



## Important Facts For Prelims (13th April 2019)

### Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has asked manufacturers to ensure that information be made available to the general public about the **adverse reactions of some commonly-used antibiotics**.
- The CDSCO is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government **under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- It is under **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi** and also has six zonal offices.
- **Major Functions:**
  - Regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials.
  - Approval of certain licences as Central Licence Approving Authority.
- CDSCO along with state regulators, is **jointly responsible** for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs.
- **In 2016**, the government launched an online licensing portal of **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) named "SUGAM"**.
  - SUGAM enables **online submission of applications requesting** for permissions related to drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines and cosmetics. The system also builds up the database of approved drugs, manufacturers & formulations, retailers & wholesalers in India.
  - It is the **project of national importance** that directly reflects the **Government's DIGITAL INDIA** initiatives and is a major influence in bringing reforms in the Indian Pharma Industry.

### Foreign Exchange Reserves

- India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.876 billion to \$413.781 billion, aided by a rise in foreign currency assets.
- This surge in reserves was aided by the recent **maiden dollar-rupee swap** conducted by the RBI.
- Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on **reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies**. These reserves are used to back liabilities and influence **monetary policy**.
- These assets serve many purposes but are **most significantly held to ensure that a central government agency** has backup funds if their **national currency rapidly devalues or becomes all together insolvent**.
- The Foreign exchange reserves of India consists of:
  - **Foreign Currency Assets**
  - **Gold**
  - **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)**
  - **Reserve Position in the IMF/ Reserve Tranche**

### Reserve Position in the IMF

- The reserve tranche is **portion of the required quota of currency that each International Monetary Fund (IMF) member** country must provide to the IMF that can be utilized for its own purposes **without a service fee**.
- In other words, it is basically an **emergency account that IMF members can access** without

agreeing to conditions or paying a service fee.

- If the amount being sought by the member nation exceeds its reserve tranche position (RTP), then it becomes a **credit tranche** that **must be repaid in three years**.

Hyperloop [//](#)



- The **first Virgin Hyperloop One (VHO) commercial project** in the world may start **between Mumbai and Pune by 2025**.
- Hyperloop is a system where **magnetically levitating capsules** are sent at high speeds through low-pressure tubes, thereby potentially reducing transport time — of people and goods — by more than 80%.
- The system consists of **Pods or capsules travelling at high speeds** through low-pressure tubes erected on columns or tunneled underground.
- The system is **fully autonomous and sealed**, so no driver-related error is anticipated. In a sealed environment with almost no air resistance, the pods are expected to reach very high speeds.
- The vehicle uses magnetic levitation, and is propelled by a electric propulsion system. Motion will not involve contact, so the vehicle will be virtually noiseless.
- It can draw power from multiple energy sources; can be even 100% carbon free if the source is wind or solar.
- The Hyperloop technology can act as a beacon for the **Mission 350 Plus** initiative announced by **Government of India in July 2016** which aims to gradually **introduce levitation based technology** that can reach speeds of **more than 350 kmph**, in order to accommodate India's growing infrastructure demands.

### Levitation Technology

- **Magnetic levitation, maglev, or magnetic suspension** is a method by which an object is suspended with no support other than magnetic fields. Magnetic force is used to counteract the effects of the gravitational acceleration and any other accelerations.

### Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First



- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has been conferred with the **“Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First,”** the **highest civilian award** of Russia.
- The order was presented to the Prime Minister of India for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic [partnership between Russia and India](#) and friendly ties between the **Russian and Indian people**.
- The Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First is awarded to prominent government and public figures, prominent representatives of science, culture, art and various sectors of the economy for **“exceptional services that contribute to the prosperity, greatness, and glory of Russia”**.
- It was first awarded by **former Russian Tsar ‘Peter the Great’ in 1698** and subsequently

discontinued. In 1998, former President Boris Yeltsin reinstated the honor by a presidential decree.

- Previous recipients include Chinese President Xi Jinping, and presidents of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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