### SnT PYQs

12 December 2021 15:20

		evements in applied biotech? How will these achievements help to ons of the society? (15, 2021)
Intro		
Body		
Conclusion		
	ntion of Blu	sics of 2014 was jointly awarded to Akasaki, Amano and Nakamura le LEDs in 1990s. How has this invention impacted the everyday life 2021)
Intro		
Body		
Conclusion		
Intro		
Body		
Conclusion		
1. What do you 2020)	ou underst	tand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector? (10,
	dimension different p	nology = technology dealing with materials that has at least one at the scale of nanometre (10^-9 m), at which significantly roperties are exhibited due to the dominance of quantum physics in classical Newtonian.
- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	Disease Dia Treatment Drug delive Nano-phar targeted d Medical na manipulate Key to stop Challenges May disrup Info asymn Lack of infr High costs Governanc	tissue engg ery through active agents in the body maceutical nanotech + pharma + biomedical science for rug delivery norobot - navigate human body, transport imp molecules, e microscopic objects, communicate w/ physicians oping superbugs and AMR
		lsequences privacy, use in warrare leveloping and underdeveloped countries

Conclusi
on

Poubt here -- is it okay to mention challenges when it is not asked for specifically; esp when we don't have adequate points supporting demand of the question

#### Status of Nanotech in India

- 3rd in no. Of researchers after China, USA
- 2007: Mission on Nano Science & Technology by DST
- ASSOCHAM study: India expected to contribute 25% of 2mn reqd professionals from 2015 onwards
- 2. How is science interwoven deeply with out lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies? (10, 2020)

Intro	-	
Body	Interweaving of science in our lives	
	- Basis of Industrial revolution	
- Necessities		
	- Understanding simple and complex phenomena	
	- Inventions to ease life	
	- Modern IT	
	- Nanotech, quantum computing	
	- Navigation	
	Agri & Scionco	
	Agri & Science (present this as change -> brought about by these scientific endeavours)	
	- HYV seeds - increase productivity	
	- Fertiliser	
	- Soil testing for appropriate crop choice and nutrient inputs	
	- GM crops decrease vulnerability to pest attacks	
	- Food processing increase shelf life	
	- Technology for harvesting reduce wastage, improve yield, reduce	
	labour requirement	
	- Food fortification	
	- Extension services	
	- Remote sensing + satellites weather prediction, aerial surveys	
	- Role in animal husbandry	
	Artificial insemination	
	Genetic improvement of breeds	
	• Increase nutritional quality of milk, poultry	
	- Role in fisheries	
Scientific mgmt of breeds,		
Conclusion		

3. COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the pandemic. (15, 2020)

Intro	- COVID 19 - once in a century pandemic; - ES: lives vs livelihoods challenge
Body	Technology aiding mgmt of COVID pandemic  - Medical - COVID
	• RT-PCR for testing

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	• Vaccines
	Hydroxychloroquine to manage
	• Plasma transfusion therapy
	<ul> <li>Oxygen concentrators &amp; low cost ventilators</li> </ul>
	- Medical - non-COVID
	<ul> <li>Home delivery of essential medicines eg diabetes, etc</li> </ul>
	Online consultation
	- Livelihoods
	Video-conferencing in WFH
	- Service delivery
	Online payment systems
	• Education
	o E-classes
	- Crowd mgmt
	Challenges
	- High cost
	- Poor access
	- Exclusionary deepens existing divides (eg farmer had to sell cattle to buy
	phone for children's online classes)
	- Poor infra base for rapid expansion
	- Sudden demand spike -> scarcity of strategic elements reqd in mfg of
	electronic goods
	- Physical distancing restrictions -> halting of domestic industry
	Way forward
	- Preparedness of infra
	- Medical facilities
	- Robust digital infrastructure
	- Better databases for targeted support delivery
Conclusio	
n	

4. Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? (15, 2018)

Intro	\ 
Body	
Conclusion	

5. Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments? (15, 2017)

Intro	-Stem cell therapy = aka regenerative medicine promotes repair response of diseased/ dysfunctional or injured tissue using stem cells or their derivatives
Body	Features of stem cells & stem cell therapy  - Stem cells = special human cells with ability to specialise into various cell
	types - 3 types embryonic, adult, IPSC

#### Gaining popularity ??

- Increasing cord banks -- preservation of umbilical cord for stem cells
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#### Advantages

- Can treat hitherto untreatable diseases
- Help enhance growth of new healthy skin tissue
- Enhance collagen production
- Stimulate hair development after incisions or loss
- Help substitute scar tissue with newly developed healthy tissue
- Possibility of new treatment discoveries -- Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, schizophrenia, etc
- Aids understanding human growth and development processes
- Helps testing a number of potential medicines and drugs w/o carrying out any tests on human and animals
- Cure development defects \*before\* they happen

#### Challenges/Limitations

- Immune rejection of donor cells by host immune system
- Ethical dilemma -- usually obtained from embryo destruction
- Limited technology -- diff to upscale
- High costs, poor accessibility
- Difficulty in finding an exact match
- Potential use in bio-weapons, WMDs

#### Way forward

- Infrastructure
- Increase GERD (at 0.3% rn) + increase share of medical research
- Legal framework
- International collaborations
- Utilise IndiGen database to focus on India specific diseases and work towards their treatment discovery to maximise benefit-cost ratio

#### Conclusi on

6. India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in the country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons making this database publicly available under open-source licensing. (12.5, 2015)

Intro	TKDL - The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is an Indian digital knowledge repository of the traditional knowledge, especially about medicinal plants and formulations used in Indian systems of medicine. Completed 20 years in 2021
Body	<ul> <li>Salient features</li> <li>Estd in 2001</li> <li>By CSIR + Dept of ISM&amp;H Indian Systems of Medicine &amp; Homoeopathy</li> <li>To thwart misappropriation of India's traditional knowledge</li> <li>Inspire by learnings from patent battles w/ int'l patent offices over grant of IPR on turmeric, neem, basmati rice etc</li> </ul>

- Database so far available only to patent examiners through TKDL Access (Non-Disclosure Agreement)
- -Success -- 239 patent applications set aside/ withdrawn based on this

#### Pros of open source

- Enable new utilisations of existing knowledge
- Promote research and quantify effectiveness
- Systematic discovery of interlinkages b/w various systems of medicine
- Access to common people

#### Cons of open source

- Misappropriations
- Patents would be intentionally worded to escape TKDL formulations while still using the knowledge here

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#### Conclusi on

Cautious approach in public availability; must be preceded by campaigning and acceptance of traditional knowledge protection measures in WTO TRIPS agreement + recognition & patenting of India's traditional knowledge c

7. What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation. 2015

#### Intro

- Robotics = how robots are designed, manufactured, programmed and used.
- IEEE data: world's robot population had reached 4.5 mn in 2008; expected to triple by 2035
- By 2020: automation + AI expected to reduce employee requirements in business shared-service centres by 65%

#### Body

#### Applications of robots

- Provides organisations w/ the ability to reduce staffing costs and human error
- Cost savings on recruitment and training + error reduction through automation of low-value tasks
- Helpful in tasks endangering human lives/ degrading for social status
  - Eg sewerage system cleaning by Bandicoot
- Competitive edge in national security
- Use in conflict areas for detection and safe diffusing of landmines
- Targeted service delivery due to COVID like pandemic and lockdowns
  - Eg KARMI Bot in Kerala -- for food and medicines to COVID patients
- Automotive industry -- largest use of robotics
  - 30% increase in new industrial robots installation in 2017
- Use in electronics, food packaging, education, banking sector for routine jobs
- In healthcare for surgeries

#### Initiatives

- Higher GERD
- Industry linkage of universities to enable gaining benefits from their work
- Industry linkage also helps in solving specific problems faced by industries
- Make research careers more attractive

- Opportunity for startups from research
  - Eg IIT Delhi has waived thesis requirements for students incubating their research product on campus
- Establish inter-sectoral linkages
- Int'l collaboration
- Collaboration w/ various public depts + opportunities for direct recruitment to govt labs

#### **Challenges**

- Low adoption rate
- Not standardised processes in India's mfg
- High cost of deployment
- Elimination of jobs -- India labour abundant nation vs robots capital intensive

#### Way forward

- Intelligent deployment through use of ML + AI
- Have a broader vision
- Govt -- major role to play in infra, applications in public sector, policy & regulations, tech dypment

Conclusio

on

8. In a globalised world, intellectual property rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms – copyrights, patents and trade secrets. 2014

	Intro	-Significance clearly underlined by a separate TRIPS agreement under WTC			TRIPS agreement under WTO
	Body	- Growing significance - Source of litigation			
			Copyright	Patents	Trade secrets
		defn	Protects original textual works and visual or artistic expressions	Protects new, useful, non-obvious inventions/ideas. An invention can be a device, structure, process, machinery etc	Protect valuable secret info like ideas that must be kept confidential. Others to whom it has been disclosed is also kept confidential. May extend perpetually.
		V	rk: protects sourc designs. Protectio	•	usually for brands, slogans,
Conclusi					

9. What do you understand by Umpire decision review in cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicon tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system? 2013

Intro
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Body	
Conclusion	

### 10. What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industry 2013

Fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) (also known as fibre-reinforced polymer) is a composite material made of a polymer matrix reinforced with fibres. Composites are established as an alternative material system to traditional materials such as steel, wood, aluminium and concrete. Bakelite was the first fibre-reinforced plastic.

#### Materials used as Fibres in FRP composites

Glass, carbon, basalt or aramid and at times fibres such as paper, wood or asbestos are also used.

#### Materials used as Polymers in FRP composites

The polymer used is usually an epoxy, vinylester or polyester thermosetting plastic or phenol formaldehyde resin.

#### Manufacturing of FRP Composite Material

FRP involves two distinct processes, the first is the process whereby the fibrous material is manufactured and formed, the second is the process whereby fibrous materials are bonded with the matrix during moulding.

#### Applications of FRP in aviation and automobile industry

- Fibre-reinforced plastics are best suited for any design program that demands weight savings, precision engineering, finite tolerances, and the simplification of parts in both production and operation.
- A moulded polymer artefact is cheaper, faster, and easier to manufacture than cast aluminium or steel artefact, and maintains similar and sometimes better tolerances and material strengths.

From < https://www.clearias.com/frp-composite-material-applications/#/>

11. Bring out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to section 3(d) in the Indian Patent Law, 1970. Discuss how it has been utilized by Supreme court in its judgment rejecting Novartis patent application for "Glivec". Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision. 2013

### Intro Body - Something related to compulsory licensing and evergreening - One unique provision of the Indian Patent Act is embodied in Section 3, clause (d). This provision prevents patenting of minor improvements in chemical and pharmaceutical entities unless the invention results in the enhancement of known efficacy of that substance. This provision is a safeguard for public health purposes and sets a higher threshold for granting pharmaceutical patents. In January, Gilead Sciences (a US company) was denied a patent by the Indian Patent Office for its drug Sofosbuvir that cures Hepatitis C, owing to application of Section 3(d) - Section 3(d) has been extremely contentious since its introduction in 2005. The transnational pharmaceutical industry regards it as establishing an unacceptably high barrier to patenting, as do many foreign governments. But many observers, including the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and civil society groups, defend 3(d) and point to India as a model for developing countries attempting to use TRIPS flexibilities to promote public health

	- In 2013, pharma giant Novartis lost a six-year legal battle after the Indian supreme court ruled that small changes to its leukaemia drug Glivec did not
	deserve a new patent
	-This gives a clear distaste in India for 'evergreening'- the practise of big
	pharma firms to make small changes to drugs whose licenses are about to
	expire, simply to renew their licenses. In such cases, India has started giving
	out 'compulsory licenses'
	-The best thing is that India broke no TRIPS laws; it's decision is valid under
	TRIPS, but so far countries had just been too scared to try it
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Conclus	
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# 12. How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology. 2013

ar are transferred in the control of		
Intro	- 3D printing = additive manufacturing	
Body	Advantages - Enable fast and cost-effective mfg - Participation in GVCs - Aids development of new materials and tech which are more energy and resource efficient - Alleviate carbon footprint of growing needs + upholds energy security - Allows for removing design constraints without high expenditure -> boost innovation in product development process  Disadvantages/ challenges - High cost of equipment & material - Lack of AM ecosystem as service providers in India are limited, most are not equipped w/ competitive AM tech - Lack of skilled manpower - Monopoly of AM market by foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers - Legal and ethical issues IPR, trademark & design violations  Way forward - Govt policies and incentives - Int'l R&D partnership - Skilling & upskilling	
Conclusio n		

## 13. What do you understand by fixed dose drug combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits. 2013

Intro	
Body	
Conclusion	

## 14. What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme? 2019

-- more relevant on India's manned space mission

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	Intro	Indian Human Spaceflight Programme - IHSP - initiated in 2007 by ISRO to
		develop the technology needed to launch crewed orbital spacecraft into LEO
		GoI has also released a Draft Humans in Space Policy for India - 2021
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#### Body

#### Salient features of Gaganyaan

- Designed to carry 3 astronauts to LEO for a period of 5-7 days
- It will take off on a GSLV Mk III which is capable of launching 4-tonne satellites in the GTO Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit
- Gaganyaan National Advisory Council -- created w/ members from diff institutions an industries to deliberate on various aspects of the mission
- Gaganyaan includes
  - Space Capsule Recovery Experiment SRE-2007
  - Crew module Atmospheric Reentry Experiment CARE-2014
  - GSLV Mk-III (2014)
  - Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstrator RLV-TD
  - Crew Escape System
  - Pad Abort Test

#### Significance of Gaganyaan

- Add value to India's space activities
- Re-establish India's role as a key player in the new space industry
- Improve int'l collaboration giving space to Space Diplomacy
- Securitisation of outer space has an impact on national security as a result of which outer space is increasing seen as a 'strategic domain'
- Spinoff technologies, attraction of talent to scientific careers, scientific knowledge, etc
- Leverage existing experience of ISRO, national research institutions, academia, industry, etc
- Bolster technological innovation, advancement and scientific discovery -- regenerative life support system, rendezvous and docking systems, inflatable habitats, extravehicular activity suits
- Industrial competitiveness
- Employment generation
  - ISRO Chief 15,000 new jobs; 13000 in pvt sector
- Enhance public involvement in human space programmes
- Fulfil ISROs long term objective

#### Challenges

- Financial -
  - Highly technology incentive need exorbitant huge investments
  - Limited budget outlay; budget cuts in Gaganyaan
- Technological
  - Mastering of complex re-entry and recovery tech
  - Crew escape system in case of a faulty launch
  - Developing regenerative environment in the spacecraft
  - Need of heavier rockets
- Training of astronauts
- Awareness of celestial objects in the path of a rocket/ satellites and communication

#### Way forward

- Leveraging private sector
- Expanding int'l collaboration

	- Doing away w/ bureaucratic hassles - Capacity building  • ISRO Yuvika programme for 10th students		
Conclusi		, ,	
	_	ent of India protecting traditional know aceutical companies? 2019	ledge of medicine from
Intro			
Body	TKDL Doesn't a	llow patenting of biological processes	
Conclusio	n		
		Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Sonized the field of Physics. 2018	Satyendra Nath Bose and
Intro			
Body			
Conclusio	n		
Chandra	ayaan and Ma	emarkable successes in unmanned space ars Orbiter Mission, but has not venture as of technology and logistics? Explain o	ed into manned space
Intro			
Body	Done abo	ove	
Body Conclusio		ove	
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mechanical, optical, electronic properties

- Wide applications
- Medical
  - Disease diagnosis & treatment
  - Drug delivery
  - Medical nanobots
  - Superbugs and AMR
- Defence precision guiding tools, supplement to traditional weaponry for close combat situations
- Envi water treatment & remediation through nanomembranes, desalination & detoxifications, nanosensors for detection of contaminants and pathogens
- Construction -- make asphalt and concrete more robust to water seepage; heat resistant nanomaterials to block UV & IR Radiation
- Energy -- novel hydrogen storage systems based on carbon nanotubes and other lightweight nanomaterials; C nanotubes in composite film coating
- Agriculture
  - FPI antimicrobial nanoemulsions for decontamination of food equipment, nanobased antigen detecting biosensors for identification of pathogen contamination
  - NAIPS Nano Agri Input products
  - NAPs Nano-Agri Products

#### Salient Features of Nano Mission

- Umbrella programme for capacity building
- Objectives
  - Basic research promotion
  - Infra development for Nano Science & Tech Research
  - Nano Applications and Technology Development Programmes
  - HRD
  - Int'l Collab

#### Other initiatives

- 18 SAIFs Sophisticated Analytica Instruments Facilities estd by DST across India
- Centre of Excellence in Nanoscience & nanotech by DST
- TUEs Thematic Units of Excellence
- Visveswaraya PhD fellowships by MeitY
- INSPIRE Scheme

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21. What do you understand by 'Standard Positioning Systems' and 'Protection Positioning Systems' in the GPS era? Discuss the advantages India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites. 2015

Intro	
Body	
Conclusion	

22. Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as our business operations, engineering or administration, and the

#### universities are becoming consumer oriented. Critically comment. 2014

Intro	
Body	
Conclusion	

23. Can overuse and the availability of antibiotics without doctor's prescription, the contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved. 2014

L		
	Intro	AMR Anti-microbial resistance = when microorganisms change when they are exposed to antimicrobial drugs. These microbes are referred to as
		superbugs.
	Body	Reasons
		- Inappropriate use of medicine overuse, underuse and misuse of

- Inappropriate use of medicine -- overuse, underuse and misuse of medicines drives development of drug resistance
- Lack of quality medicine -- weak drug quality assurance systems
- Animal husbandry -- <u>sub-therapeutic doses</u> in animal rearing -> spread to humans
- Poor infection prevention and control -- increase spread of drug-resistant infections. Hospitalised patients are one of the main reservoirs of resistant microorganisms
- Weak surveillance systems --

#### Why is AMR a concern

- New resistance mechanisms are emerging and spreading globally
- Growing list of infections are becoming difficult to treat -> reducing effectiveness of antibiotics
- Medical procedures, major surgery become highly risky without effective antimicrobials for prevention and treatment of infections
- AMR increases the cost of healthcare -- lengthier stays in hospitals and more intensive care required
- Puts gains of MDGs at risk; endangers SDG achievement

#### WHO initiatives to address AMR

- GLASS Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System
- AWaRE tool -- aimed at guiding policy makers and health workers to use antibiotics safely and more effectively

#### Access + Watch + Reserve --

- GARDP Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership PPP R&D
- IACG Interagency Coordination Group on AMR -- by UN
- Global Action Plan -- ensure prevention and treatment of infectious diseases w/ safe & effective medicine
- One Health Approach

#### AMR Situation in India

- ICMR in 2/3 healthy persons have antibiotic resistant organisms in digestive tracts
- Reported in several water sources
- Antimicrobial agents are used in abundance to increase productivity in animal husbandry

1	i.me/sineya_sine
	Steps taken in India - National AMR Resistance Research & Surveillance Network - National Action Plan to combat AMR - Red Line Campaign for antibiotics packaging to curb over-the-counter
Conclusi	sale
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