

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 Social Justice – Issues relating to Health.

Unapproved and Banned Antibiotic Combinations: The Perils of FDCs in India

Understanding FDCs: Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) involve combining two or more drugs into a single tablet or syrup, aiming to enhance patient compliance and treatment outcomes.

Benefits of FDCs:

1. **Simplify Medication:** Reduces the number of pills, improving patient adherence to treatment plans.
2. **Enhanced Treatment Outcomes:** Facilitates better management of multiple conditions through a single dosage form.

Issues with FDCs:

1. **Reduced Drug Efficacy:** Interaction between active or inactive ingredients may compromise drug efficacy or lead to toxic metabolites.
2. **Legal Liabilities:** Manufacturers use FDCs to evade pricing controls set by the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO).
3. **Unjustified Combinations:** Many FDCs lack medical rationale, combining unrelated drugs.
4. **Lack of Quality Standards:** Absence of regulatory standards makes it challenging to ensure the quality of FDCs.
5. **Higher Drug Costs:** Manufacturers exploit the uniqueness of new FDCs to charge premium prices.
6. **Weak Regulatory Oversight:** State drug controllers often overlook licensing norms, allowing unapproved FDCs.
7. **Litigation Challenges:** Prohibition orders face legal complexities, delaying the restriction of certain FDCs.
8. **Contributing to AMR:** Unregulated FDCs exacerbate the Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) crisis.

Call for Action:

1. **Stringent Regulatory Framework:** Implement a robust approval process for FDCs to ensure safety.
2. **Scientific Evaluation:** Subject all FDCs to scientific scrutiny before approval and market release.
3. **Regulatory Compliance:** Enforce strict adherence to licensing norms by state drug controllers.
4. **Resolve Litigation:** Expedite legal proceedings to address the prohibition of specific FDCs.
5. **Combat AMR:** Address the role of unregulated FDCs in contributing to Anti-Microbial Resistance.

A comprehensive and science-driven approach is imperative to regulate FDCs effectively, safeguarding public health and curbing the challenges associated with their uncontrolled proliferation.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper 2- International relation- India and its neighbourhood- relations.

India-Sri Lanka Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges

Key Aspects of Economic Relations:

1. **Export Destination:** India ranks as Sri Lanka's third-largest export destination, following the US and UK.
2. **FDI Inflow:** Indian Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Sri Lanka reached USD 1.7 billion (2005-2019), reflecting strong investment ties.
3. **Tourism Impact:** In 2022, Indian tourists became the top visitors to Sri Lanka, highlighting cultural and economic connections.
4. **Infrastructure Collaboration:** Both nations are working on a multi-product petroleum pipeline to enhance energy cooperation.
5. **Economic Aid:** Amid Sri Lanka's economic crisis, India provided approximately USD 4 billion in aid and supported debt restructuring efforts.

Efforts to Strengthen Economic Ties:

1. **Land Connectivity Proposal:** Sri Lanka proposed a bridge connecting Rameswaram, India, and Talaimanar, Sri Lanka.
2. **Energy Cooperation:** Initiatives include attempts to link electricity networks, with collaborative projects such as the Sampur Solar Power Project.
3. **Collaborative Initiatives:** Initiatives like air services between Chennai and Jaffna, ferry services, and a joint venture in the dairy sector aim to bolster economic relations.
4. **Renewable Energy Collaboration:** Both nations signed MoUs for collaboration in renewable energy, including the Sampur Solar Power Project.

Challenges in the Relationship:

1. **Opposition to Land Connectivity:** The proposed bridge faced opposition from Sinhalese-Buddhist groups, leading to project delays.
2. **Energy Project Delays:** Despite a MoU for an electricity grid connection, there's been slow progress compared to India's successful power exports to Bangladesh.
3. **Trade Agreement Delays:** The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1998, has not progressed significantly, with prolonged negotiations for an upgraded economic and technology cooperation agreement.
4. **Trade Performance:** Trade performance with India lags behind despite being the largest source of imports for Sri Lanka.

Recommendations for Strengthening Ties:

1. **Prioritize Energy Connectivity:** Expedite the India-Sri Lanka electricity grid project by drawing lessons from successful power exports to Bangladesh.
2. **Enhance Trade Agreements:** Renew efforts on the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement and leverage successful trade models, such as India's trade with Bangladesh.
3. **Utilize Tourism Potential:** Capitalize on the significant number of Indian tourists visiting Sri Lanka to further strengthen economic relations.

Efforts should focus on overcoming challenges and leveraging existing opportunities to foster a more robust and mutually beneficial economic relationship between India and Sri Lanka.