharing - The new Taliban rulers promised an inclusive government. However, the Taliban-appointed cabinet remains heavily Pashtun and without women. The Taliban shows no signs of sharing power or respecting the basic rights of Afghans.
- Economic crisis - Before the takeover of the Taliban, two-thirds of the Afghan government's spending came through donations. Since no country has recognized

- The Security Council was established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter. It is one of the six major organs of the United Nations.
- The other 5 organs of the United Nations include the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.
- It is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- The headquarter of the council is located in New York.
- The Security Council consists of a total of 15 members - five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- The five permanent members are the United States of America, the Russian Federation, France, China, and the United Kingdom.
- India had entered the UN Security Council for the eighth time last year (2021) as a non-permanent member and will remain in the council for two years i.e. 2021-22.
- Every year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of a total of ten) for a two-year term. The ten provisional seats are distributed on a regional basis.
- The chairmanship of the council is rotated among 15 members every month.



the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, since August these donations have been hindering the functioning of the government

- Mass starvation – According to the World Food Program, only 2% of Afghanistan's 38 million people have enough food
- Rising Poverty – According to the United Nations, Afghanistan's economy is expected to shrink by 30% this year and almost every Afghan citizen could live in poverty by the middle of 2022.
- Reluctance of international actors – The international community is reluctant to act out of fear that the Taliban will use the aid to consolidate their power and resist further demands for reforms.

Likely Question Asked in Preliminary Exam

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Answer – (D) All of the above

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