



Current Affairs of the Day

PAPER 2:

➤ International Relations:

1. India, China hold talks, agree to resolve differences peacefully
2. Ahead of vote for UNSC seat, India launches campaign brochure

➤ Health:

1. Can private hospitals treat all at Ayushman Bharat rate, asks SC

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➤ Economy:

1. Massive spike in foreign flows into market

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1. Close to 28% of Sunderbans damaged in Cyclone Amphan



India, China hold talks, agree to resolve differences peacefully

Key outcomes:

- India and China held talks between their Foreign Ministries and agreed to follow a consensus that differences should be handled peacefully and should

Both sides agreed to handle differences through peaceful discussion bearing in mind the importance of respecting each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations and not allow them to become disputes

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



Both sides agreed to implement the consensus that two countries do not constitute a threat to each other and do not let differences rise into disputes

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not become disputes, in the highest-level diplomatic engagement since tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) erupted in May.

- Both sides agreed to handle their differences through peaceful discussion bearing in mind the importance of respecting each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations and not allow them to become disputes.
- Two sides reviewed the state of bilateral relations, including the current developments.
- Both agreed to implement the consensus that the two countries do not constitute a threat to each other" and "do not let differences rise into disputes. It called for enhancing strategic mutual trust and properly managing differences.
- Both sides discussed planned initiatives to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations and ensure the relationship would be steered in the right direction.
- Military-level talks will be held between two Lieutenant Generals on Saturday.

Massive spike in foreign flows into market

- In just under a week in June, the quantum of foreign flows into the equity market has surpassed that of any other month in the current calendar year.
- **Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** bought shares worth ₹20,814 crore in just five trading sessions in the current month. This is the highest in any month of 2020, with the previous high registered in May at ₹14,569 crore.



Value Added Information

Difference between Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

1. FPI consist of securities and other financial like Bonds, Mutual Funds held by an investor in another country. It does not provide direct ownership of the asset and is relatively liquid. They are basically short term investors.
2. FDI lets an investor purchase a direct business interest in a foreign country. They are long term investments.

Picking up

Foreign portfolio investors have bought shares worth ₹20,814 crore in just five trading sessions in June. This is the highest figure for any month this year



Ahead of vote for UNSC seat, India launches campaign brochure

Key Points:

- India will highlight international terrorism, United Nations reforms and Security Council expansion, streamlining the world body's peacekeeping operations and technology initiatives during its upcoming tenure as a non-permanent member of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** in 2021-22.
- This will be the eighth time India will occupy a non-permanent UNSC seat, with its last stint in 2011-2012.

Value Added Information

How are non- permanent members elected?

- **Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of a total of 10, for a two-year term.**
- **Distribution of seats:** These 10 seats are distributed among the regions thus: five for African and Asian countries; one for Eastern European countries; two for Latin American and Caribbean countries; two for Western European and other countries.
- **Of the five seats for Africa and Asia, three are for Africa and two for Asia;** there is an informal understanding between the two groups to reserve **one for an Arab country**. The Africa and Asia Pacific group takes turns every two years to put up an Arab candidate.
- **Elections for terms beginning in even-numbered years** select two African members, and one each within Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Terms beginning in **odd-numbered years** consist of two Western



European and Other members, and one each from Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Votes:** Irrespective of whether a country is a “clean slate” candidate and has been endorsed by its group, **it needs to secure the votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the General Assembly session** (a minimum of 129 votes if all 193 member states participate). When contested, **the elections for non-permanent seats can be fraught and can go on for several rounds**. In 1975, there was a contest between India and Pakistan, which went to eight rounds. Pakistan won the seat that year. In 1996, India lost a contest to Japan.

About UNSC:

What is it?

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **Its powers include** the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
- **Members:** The Security Council consists of **fifteen members**. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body’s **five permanent members**. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.
- The Security Council also has **10 non-permanent members**, elected on a regional basis to serve **two-year terms**. The body’s presidency rotates monthly among its members.

Proposed reforms:

- Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) encompasses **five key issues:** categories of membership, the question of the veto held by the five permanent members, regional representation, the size of an enlarged Council and its working methods, and the Security Council-General Assembly relationship. There is also a proposal to admit more permanent members.

India’s demands:

- India has been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council along with Brazil, Germany and Japan for long, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.



Why India should be given a permanent seat in the council?

- India was among the **founding members** of United Nations.
- It is the **second largest and a one of the largest constant contributor of troops to United Nations Peacekeeping missions.**
- It has been a member of UNSC for 7 terms and a member of G-77 and G-4, so permanent membership is a logical extension.

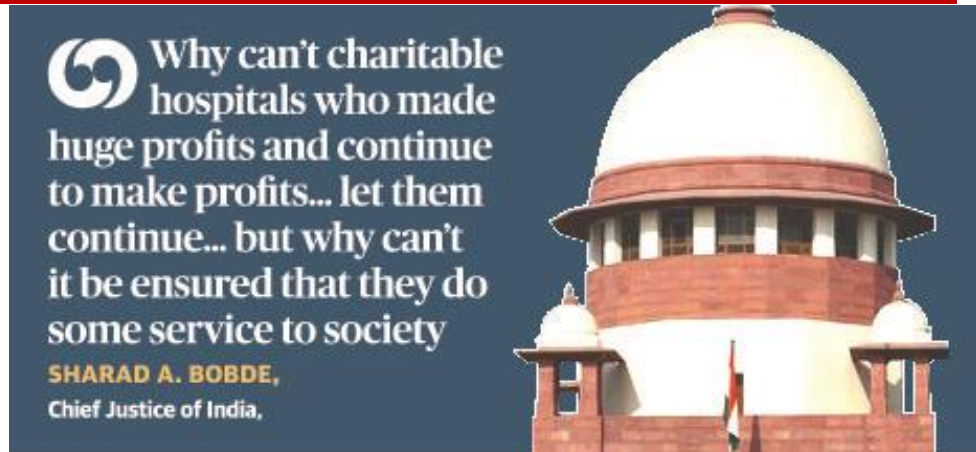
Facts:

- **The G4 Bloc:** Group of 4 countries, (Germany, Japan, Brazil, India) bidding for permanent seats in the UN Security Council.
- **The Coffee Club or Uniting for Consensus:** Group of countries opposed to the G4. They favoured the expansion of the non-permanent category of seats with members to be elected on a regional basis
- Italy, Spain, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, South Korea and Pakistan.

Can private hospitals treat all at Ayushman Bharat rate, asks SC

- The Supreme Court asked the government to respond to whether COVID-19 patients, who are not beneficiaries under the **Ayushman Bharat scheme**, can be

treated in private hospitals at the same subsidised rates offered under the scheme.



Value Added Information

About Ayushman Bharat:

- Launched as recommended by the **National Health Policy 2017**, to achieve the vision of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**.
- This initiative has been **designed on the lines as to meet SDG and its underlining commitment, which is "leave no one behind"**.



- **Aim:** to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address health (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care), **at primary, secondary and tertiary level.**
- **Includes** the on-going centrally sponsored schemes – **Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY).**

Ayushman Bharat adopts a **continuum of care approach**, comprising of two inter-related components, which are:

1. Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs).
2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

Key Features of PM-JAY:

- The **world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme** fully **financed by the government.**
- It provides cover of **5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
- **Coverage:** Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- Provides **cashless access** to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Benefits and significance:

- Helps reduce catastrophic expenditure for hospitalizations, which pushes 6 crore people into poverty each year.
- Helps mitigate the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.

Eligibility:

- No restrictions on family size, age or gender.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.



Close to 28% of Sunderbans damaged in Cyclone Amphan

- About 28% of the Sunderbans have been damaged by Cyclone Amphan, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said at the launch of a drive for planting mangroves and trees to mark World Environment Day.
- She said 1,200 sq km of the 4,263 sq km forests had been “destroyed”.



Value Added Information

The Sunderbans Mangrove Forest:

- The Sunderbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world, lies across India and Bangladesh on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal.
- It is adjacent to the border of India's Sunderbans **World Heritage site** inscribed in 1987.
- The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes.
- The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.
- It is home to many rare and globally threatened wildlife species such as the estuarine crocodile, Royal Bengal Tiger, Water monitor lizard, Gangetic dolphin, and olive ridley turtles.