



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSIGHTS PT 2019 EXCLUSIVE (SOCIAL ISSUES)

May 2018 – January 2019

Table of Contents

WOMEN	5
1. Devadasi System	5
2. Web- Wonder Women Campaign	5
3. Nari Shakti	5
4. Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions	6
5. Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017	6
6. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW)	7
7. metoo@gmail.com	7
8. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit	8
9. All-women Expedition to Mt. Manirang	8
10. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act	9
11. NCRB to Track Complaints on Sexual Violence	10
12. Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)	10
13. Bharosa	11
HEALTH.....	12
1. Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019	12
2. Lead and MSG in Noodles	13
3. Formalin in Fish	13
4. Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS)	14
5. WHO's list of 10 Global Health Threats	14
6. Zearalenone in Cereals	15
7. World Malaria Report of 2018	16
8. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	16
9. Trans Fats	16
10. Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs)	18
11. Drugs and Cosmetics Act	18
12. Isotretinoin	19
13. Zika Virus	19
14. Monogenic Diabetes	20
15. Pneumonia and Diarrhoea	20
16. Allied and Healthcare Council of India	20
17. Indian Health Fund (IHF)	21
18. Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health	21
19. National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)	22
20. Severe Acute Malnutrition	22
21. UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF)	23
22. World Breastfeeding Week	23
23. Horizon 2020	24
24. Eat Right Movement	25
25. Bombali Virus Strain	25
26. International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)	26
27. Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis	26
28. Fortified Rice	27
29. "AYUSH" finds a place in English Language	27

EDUCATION	29
1. Mohan Reddy Committee	29
2. 70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI)	29
3. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019.....	29
4. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018	30
GENDER ISSUES	31
1. Gender Gap Index 2018.....	31
2. Reservation to Transgenders.....	31
3. Section 377	31
CHILDREN.....	33
1. National Girl Child Day (NGCD).....	33
2. Juveniles Justice Act, 2015	34
3. Hausla 2018	34
4. POCSO Act	34
5. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)	35
6. Supreme Court bats for Minor Rape Survivors	36
7. PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)	37
8. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)	37
REPORTS / INDEX.....	38
1. Global Nutrition Report 2018	38
2. International Universal Health Coverage Day	38
3. International Day of Persons with Disabilities	38
4. Global Education Monitoring Report 2019.....	38
5. Global Hunger Index	39
6. Future of Work in India Survey Report	39
7. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	40
GOVERNMENT / PRIVATE INITIATIVES	41
1. Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins Initiative.....	41
2. Shiksha Setu	41
3. National Cancer Institute	41
4. Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).....	41
5. Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP)	41
6. Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) Program	42
7. Assam Wage Compensation Scheme	42
8. Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention.....	43
9. Vayoshreshtha Samman	43
10. 2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products.....	43
11. Swayangsiddha	43
12. Portals to Strengthen Women Safety	44
13. #Loo Review Campaign	44
14. E-VidyaBharati and E-AarogyaBharati (E-VBAB) Network Project.....	44
15. MOVE: Global Mobility Summit.....	45
16. Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).....	45

17. Kanyashree Scheme	46
18. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)	46
19. Gujarat Government Granted Religious Minority Status to Jews	47
20. Samagra Shiksha Scheme	48
21. National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme	48
22. Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN)	49
23. Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)	50
24. Janaushadhi Suvidha	50
25. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.....	51
26. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan.....	51
27. Atal Bhujal Yojana.....	52
28. National Digital Library of India (NDLI)	53
29. National Health Resource Repository (NHRR)	53
30. One Stop Centres (OSCs)	54
31. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)	55
32. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)	55

MISCELLANEOUS..... 57

1. Asbestos in Baby Powder	57
2. Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018	57
3. National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres	58
4. World Habitat Day	58
5. 2018 Nobel Peace Prize	58
6. India for Humanity Initiative	58
7. Universal Postal Union (UPU)	59
8. UN Human Rights Prize	59
9. Sentinelese	59
10. Tribal Atlas of Odisha	60

Women

1. Devadasi System

- Few recent studies have found that ***the practice of Devadasi system*** of dedicating young girls to temples as an offering to appease the gods persists not just in Karnataka, but has also spread to neighbouring Goa.
- More than thirty-six years after ***the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act of 1982*** was passed, the State government is yet to issue the rules for administering the law.
- Devadasi system is ***a religious practice whereby parents marry a daughter to a deity or a temple***. The marriage usually occurs before the girl reaches puberty.
- ***Laws prohibiting its practice:***
 - The practice of Devadasi system in any form is in total contravention of the provisions of ***Section 370 and 370A as amended through Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013*** as well as Section 372 of Indian Penal Code. It is also against ***Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act***.

2. Web- Wonder Women Campaign

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, has launched an online campaign Web- Wonder Women to **discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women**, who have been **driving positive agenda of social change via social media**.
- The Campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in association with the NGO Breakthrough and Twitter India.
- Through the campaign, the Ministry aims to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of social media to run positive & niche campaigns to steer a change in society.
- Selection: Based on the nominations received from a large number of categories including Health, Media, Literature, Art, Sports, Environmental protection, fashion, the entries would be shortlisted. Then the shortlisted entries will be open for public voting on Twitter. The finalists would then be selected by the panel of judges.

3. Nari Shakti

- The word Nari Shakti is chosen as the **word of the Year 2018** by the Oxford dictionaries.
- ***Why was Nari Shakti chosen?***
 - Large spike in the use of word Nari Shakti in March 2018 around the Government of India's Nari Shakti Puraskar.
 - Supreme Court also upheld Nari Shakti's prominence in 2018 with its two important decisions. One was a ban on 'triple-talaq' and second, the taking down of a rule that disallowed menstrual women entry to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.

4. Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions

- The Government of India has initiated the Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Objective of the Capacity Building Programme – to empower EWRs by **developing leadership capacities** so that they serve as catalysts for social change and function as peer facilitators in the field, become vocal for their rights and participate effectively in the governance processes.
- **State Governments' Contribution:**
 - State Governments have been actively involved in imparting these trainings. Mainly, **State Institute of Rural Developments (SIRDs) and State Resource Centers (SRCs)** are actively collaborating with Ministry of Women and Child Development in conducting training programmes across the States.
 - This involves collaborating with institutions of the Departments of Panchayati Raj, Agriculture, Women & Child Development, Rural Development, etc.
- **Background:**
 - The project is being implemented by **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**, an autonomous body functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
 - Ministry of Women & Child Development has also developed training modules regarding laws for protection of women and children, development schemes and programmes (State and Center), Information Communication Technology (ICT) for the EWRs, participatory planning and asset creation, monitoring of Public Works and leadership qualities.

5. Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017

- The Centre has prepared guidelines for setting up of **crèches at workplaces**. The guidelines prescribe trained personnel to man the facility as well as infrastructure requirements and safety norms.
- The **guidelines are not mandatory** but are a yardstick for NGOs and organisations for setting up of creches.
- **Legal provisions:**
 - Parliament passed the **Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017**, enhancing paid maternity leave from a period of 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
 - The law is applicable to all institutions with 10 or more employees.
 - It also makes it mandatory for every organisation with 50 or more employees to have a crèche.
- **The Maternity Benefit Act:**
 - The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, applies to establishments employing 10 or more than 10 persons in factories, mines, plantation, shops & establishments and other entities.
 - The main purpose of this Act is to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain period before and after child birth and to provide maternity benefit and certain other benefits. **The Act was amended through the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017.**

- **The amendment has brought in major changes to the law relating to maternity benefits.** These are:
 - It extends the period of maternity benefit from 12 weeks to 26 weeks of which not more than eight weeks can precede the date of the expected delivery.
 - This exceeds the International Labour Organisation's minimum standard of 14 weeks. However, a woman who has two or more surviving children will be entitled to 12 weeks of which not more than six weeks can precede the date of the expected delivery.
 - Women who legally adopt a child below the age of three months or a **"commissioning mother" will be entitled to maternity benefit for 12 weeks** from the date on which the child is handed over to her. A commissioning mother is defined as a biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo implanted in another woman.
 - It gives discretion to employers to allow women to work from home after the period of maternity benefit on mutually agreeable conditions.
 - It introduces a provision which requires every establishment to intimate a woman at the time of her appointment of the maternity benefits available to her. Such communication must be in writing and electronically.

6. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW)

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW) is observed every year across the world on 25 November.
- **Aim:** To raise awareness about violence against women and girls, end violence against women. It also seeks to show that prevention is possible against violence of women.
- **Theme and its significance:** **"Orange the World: #HearMeToo"**. It aims to reinforce UNITE Campaign's commitment to create world free from violence for all women and girls and reaching out to most marginalized people including migrants, refugees, indigenous peoples, minorities and populations affected by natural disasters and conflicts.
- Background:
 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was instituted by **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in December 1999.
 - This day is commemorated in memory of **Mirabal sisters** who were three political activists from Dominican Republic. They were brutally assassinated during the Rafael Trujillo dictatorship (1930-1961) in 1960.
 - The **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women** is issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993.

7. metoo@gmail.com

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) has come out with a dedicated e-mail address to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace after several such complaints were made to the body by women under the #MeToo movement on social media.

- The Commission urges women who have come forward on social media and other platforms about their alleged harassers to send their formal written complaints to metoo@gmail.com.
- **What you need to know about NCW?**
 - The National Commission for Women was set up as **statutory body** in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
 - The primary mandate of the National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women Commission is to **safeguard and protect the interests of women**. It has wide responsibility covering almost all aspects of women development.
 - The commission regularly publishes a monthly newsletter, **Rashtra Mahila** in both Hindi and English.

8. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit

- The International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 was **held in Kathmandu**, Nepal.
- **It was organised by** the South Asian Women Development Forum.
- **Theme:** "Equality begins with Economic Empowerment".
- **The main objective** of the summit is to bring together achievers, women business leaders, professionals, international service providers, resource organisations, experts, government representatives and other stakeholders with a focus on innovative economic transformation through discussions and collaborations.
- **South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF):**
 - SAWDF is an autonomous, nonprofit organization based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
 - It was granted the status of SAARC Recognized Body in 2014.
 - It is first SAARC Recognized Body organisation working on women entrepreneurs' issues.
 - It represents national women entrepreneurs' associations or organizations, institutions working towards economic issues of women entrepreneurs in SAARC Region.
 - Its membership is based on organizations with extensive work around women's entrepreneurship.

9. All-women Expedition to Mt. Manirang

- An all-women expedition team had begun its journey to **Mt. Manirang** from Himachal Pradesh. The expedition commemorates the silver jubilee of 1993 Women Everest expedition.
- **The 1993 Women Everest expedition:**
 - The Indo-Nepalese women's Everest expedition in 1993 was the first all women expedition, launched by Indian Mountaineering foundation.
 - It was **funded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
 - The 21-member team was **led by Ms. Bachendri Pal**.
- About Mt. Manirang:
 - Manirang is one of the highest mountains in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. It lies on **the border between Kinnour and Lahaul and Spiti district**.
 - Mount Manirang is known as the crown of the Spiti valley.

- The whole region is situated in the rain shadow area and more or less lies dry other than winter.

10. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act

- As per the latest amendment to the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014, it is now mandatory to disclose compliance under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act in the Annual Reports of Private companies.
- This will cast as ever higher responsibility on the Directors of the Companies for implementation of the Act.
- **THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT 2013:**
 - The Act seeks to cover **all women, irrespective of their age or employment status** and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organized or unorganized. It came into force on December 9, 2013.
- **Important provisions of the Act:**
 - The Act defines sexual harassment at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.
 - **The definition of "aggrieved woman"**, who will get protection under the Act is extremely wide to cover all women, irrespective of her age or employment status, whether in the organized or unorganized sectors, public or private and covers clients, customers and domestic workers as well.
 - **Definition of workplace:** The Act includes organisations, department, office, branch unit etc. in the public and private sector, organized and unorganized, hospitals, nursing homes, educational institutions, sports institutes, stadiums, sports complex and any place visited by the employee during the course of employment including the transportation.
 - **Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee** at each office or branch with 10 or more employees. The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district, and if required at the block level.
 - **Functions of the committee:** The Committee is required to complete the inquiry within a time period of 90 days. On completion of the inquiry, the report will be sent to the employer or the District Officer, as the case may be, they are mandated to take action on the report within 60 days.
 - **Powers:** The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence. The Complaints Committees are required to provide for conciliation before initiating an inquiry, if requested by the complainant.
 - **Penalties have been prescribed for employers.** Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with a fine of up to 50,000. Repeated violations may lead to higher penalties and cancellation of licence or registration to conduct business.
- **Facts for Prelims:**

- Companies Act, 2013 provides the disclosure framework which the Directors of every company are required to comply with in the Annual Reports. It also includes the penal provisions for non-disclosure.

11.NCRB to Track Complaints on Sexual Violence

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) would be the designated nodal agency for monitoring the complaints received on a government portal that records child pornography and sexual violence videos.**
- The NCRB would coordinate with service providers such as Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp and ask them to block malicious videos and contents.
- **Impact:**
 - NCRB is only a crime record agency. Therefore, a government notification has been issued under the Information Technology Act, 2000 to enable it to take action against such videos. Now, whenever such incidents are reported, it can write to service providers and ask them to block the content.
- **About NCRB:**
 - NCRB is the Nodal Agency for authentic source of Data on crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research.
 - It was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
 - It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).
 - It was set up by merging the Directorate of Coordination and Police Computer (DCPC), Inter State Criminals Data Branch of CBI, Central Finger Print Bureau of CBI, and Statistical Branch of BPR&D.
- **Important functions:**
 - Bureau is implementing & monitoring agency for **implementation of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS)**, a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan of Government of India. The project aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in the country.
 - NCRB also imparts training in Information Technology (IT) and Finger Print Science for Indian Police Officers as well Foreign Police officers. Central finger print bureau is under the administrative control of NCRB.
- **Important publications:**
 - NCRB publishes 4 annual publications on Crime, Accidental Deaths & Suicides, Prison Statistics and Finger Prints.

12.Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)

- **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** and Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Office of International Programmes (OIP) University of Delhi, had jointly organised a Two-Day International conference on **"Empowering Women: Fostering Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability"**.
- **About the Women Entrepreneurship Platform:**
 - **Aim:** The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative

initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses. This will be done through an enabling network of industry collaborations, partnerships, mentors and peer-to-peer connect.

- **What it does?** From providing unique services such as credit evaluation of women-led startups by CRISIL and potential equity investments through an INR 10 crore fund established by DICE Districts, the WEP opens up avenues of growth and opportunity for women entrepreneurs.

13. Bharosa

- Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalised women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will soon set up a **skill development centre at 'Bharosa,'** an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad.
- **Bharosa:**
 - 'Bharosa,' an initiative of Hyderabad City Police, is a state- of-the-art centre to support women and children who are victims of violence. Since its inception in 2016, a total of 3,560 victims have approached 'Bharosa' centre with a range of problems.
 - 'Bharosa' provides under one roof, 24X7 services related to police, medical, legal, prosecution, psycho-therapeutic counselling and relief and rehabilitation services in completely private counselling rooms to maintain confidentiality and privacy.
 - The centre is equipped with well-trained staff and modern gadgets, including facilities like video conferencing, so that the victims need not go to the court.
- **About UNDP:**
 - Headquartered in New York City, UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.
 - The status of UNDP is that of an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly.
 - The UNDP Administrator is the third highest- ranking official of the United Nations after the United Nations Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.
 - The UNDP Human Development Report Office also publishes an annual Human Development Report.
- **Important functions:**
 - It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations.
 - To accomplish the SDGs and encourage global development, UNDP focuses on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, social development, and crisis prevention and recovery.

Health

1. Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019

- The Parliament has passed the Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018 that seeks to **remove leprosy as a ground for divorce**. Leprosy is being removed as a ground for divorce as it is now a curable disease as against the earlier notion of it being incurable.
- **Objectives of the bill:**
 - To uphold the rights of people with leprosy as the disease is curable.
 - To amend five personal laws- the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act 1939, Divorce Act (for Christians) 1869, Special Marriage Act 1954 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act 1956- to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce.
- **Various efforts in this regard:**
 - The first attempt towards eliminating the bias against people suffering from the disease was made in 2008 when the **National Human Rights Commission had underlined the need to make amendments in certain personal laws** and other legislations.
 - In 2010, the **United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution on the 'Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members'**, which was signed and ratified by India.
 - Subsequently, the 20th Law Commission of India in its 256th Report titled **"Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy"** had recommended repeal of laws and provisions that were discriminatory against leprosy-affected people.
 - In 2014, **the Supreme Court had also asked the Centre and the state governments to take the necessary steps for rehabilitation and integration of leprosy-affected people** into the mainstream including the steps to repeal the provisions where leprosy has been treated as a stigmatic disability.
- **Leprosy**
 - Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by **Mycobacterium leprae**. It usually affects the skin and peripheral nerves, but has a wide range of clinical manifestations.
 - The disease is characterized by long incubation period generally 5-7 years and is classified as paucibacillary or multibacillary, depending on the bacillary load.
 - The disease affects nerve endings and destroys the body's ability to feel pain and injury.
 - It **mainly affects skin and peripheral nervous system**. It can also affect the eyes and respiratory system.
 - It is **curable with multidrug therapy (MDT)**. Treatment provided in the early stages averts disability.
 - Leprosy is a leading cause of permanent physical disability.
 - Timely diagnosis and treatment of cases, before nerve damage has occurred, is the most effective way of preventing disability due to leprosy.

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), despite being **eliminated globally as public health problem in 2000**, leprosy continues to mar lives of individuals, and impacts families and communities.

2. Lead and MSG in Noodles

- Effects of lead and MSG on health:
- Lead:
 - According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems, including your liver and kidneys in particular.
 - It is especially harmful to infant and pregnant women as it can cause damage to the central nervous system in children.
 - Since lead is a heavy metal it can get stored in the teeth and bones, where it accumulates over time. In pregnant women, prolonged exposure to lead can result in miscarriage, prematurity, low birth weight, etc.
- **Monosodium glutamate:**
 - MSG, short for Monosodium glutamate, is an amino acid found in your body and most foods. It is a flavour enhancer commonly added to Chinese food, canned vegetables, soups, and processed meats.
 - When consumed in excess, it can cause several health issues, including a headache, nausea, sweating, weakness, chest pain, tingling or burning in the face as well as neck and other areas. It is claimed that MSG can cause asthma and even brain damage.
 - MSG may cause adverse symptoms in some people, including a condition called Chinese restaurant syndrome or MSG symptom complex. However, there is no definitive evidence that MSG is solely responsible for causing these symptoms.
- **About NCDRC:**
 - The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
 - The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Statutory provisions:**
 - Section 21 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 posits that the National Consumer shall have jurisdiction to entertain a complaint valued more than one crore and also have Appellate and Revisional jurisdiction from the orders of State Commissions or the District fora as the case may be.
 - Section 23 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986, provides that any person aggrieved by an order of NCDRC, may prefer an Appeal against such order to Supreme Court of India within a period of 30 days.

3. Formalin in Fish

- Bihar's health department had imposed a blanket ban on sale of fish from Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal after samples were found to be contaminated with formalin.
- **Why is fish laced with formalin?**

- If fish isn't maintained at the proper temperature of 5 degree Celsius, it gets spoilt. To avoid that and **increase its shelf life**, chemicals such as formalin and ammonia is used.
- Formalin is used as a preservative. Meanwhile, ammonia is mixed with the water that is frozen to keep fish fresh.
- **Operation Sagar Rani:**
 - In June 2018, Kerala food safety department officials seized nearly 9,600 kg of fish preserved in formalin at a border check post in Kollam district. The seizure was part of 'Operation Sagar Rani' launched by the state.
- **About Formalin:**
 - Formalin is a toxic, colourless solution that is derived by dissolving formaldehyde gas in water.
 - It is a **cancer-inducing chemical** used to preserve fish and is used as a disinfectant. It is used in the manufacture of pesticides, fertilisers, glue, paper and paint, among other products.
 - Formalin causes irritation in the eyes, throat, skin and stomach. In the long run continued exposure causes harm to the kidneys, liver and can even cause cancers.
 - Formaldehyde is a highly reactive, flammable gas, which means it can become a fire hazard when exposed to flame or heat.



4. Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS)

- CCHS is a disorder of the nervous system in which the cue to breathe is lost when the patient goes to sleep. This results in a **lack of oxygen and a build-up of carbon dioxide in the body**, which can sometimes turn fatal. There are less than 1,000 known cases all over the world.
- Though the name describes the disorder as congenital, some forms of the disease may also be present in adults. In fact, adult onset is far more common than congenital presentation; there have been many adult cases reported in medical journals over the years.
- The disease is also known as **Ondine's Curse**. Ondine, a nymph in French mythology, had cursed her unfaithful husband that he would forget to breathe the moment he fell asleep.
- **Causes:**
 - The mutation of a gene called PHOX2B, which is crucial for the maturation of nerve cells in the body, can cause CCHS.
 - It can also be genetically acquired, which is when it is congenital. However, sudden mutation is more common than a transmission of the mutated gene from parent to child.
- **Treatment:**
 - Treatment typically includes mechanical ventilation or use of a diaphragm pacemaker.
 - People who have been diagnosed as newborns and adequately ventilated throughout childhood may reach the age of 20 to 30 years, and can live independently.

5. WHO's list of 10 Global Health Threats

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) list of **10 global health threats** which demand immediate attention from WHO and health partners in 2019 has been released.
- **Here are the 10 health issues that demand urgent attention from WHO and partners in 2019.**

1. Air pollution and climate change.
2. Non-communicable diseases.
3. Global influenza pandemic.
4. Fragile and vulnerable settings: More than 22% of the world population lives in places where protracted crisis (through a combination of challenges such as drought, famine, conflict and population displacement) and weak health services leave people without access to basic care.
5. Antimicrobial resistance.
6. Ebola and other high-threat pathogens.
7. Weak primary health care.
8. Vaccine hesitancy: Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding disease, however, the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines, threatens to reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases.
9. Dengue
10. HIV

6. Zearalenone in Cereals

- Zearalenone is **a fungal toxin** infesting cereals such as wheat, maize and barley. It attacks crops while they are growing, but can also develop when cereals are stored without being dried fully.
- **Why in News?**
 - While numerous studies document this toxin in cereals across the world, no data existed for India until now. Recently, a Journal of Food Science study detected zearalenone in wheat, rice, corn and oats from markets in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Are there any guidelines on its usage?**
 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India does not impose maximum limits for zearalenone, though the European Union (EU) does.
- **Why worry about this?**
 - Fungal toxins are commonly found in food, and can be a public health concern. **India regulates the levels of some of these, including aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol, ergot and patulin.** The first three infest cereals, while patulin is found in apples. Each of these toxins has been associated with disease outbreaks.
 - **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies aflatoxin as a Group 1 carcinogen.**
 - In zearalenone's case, there is no strong evidence of toxicity in humans so far, though several research groups are investigating. As a result, **the IARC classifies it as a Group 3 carcinogen, which means evidence is not sufficient for an evaluation yet.**
- **How Zearalenone affects?**
 - Zearalenone behaves like oestrogen, the female sex hormone, and could cause endocrine disturbances in humans. Its nasty effects in animals, such as pigs, are documented.
 - When fed with mouldy corn, pigs develop inflamed vaginas, infertility and other symptoms. This is why countries like Brazil regulate zearalenone levels in animal feed. In humans, the data are fuzzier.

7. World Malaria Report of 2018

- As per **World Health Organisation's World Malaria Report of 2018**, India is the only country among the 11 highest-burden countries that saw substantial progress in reducing disease burden: it saw a 24% decrease in 2017 compared to 2016.
- India's progress in fighting malaria is an outcome of concerted efforts to ensure that its malaria programme is country-owned and country-led, even as it is in alignment with globally accepted strategies.
- At the East Asia Summit in 2015, **India pledged to eliminate the disease by 2030**. India launched **the five-year National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination**. This marked a shift in focus from malaria "control" to "elimination". The plan provides a roadmap to achieve the target of ending malaria in 571 districts out of India's 678 districts by 2022.
- **Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMaN) initiative:**
 - Among states, **Odisha's Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMaN) initiative** is significant.
 - **The initiative aims to** deliver services to the most inaccessible and hardest hit people of the State. The initiative has in-built innovative strategies to combat asymptomatic malaria.
 - **The programme is jointly implemented by** Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR-NIMR), National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Odisha and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

8. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

- **Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** — mainly cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes and cancer — **continue to be the top killers in the South-East Asia Region**, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Containing the NCDs has been listed by the WHO as **its health goal for this year along** with reducing mortality related to air pollution and climate change, global influenza pandemic etc.
- **Key observations:**
 - Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease, are collectively responsible for over 70% of all deaths worldwide.
 - The four 'major' NCDs are caused by: tobacco use, unhealthy diet, insufficient physical activity and harmful use of alcohol.
- **What are NCDs?**
 - Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), also known as **chronic diseases**, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors.
 - **The main types of NCDs** are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.

9. Trans Fats

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a new mass media campaign in order to create awareness about trans-fats and eliminate them in India by 2022.

- **About “Heart Attack Rewind”:**
 - “Heart Attack Rewind”, **a 30-second public service announcement**, will be broadcast in 17 languages for a period of four weeks on YouTube, Facebook, Hotstar, and Voot. It will also be placed on outdoor hoardings and run on radio stations in Delhi and the National Capital Region.
 - The campaign will warn citizens about the health hazards of consuming trans-fats and offer strategies to avoid them through healthier alternatives.
 - “Heart Attack Rewind” is a follow-up to an earlier campaign called **“Eat Right”**, which was launched on July 11, 2018. As part of the campaign, edible oil industries took a pledge to reduce trans-fat content by 2% by 2022. Later, food companies also took a pledge to reformulate packaged foods with reduced levels of salt, sugar and saturated fat.
- **Trans-fats:**
 - Trans-fatty acids (TFAs) or Trans fats are the most harmful type of fats which can have much more adverse effects on our body than any other dietary constituent. **These fats are largely produced artificially but a small amount also occurs naturally.** Thus in our diet, these may be present as Artificial TFAs and/ or Natural TFAs.
 - Artificial TFAs are formed when hydrogen is made to react with the oil to produce fats resembling pure ghee/butter.
 - In our diet the major sources of artificial TFAs are the partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (PHVO)/vanaspati/ margarine while the natural TFAs are present in meats and dairy products, though in small amounts.
- **Harmful effects:**
 - TFAs pose a **higher risk of heart disease** than saturated fats. While saturated fats raise total cholesterol levels, TFAs not only raise total cholesterol levels but also reduce the good cholesterol (HDL), which helps to protect us against heart disease. Trans-fats consumption increases the risk of developing heart disease and stroke.
 - It is also associated with a higher risk of developing obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, metabolic syndrome, insulin resistance, infertility, certain types of cancers and can also lead to compromised fetal development causing harm to the yet to be born baby.
- **Why they are increasingly being used?**
 - TFA containing oils can be preserved longer, they give the food the desired shape and texture and can easily substitute ‘Pure ghee’. These are comparatively far lower in cost and thus add to profit/saving.
- **Permissible limit:**
 - WHO recommends that trans-fat intake be limited to less than 1% of total energy intake and has called for the total elimination of TFAs in global food supply by 2023.
 - FSSAI has proposed to limit TFA limit in foods to 2% and eliminate trans-fats from foods by 2022.
- **Initiative by Kerala:**
 - Kerala is planning to launch an initiative to enforce dietary guidelines, involving the reduction of trans-fatty acids (TFAs), salt and sugar in commercially available foods in the State.

- The initiative, with technical support from the World Bank, WHO and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), is being launched as unhealthy diet is pushing up metabolic syndrome and premature deaths due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among Keralites.

10. Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs)

- According to a study, of the 110 anti-TB (tuberculosis) Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) available in India, only 32 (less than 30%) have been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the country's drug regulator.
- An FDC is a cocktail of two or more active drug ingredients in a fixed ratio of doses.
- **About CDSCO:**
 - The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) **under Directorate General of Health Services**, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the **National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India**.
 - **Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**, CDSCO is responsible for approval of New Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
 - Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is **jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs** such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

11. Drugs and Cosmetics Act

- Commonly used medical devices such as nebulizers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers have been notified as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, a step which will enable the government to ensure their quality and performance.
- **Impact:**
 - **The Drug Controller-General of India (DCGI) would regulate** the import, manufacture and sale of these devices from January 1, 2020.
 - **All these devices will have to be registered under the quality parameters** prescribed under Medical Devices Rules 2017 and other standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) certification.
 - Also, companies which are engaged in the manufacture and import of these equipment, will have **to seek the necessary permission or license** from the Drug Controller-General of India.
 - Currently, **only 23 medical devices are monitored for quality by the country's drug regulator**. With four new devices being notified, 27 medical devices now fall under the definition of drugs under the Act. The other medical equipments are sold without any quality checks or clinical trials.
- **Background:**

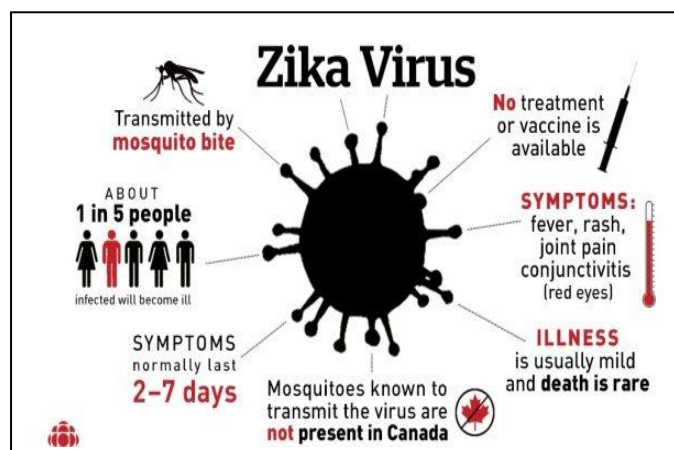
- The Drug Technical Advisory Body (DTAB), the country's highest drug advisory body, had approved the proposal to include nebulizers, blood pressure monitoring devices, digital thermometers and glucometers under the purview of the Drug Law.
- **About DTAB:**
 - Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is the highest decision-making body under the Union health ministry on technical matters.
 - **Director General of Health Services (DGHS)** is the **ex-officio chairman of this statutory body** which is constituted by the **ministry** under section 5 of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.

12. Isotretinoin

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has issued safety guidelines for Isotretinoin.
- CDSCO has directed Drug Controllers of all the States and Union Territories to monitor the sale, manufacture and distribution of Isotretinoin.
- Background:
 - Isotretinoin is an oral drug, which is used in the treatment of severe acne. Isotretinoin capsules of 10 mg/20 mg were approved by CDSCO in 2002 for the treatment of cystic and conglobate acne, and severe nodular acne unresponsive to antibiotic therapy.
 - It was later found that Isotretinoin can cause birth defects in progeny if not taken without proper guidance.

13. Zika Virus

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had confirmed cases of Zika virus in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur. It was detected through Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) surveillance system.
- **Zika virus is similar to dengue fever, yellow fever and West Nile virus.** The virus belongs to family Flaviviridae and Genus Flavivirus.
- Carried by infected **Aedes aegypti** **mosquitos**, Zika is largely transmitted through bites, but can also occur through intrauterine infection. It can also spread through blood transfusion and sexual contact.
- It was first identified in 1947 in Zika Forest, Uganda from where it derives its name.
- If a woman is bitten by an infected mosquito and becomes infected, Zika can cross into the placenta and affect the fetus. While anyone can contract Zika, **pregnant women are the most at risk due to the potential for fetal microcephaly** in which infants are born with abnormally smaller heads and other neurologic abnormalities.
- Besides there is also possible link between virus and **Guillain-Barré syndrome** (a condition in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system) is also suspected.
- **Symptoms include** fever, headache, red eyes, skin rash, fatigue, muscle pain etc.
- **Treatment and Prevention:** There is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available to treat Zika. The best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites and clearing stagnant water where mosquitoes breed.
- First outbreak of Zika Virus was reported in Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 2017.



14. Monogenic Diabetes

- A National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed to identify cases of monogenic diabetes across the country.
- Monogenic diabetes is a group of disorders where mutation of a single gene causes diabetes; the three commonest forms being – **Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (NDM) and Congenital Hypoglycaemia.**
- **Factors of Monogenic diabetes:**
 - Monogenic diabetes is usually passed on in an autosomal dominant gene, (a sex independent gene that's inherited from one of the parents). This means only one copy of the mutation is needed to develop diabetes.
 - There is usually a strong family history of diabetes and in multiple generations, (although it's possible for someone to have a spontaneous mutation). Diagnosis, therefore, involves genetic testing for these diabetes-causing gene mutations that disrupt insulin production.
 - Monogenic diabetes patients are also usually antibody negative, (though there are cases where low levels of antibodies have been detected). Once treatment for the diabetes begins, the antibodies usually resolve.
- **In addition to blood sugar issues, some of the forms of Monogenic diabetes involve metabolic issues such as:**
 - Growth problems.
 - Impaired glycogen storage in the liver.
 - Impaired fatty acid metabolism.
 - Exocrine pancreatic

15. Pneumonia and Diarrhoea

- The Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report 2018 has been released.
- The report is released by the **International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC)** at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- The report, reviews progress and gaps in coverage of interventions to “protect against, prevent and treat” pneumonia and diarrhoea.
- The report lists exclusive breastfeeding, vaccination, access to care and use of antibiotics, oral rehydration solution, and zinc supplementation as key interventions to help prevent and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea.

16. Allied and Healthcare Council of India

- Cabinet approves Allied and Healthcare Council of India and corresponding State Allied and Healthcare Councils.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of an **Allied and Healthcare Council of India** and corresponding **State Allied and Healthcare Councils** which will play the role of standard-setters and facilitators for professions of Allied and Healthcare.
- **Features of the Central and State Allied and Healthcare Councils:**
 - It includes 15 major professional categories including 53 professions in Allied and Healthcare streams.

- The **Professional Advisory Bodies** under Central and State Councils will examine issues in detail and provide recommendations relating to specific recognized categories.
- The **Allied and Healthcare Professionals (A&HPs)** constitute an important element of the health human resource network. And it can reduce the cost of care and dramatically improve the accessibility to quality driven healthcare services.
- **Additional Benefits of the Allied and Healthcare Council:**
 - It will **bring all existing allied and healthcare professionals on board** within a few years from the date of establishment of the Council.
 - It provides an opportunity to **create qualified, highly skilled and competent manpower** in healthcare and enable professionalism of the allied and healthcare workforce.
 - It paves the way for high quality multi-disciplinary care in line with the vision of “**Ayushman Bharat**”.

17. Indian Health Fund (IHF)

- Tata Trust and The Global Fund backed Indian Health Fund (IHF) has chosen four innovators for early detection of tuberculosis (TB), malaria to effectively tackle these diseases.
- Key Facts:
 - The aim for selecting these innovators aims at leveraging technology for improving early detection and prompt treatment along with promoting diagnostics feasible for primary health care facilities.
 - It also aims to supporting national efforts to effectively tackle eradicate these diseases which is crucial health challenges in India.
 - Government has set a target of eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030. India contributes to 27% of the global TB burden and 68% of all malaria cases in the Southeast Asia region
- **What is Indian Health Fund (IHF)?**
 - IHF was launched in 2016 by Tata Trusts in collaboration with The Global Fund, to drive innovations towards key infectious disease challenges in India.
 - It supports individuals and organisations with already germinated innovative strategies, services, products, such that they become sustainable and scalable solutions in addressing TB and malaria.
 - The initiative is a long-term exercise aligned with country's goal of eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030. It will promote innovative solutions such that they are widely accessible and are affordable.

18. Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

- The first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health was held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva.
- **Organizers:**
 - The conference was held in collaboration with UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

- *Participants* include Ministers of Health and Environment and other national government representatives; representatives of intergovernmental agencies, health professionals, other sectors (e.g. transport, energy, etc.), as well as from research, academia and civil society.
- **Background:**
 - The conference responds to a World Health Assembly mandate to combat one of the world's most significant causes of premature death, causing some 7 million deaths annually.
 - Air pollution in most cities exceeds recommended WHO Air Quality levels and household air pollution is a leading killer in poor rural and urban homes.
 - Up to 1/3 of deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease are due to air pollution.

19. National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)

- The **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)** has released the report HIV Estimations 2017.
- Key facts:
 - The HIV Estimations 2017 is the 14th round in the series of HIV Estimations under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).
 - NACO undertakes HIV estimations biennially in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS).
 - The first round of HIV estimation in India was done in 1998, while the last round was done in 2015.
- **About National AIDS Control Organization:**
 - It is a **division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** that provides leadership to HIV/AIDS control programme in India through 35 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Societies.
 - In 1986, following the detection of the first AIDS case in the country, the National AIDS Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 - As the epidemic spread, need was felt for a nationwide programme and an organization to steer the programme.
 - In 1992 India's first National AIDS Control Programme (1992-1999) was launched, and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) was constituted to implement the programme.

20. Severe Acute Malnutrition

- The **National Technical Board on Nutrition (NTBN)** has approved guidelines proposed by WCD Ministry for severe acute malnutrition. The measures are part of the community-based health management of children suffering from SAM.
- Severe acute malnutrition is the **most extreme and visible form of undernutrition**. Its face is a child – frail and skeletal – who requires urgent treatment to survive.
- Children with severe acute malnutrition have very low weight for their height and severe muscle wasting. They may also have **nutritional oedema** –

characterized by swollen feet, face and limbs. About two thirds of these children live in Asia and almost one third live in Africa.

- Severe acute malnutrition is a major cause of death in children under 5, and its prevention and treatment are critical to child survival and development.
- Children with severe acute malnutrition are nine times more likely to die than well-nourished children. These deaths are the direct result of malnutrition itself, as well as the indirect result of childhood illnesses like diarrhoea and pneumonia that malnourished children are too weak to survive.

21. UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF)

- Shri Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals.
- **About UNIATF:**
 - A July 2013 resolution at the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** formally established the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs by expanding the mandate of the existing UN Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control.
 - The Task Force is convened and led by WHO, and reports to ECOSOC through the UN Secretary General.
- **Functions:**
 - UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates activities of relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialised agencies and other intergovernmental organisations, to support the realisation of the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs, in particular through the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.
 - Following the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, UNIATF's scope of work was expanded in 2016 to include "NCD related SDGs" – i.e. mental health, violence and injuries, nutrition, and environmental issues that impact on NCDs.

22. World Breastfeeding Week

- August 1 to 7 every year is observed as World Breastfeeding Week.
- **Organized by:** World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), WHO and UNICEF.
- **Goal:** To promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life which yields tremendous health benefits, providing critical nutrients, protection from deadly diseases such as pneumonia and fostering growth and development.
- **Significance of breastfeeding:**
 - Breastfeeding is an important efficient and cost-effective intervention promoting child survival and health.
 - Breastfeeding within an hour of birth could prevent 20% of the newborn deaths.
 - Infants who are not breastfed are 15 times more likely to die from pneumonia and 11 times more likely to die from diarrhoea than children

who are exclusively breastfed, which are two leading causes of death in children under-five years of age.

- In addition, children who were not breastfed are at increased risk for diabetes, obesity, allergies, asthma, childhood leukemia, sudden infant death syndrome etc. Apart from mortality and morbidity benefits, breastfeeding also has tremendous impact on improved IQ.

- **MAA programme:**

- To intensify the efforts further for promotion of breastfeeding, the Health Ministry initiated a nationwide programme called **“MAA- Mother’s Absolute Affection” to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding and provision of services towards supporting breastfeeding**, along with ongoing efforts of routine health systems.
- **The key components of the MAA programme** are awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding & inter personal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points and monitoring and Award/ recognition of health facility.
- Under this programme, **ASHA has been incentivized** for reaching out to pregnant and lactating mothers and provide information on benefits and techniques of successful breastfeeding during interpersonal communication. ANMs at all sub-centres and health personnel at all delivery points are being trained for providing skilled support to mothers referred with issues related to breastfeeding.
- Under NHM, funding support has been recommended for all States and UTs for successful implementation of the MAA programme.

- **About WABA:**

- **World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)** is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declarations, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding.
- WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

23. Horizon 2020

- The European Union and India have collaborated in research and innovation for developing a **next generation influenza vaccine to protect people worldwide**. The EU is funding is under its programme for research and innovation ‘Horizon 2020’.
- **Key facts:**
 - The EU and the Indian government’s Department of Biotechnology have committed 15 million Euros each to fund this joint project.
 - The aim is to advance the efficacy, safety, duration of immunity, and reactivity against an increased breadth of influenza strains.
 - The joint effort also aims to develop cost-effective and affordable influenza vaccine rapidly without compromising quality.
 - There will be multi-disciplinary approach involving stakeholders who can represent any part of the chain from lab to market.
- **Eligibility:**

- The projects require minimum three applicants from Europe (three different EU member states) or countries associated to the EU programme Horizon 2020) and minimum three applicants from India.
- The projects are also 'Open to the World' and thus applicants from other countries can join the EU-India consortia.

24. Eat Right Movement

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has unveiled 'The Eat Right Movement'** with a view to get industry on board for implementation of draft food labelling regulation.
- **Eat Right Movement:**
 - The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.
 - It is built on two broad pillars of '**Eat Healthy**' and '**Eat Safe**'.
 - It also aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.
- **Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations 2018:**
 - The proposed regulations will prescribe the labeling requirements of pre-packaged foods and display of essential information on premises where food is manufactured, processed, served and stored.
 - The draft Regulation also states that HFSS (high in fat, sugar or salt) food products shall not be advertised to children in any form.
 - It also introduces labelling of genetically modified (GM) food.

25. Bombali Virus Strain

- Researchers have discovered **new strain of Ebola virus**.
- **Where?** In bats in northern Bombali region of **Sierra Leone**.
- **Key facts:**
 - It has been named as Bombali virus strain, ***after district where it was found***.
 - **The sixth in line:** The Bombali virus is overall sixth known virus strain Ebola virus. Others are Zaire, Sudan, Tai Forest, Bundibugyo and Reston.
- What you need to know about Ebola?
 - **Ebola virus disease (EVD)**, formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.
 - **Transmission:** The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
 - **The average EVD case fatality rate** is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.
 - **Prevention:** Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks. Good outbreak control relies on applying a package of interventions, namely case management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service and social mobilisation.
 - Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is as yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.
- **Background:**

- More than 11,000 people died in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2015, mainly in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The last outbreak in the DRC was in 2014 and killed more than 40 people.

26. International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).
- **What is ICD?**
 - The ICD is the **global health information standard for mortality and morbidity statistics**.
 - ICD is increasingly used in clinical care and research to define diseases and study disease patterns, as well as manage health care, monitor outcomes and allocate resources.
 - More than 100 countries use the system to report mortality data, a primary indicator of health status. This system helps to monitor death and disease rates worldwide and measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.
 - About 70% of the world's health expenditures (USD \$ 3.5 billion) are allocated using ICD for reimbursement and resource allocation.
- **Highlights of ICD- 11:**
 - ICD-11 identifies health trends and statistics worldwide, and contains around 55,000 unique codes for injuries, diseases and causes of death.
 - The new ICD-11 also reflects progress in medicine and advances in scientific understanding. For example, the codes relating to antimicrobial resistance are more closely in line with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS).
 - ICD-11 is also able to better capture data regarding safety in health care, which means that unnecessary events that may harm health – such as unsafe workflows in hospitals can be identified and reduced.
 - The new ICD also includes new chapters- one on traditional medicine and another new chapter on sexual health.
 - Gaming disorder has been added to the section on addictive disorders.
- **Background:**
 - The first international classification edition, known as the International List of Causes of Death, was adopted by the International Statistical Institute in 1893. WHO was entrusted with the ICD at its creation in 1948. The ICD is revised periodically and is currently in its 10th revision.

27. Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

- India hosted the 10th meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis. India has highest burden of Lymphatic Filariasis and there is need of taking leadership role to Eliminate lymphatic filariasis.
- **Theme:** Celebrating progress towards elimination: Voices from the field on overcoming programme challenges.
- **About GAELF:**
 - It is an alliance of partners from 72 LF endemic national country programmes, NGOs, private sectors, academic and research institutes and international development agencies that assists WHO's Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.

28. Fortified Rice

- The government is planning to provide fortified rice (enriched with essential vitamins and minerals) to all the poor under National Food Security Act (NFSA) across the country.
- The proposal is being prepared with the support of NITI Aayog under the National Nutrition Mission.
- **Why Rice Fortification?**
 - Rice is the world's most important staple food. An estimated 2 billion people eat rice every day, forming the mainstay of diets across large of Asia and Africa.
 - Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only. The fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition.
 - Fortified rice contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.
- **What is Rice Fortification?**
 - Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.
 - Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.
- **Food fortification in India:**
 - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated a comprehensive regulation on fortification of foods namely 'Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016'.
 - These regulations set the standards for food fortification and encourage the production, manufacture, distribution, sale and consumption of fortified foods.
 - The regulations also provide for specific role of FSSAI in promotion for food fortification and to make fortification mandatory. This sets the premise for the national summit on fortification of food.

29. "AYUSH" finds a place in English Language

- The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.
- As approved by the Commission, the word 'ayush' will have the meaning Traditional and Non-Conventional Systems of Health Care and Healing which include Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Homoeopathy etc.
- **Implications:**
 - This decision will give a boost to India's efforts to find a place for the Indian Systems of Healthcare in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) of the World Health Organization. The Indian systems finding a place in ICD will lead to their international acceptance, increased rigor of research in them and their over-all development.
- Facts for Prelims:

- **Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology:**
 - The Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology (CSTT) was set up on December 21, 1960 by a resolution of Government of India under the proviso to Clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution with the objective to evolve and define scientific and technical terms in Hindi and all Indian languages; publish glossaries, definitional dictionaries, encyclopaedia.

Education

1. Mohan Reddy Committee

- A government **committee headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy** has submitted its report and that its suggestions are being considered by AICTE.
- The committee was appointed to come up with a medium and short-term perspective plan for expansion in engineering education.

2. 70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI)

- The government has launched a **70 point Performance Grading Index (PGI)** to assess areas of deficiency in each state's school education system so that targeted interventions can be made at every level from pedagogy to teacher training.
- **About the Performance Grading Index (PGI):**
 - **Aim:** The index is aimed at helping states understand where they may be lagging behind and prioritise areas for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.
 - **The union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry is compiling this schooling index.**
 - The Index will **assess states on a 1,000 point grading system with 10-20 points per parameter.**
 - **Areas:** The 70 indicators will grade state schooling systems on areas like number of existing teacher vacancies, number of direct entry recruitments especially at leadership positions, school infrastructure and so on.
 - The Niti Aayog which was earlier developing its own School Education Quality Index, will be using 33 of the 70 criteria under the PGI for their own assessments.

3. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019 has received the assent of the President of India. The bill mainly seeks to **do away with the no-detention policy in schools.**
- Significance: The legislation is significant as it brings accountability in the elementary education system. The proposal received the support of a majority of state governments.
- **Right to Education (RTE) Act:**
 - The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (the Act) provides for **free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years.**
- **What is no detention policy?**
 - According to this provision "no child admitted in a school shall be held back in any class". This translates into automatic promotions to the next class every year until Class VII.
 - Instead of exams, schools are supposed to hold Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluations (CCE) for every child.

RTE amendment Bill- Key features:

- The Bill seeks to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act **to abolish the "no-detention" policy in schools.** Under the current provisions of the Act, **no student can be detained up to class VIII.**
- As per the amendment, **it would be left to the states to decide whether to continue the no-detention policy.**
- **The bill provides for regular examination** in classes V and VIII, and if a child fails, the amendment bill grants a provision to give her or him additional opportunity to take a re-examination within two months. Such children will be **provided with two-month remedial teaching to perform better in the re-examinations.** If the students still do not pass the exam, **the state government may decide to detain them.**

- The **TSR Subramanian committee** for formulation of the National Policy on Education has also suggested that 'no detention' policy should be discontinued after Class V. It had recommended restoration of detention provision, remedial coaching and two extra chances to each student such to move to a higher class.

4. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018

- The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018 has been published by education **non-profit Pratham**. The latest report collected data from 596 districts by surveying 546,527 students from 354,944 homes.
- The survey shows the prevalence of **learning deficit** and the poverty of basic reading and arithmetic skills among students in Indian schools.
- **Highlights of the report:**
 - Indian students, especially those in elementary school (Classes I-VIII), are **not learning enough**. To cite a metric, **only half (50.3%) of all students in Class V can read texts meant for Class II students**.
 - **There seems to have been some improvement in learning levels, especially among students of Class III and Class V**, in 2018 compared with those of the previous five years. However, the improvement is not visible at a higher level, for example among students of Class VIII.
 - **The deficit is across government and private schools**. Traditionally, students in private schools have fared better than their government school counterparts, but that's a relative situation.

Gender Issues

1. Gender Gap Index 2018

- World economic forum has released the 2018 gender gap index.
- **Performance of various countries:**
 - Iceland has been ranked as Number 1. It is followed by Norway, Sweden and Finland.
 - India **has been ranked at 108.**
 - It has **recorded improvement in wage equality for similar work and has fully closed its tertiary education gender gap for the first time.**
- **About Global gender gap report:**
 - **It is published annually by the world economic forum since 2006.**
 - Global gender gap index is a part of this which measures gender equality across **four pillars– they are economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment and health and survival.**

2. Reservation to Transgenders

- The **Uttarakhand High Court** has directed the state government to provide reservation to transgenders in educational institutions and public appointments. The high court gave the state government six months' time to implement the decision.

3. Section 377

- The Supreme Court has pronounced its verdict on a clutch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of section 377 of the IPC which criminalises consensual gay sex.
- The verdict and its significance:
 - **The Court said gay sex among consenting adults is not an offence.** The verdict assumes significance as in the earlier round of litigation in 2013 the Supreme Court had reversed the Delhi high court ruling decriminalising homosexuality or same sex relationship.
 - However, **bestiality will continue as an offence.** Any kind of sexual activity with animals shall remain penal offence under Section 377 of the IPC.
 - The judgement is based on the interpretation of **Article 14** (Right to Equality); **Article 15**(prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth); **Article 19**(Freedom of Speech and Expression); and **Article 21** (Right to Life and Right to Privacy) of the Indian Constitution.
- The law:
 - **Section 377 of IPC** – which came into force in 1862 – defines unnatural offences. It says, “Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine.”
- **Delhi HC legalises homosexuality:**

- The Delhi high court had in July 2009 de-criminalised consensual homosexual acts in private by declaring as unconstitutional a part of Section 377 of IPC that criminalises unnatural sex, saying “the section denies a gay person a right to full personhood...”
- **SC re-criminalises homosexuality:**
 - The Supreme Court chose to reverse the verdict in December 2013.
 - Upholding the constitutional validity of Section 377 IPC, an SC bench headed by Justice GS Singhvi (since retired), put the ball in the Parliament’s court, saying it was for the legislature to take a call on the desirability of the controversial provision.

Children

1. National Girl Child Day (NGCD)

- **National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** was observed on **24th January** with objectives of **generating awareness** on the issue of declining **Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and create a positive environment around valuing the girl child.
- The programme also observed **anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme**. National Girl Child Day was first initiated in 2008.
- **Theme:** "Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow".
- **Objectives:**
 - To increase the consciousness of the people and offer new opportunities to the girl child in the society.
 - To remove all the inequalities faced by the girl child.
 - To ensure that the girl child should get all their human rights, respect and value in the country.
 - To work regarding gender discrimination, to educate people.
- **About BBBP:**
 - **Launch and expansion:** Launched in January, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana. All India Expansion of BBBP covering all 640 districts (as per Census 2011) was launched at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan on 8th March 2018.
 - **It is a tri-ministerial effort** of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
 - It is **a Central Sector Scheme** with 100% financial assistance for District level component and the fund are directly released to the DC/DM's account for smooth operation of the Scheme.
 - **Main Objective of the scheme** is to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. The specific objectives of the scheme include preventing gender biased sex selective elimination; ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- **Implementation:**
 - At the Central level, **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is the nodal ministry for the programme and National Task Force headed by Secretary, MWCD with the representation of Partner Ministry and other nominated members.
 - At the State level, Chief Secretaries heads the State Task Force (STF) with representation of Department of WCD, Health and Education to monitor the implementation of the scheme.
 - The District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners (DCs) lead and coordinate action of all departments for implementation of BBBP at the District level.

2. Juveniles Justice Act, 2015

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 came into force in January, 2016. The new Act repeals the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
- The JJ Act, 2015 provides for strengthened provisions for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.
- **Key provisions:**
 - **Definition:** The Act clearly defines and classifies offences as petty, serious and heinous, and defines differentiated processes for each category. Keeping in view the increasing number of serious offences being committed by persons in the age group of 16-18 years and recognizing the rights of the victims as being equally important as the rights of juveniles, special provisions are incorporated in the Act to tackle heinous offences committed by individuals in this age group.
 - **It establishes a statutory status for the Child Adoption Resources Authority (CARA).** It also proposes several rehabilitation and social integration measures for institutional and non-institutional children. It provides for sponsorship and foster care as completely new measures.
 - **Mandatory registration of all institutions** engaged in providing child care is required according to the Act. New offences including illegal adoption, corporal punishment in child care institutions, the use of children by militant groups, and offences against disabled children are also incorporated in the legislation.
 - The new law gives the **Juvenile Justice Board the power to assess** whether the perpetrator of a heinous crime aged between 16 and 18, had acted as a 'child' or as an 'adult.' The board will be assisted in this process by psychologists and social experts.
 - It strikes **a fine balance between the demands of the stakeholders** asking for continued protection of rights of juveniles and the popular demand of citizens in the light of increasing incidence of heinous crimes by young boys.

3. Hausla 2018

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the **National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) – Hausla 2018.**
- **Reason behind Hausla:**
 - To provide a national platform for the children from CCIs across India to showcase their talent.
 - To make them realize the hidden talent they possess
 - To help take it forward in their life.
 - Theme of the Event – “Child Safety”.

4. POCSO Act

- The government has clarified that there is no time bar on reporting crimes related to child sexual abuse. Survivors of child sexual abuse can file a police complaint after they become adults.
- The Ministry of Law, after examining the provisions of POCSO Act vis-à-vis provisions of CrPC, has advised that there appears no period of limitation

mentioned in Section 19 in regard to reporting of the offences under the POCSO Act, 2012.

- **Legal provisions:**

- **Section 19 of the POCSO Act**, which deals with sexual crimes against children, lays down the procedure for reporting a crime but doesn't specify a time limit or statute of limitation for reporting it.
- **Whereas the CrPC lays down different time-limits** for crimes which carry a punishment of up to three years, there is no time bar for crimes that would attract a jail term of more than three years.

- **POCSO Act:**

- The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) 2012** was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.
- **Role of police:** The Act casts the police in the role of child protectors during the investigative process. Thus, the police personnel receiving a report of sexual abuse of a child are given the responsibility of making urgent arrangements for the care and protection of the child, such as obtaining emergency medical treatment for the child and placing the child in a shelter home, and bringing the matter in front of the CWC, should the need arise.
- **Safeguards:** The Act provides for **special courts** that conduct the trial in-camera and without revealing the identity of the child, in a manner that is as child-friendly as possible. Hence, the child may have a parent or other trusted person present at the time of testifying and can call for assistance from an interpreter, special educator, or other professional while giving evidence. The Act stipulates that a case of child sexual abuse must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.
- **Mandatory reporting:** The Act also provides for mandatory reporting of sexual offences. This casts a legal duty upon a person who has knowledge that a child has been sexually abused to report the offence; if he fails to do so, he may be punished with six months' imprisonment and/ or a fine.
- **Definitions:** The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age. It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography. It deems a sexual assault to be "aggravated" under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.

5. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- Three years after the Missionaries of Charity (MoC) decided to stop giving children in its homes up for adoption, it has agreed to join hands with the country's nodal agency- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) for adoption.
- Child Adoption Regulatory Authority (CARA) has allowed individuals in a live-in relationship to adopt children from and within India.

- **Exception:** CARA has barred applicants in a live-in relationship from adopting a child on the ground that “the Authority would like the children to be placed only with a stable family and individuals in a live-in relationship cannot be considered as stable family.”
- **Eligibility:**
 - The eligibility criteria under Adoption Regulations, 2017, permit single women to adopt a child of any gender, while single men can adopt only boys.
 - When a married couple seeks to adopt a child, it needs to give its consent for adoption and should be stable marriage for at least two years. Applicants have to be physically, mentally and financially stable to raise a child.
- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is **a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development**, Government of India.
- It functions as **the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions**.
- CARA is designated as **the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions** in accordance with the provisions of the **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993**, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - **Missionaries of Charity** is a Roman Catholic religious congregation established in 1950 by Mother Teresa.

6. Supreme Court bats for Minor Rape Survivors

- In support of minor survivors of rape or sexual assault, the Supreme Court of India has issued a slew of guidelines.
- Highlights:
 - Minor survivors of rape or sexual assault will get compensation on par with women victims. National Legal Services Authority’s (NALSA) compensation scheme for women rape and sexual assault survivors shall be extended to minor children.
 - Special Judges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act should disburse compensation to minor victims of sex abuse as per the NALSA’s ‘Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes-2018’.
- **The NALSA compensation scheme:**
 - The NALSA scheme provides a uniform payment of ₹ 5 lakh to a maximum ₹ 10 lakh for “loss of life” and to gang rape survivors in any part of the country. Similarly, in case of rape and unnatural sexual assault, the victim would get a minimum of ₹4 lakh and maximum of ₹ 7 lakh as compensation.
 - Among other categories, if a victim suffers the loss of foetus, that is, by miscarriage as a result of assault or loss fertility, the NALSA scheme offers a compensation of ₹ 2 lakh to 3 lakh.
 - The scheme provides a victim of acid attacks, in case of disfigurement of face, would get a minimum compensation of ₹ 7 lakh, while the upper

limit would be ₹ 8 lakh. In acid attack cases, if the injury was more than 50%, a minimum compensation of ₹ 5 lakh would be given, while the maximum would be ₹ 8 lakh.

7. PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)

- The government has launched a web portal called 'PENCIL' for effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project, (NCLP).
- **PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)** — an electronic platform for no child labour in the country has been developed by the Labour Ministry.
- PENCIL portal has five components — Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project and Convergence.

8. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
- It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.
- The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Reports / Index

1. Global Nutrition Report 2018

- 2018 Global Nutrition Report was released by **World Health Organization**.
- The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013 as a mechanism for tracking the commitments made by 100 stakeholders spanning governments, aid donors, civil society, the UN and businesses.
- Global burden of malnutrition “remains unacceptably high and progress unacceptably slow”. Under-nutrition accounts for around 45% of deaths among children under five in low- and middle-income countries.
- India holds almost a third (31%) of the global burden for stunting, the prevalence of which differs from state to state.

2. International Universal Health Coverage Day

- International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) on 12 December aims to mobilize diverse stakeholders to call for stronger, more equitable health systems to achieve universal health coverage, leaving no one behind.
- **The theme of World Health Day is:** Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere.
- **What is Universal Health Coverage?**
 - Universal health coverage (UHC) ensures all people, everywhere, can access the quality health services they need without suffering financial hardship. It is a fundamentally political goal rooted in the human right to health. It is also one of the smartest investments any country can make.

3. International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on December 3 to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.
- **2018 theme-** “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.
- **About the Day:**
 - The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1992.
 - It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.
 - It also seeks to increase awareness of situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

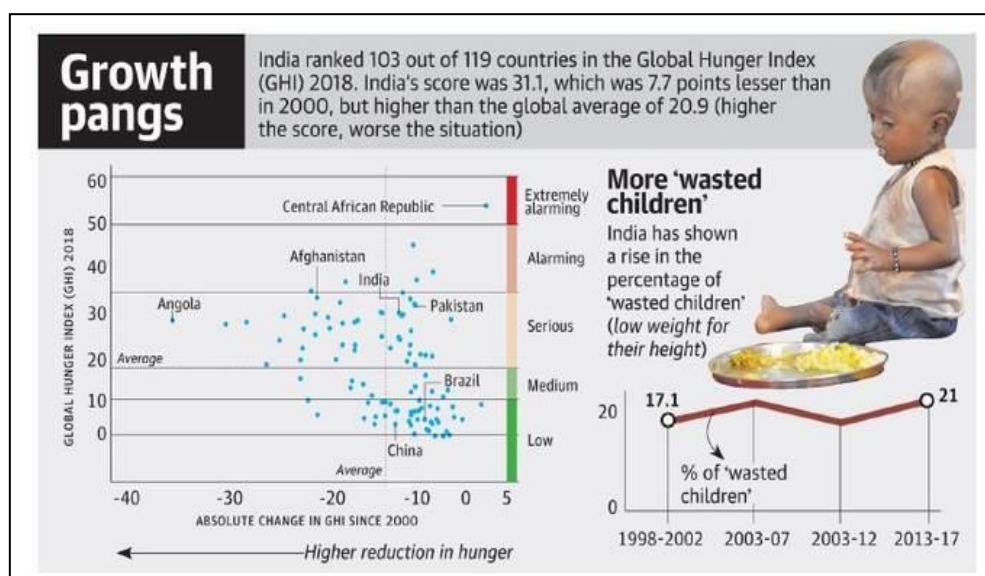
4. Global Education Monitoring Report 2019

- UNESCO released global education monitoring report 2019.
- The report is titled **Migrations, Displacement and Education** and discusses impact of migration on education.
- The 2019 GEM Report continues its assessment of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education and its ten targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda.

- India, along with China, is home to some of the **world's largest internal population movements** and the report shows that the scale of seasonal migration has a significant impact on education.

5. Global Hunger Index

- The 2018 **Global Hunger Index report** has been released. The report is a peer-reviewed publication released annually by **Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide**.
- The GHI scores are based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger—insufficient caloric intake, child undernutrition, and child mortality—using four component indicators:
 - UNDERNOURISHMENT**: the share of the population that is under-nourished, reflecting insufficient caloric intake
 - CHILD WASTING**: the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (low weight-for-height), reflecting acute undernutrition.
 - CHILD STUNTING**: the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (low height-for-age), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
 - CHILD MORTALITY**: the mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- India has been ranked at 103 out of 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2018, with hunger levels in the country categorized as “serious”.
- At least one in five Indian children under the age of five is wasted. The only country with a higher prevalence of child wasting is the war-torn nation of South Sudan.
- The report terms hunger and forced migration for the severity worldwide.
- Globally, the level of hunger still falls into the “serious” category, despite improvement over the last two decades.



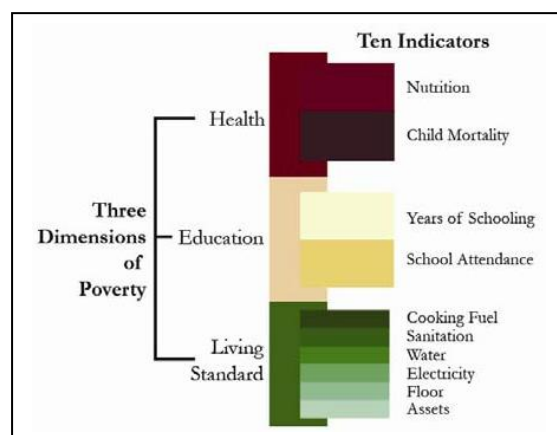
6. Future of Work in India Survey Report

- “Future of Work in India” survey report has been released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The “Future of Work in India” survey of 770 companies conducted by the WEF (World Economic Forum) included various sectors such as textiles, banking & financial services, transport & logistics, and retail.
- Highlights and findings of the report:
 - Major gender gap in Indian corporates.
 - Global comparison**: India's female workforce participation is mere 27% and stands 23% points lower than global average.
- About WEF:
 - The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

- The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.
- It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It is independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests. The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance. Moral and intellectual integrity is at the heart of everything it does.

7. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have released the 2018 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- About Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):
 - The MPI provides the most comprehensive view of the various ways in which 1.3 billion people worldwide experience poverty in their daily life.
 - The MPI looks at the multifaceted nature of poverty. It identifies people's deprivations across **three key dimensions – health, education and living standards**, lacking amenities such clean water, sanitation, adequate nutrition or primary education. Those who are left behind in at least a third of the MPI's components are defined as multidimensionally poor.
- India has made giant strides in reducing multidimensional poverty, bringing down its poverty rate from 55% to 28% in ten years.
- Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, more than 271 million people have come out of the clutches of poverty in India. However, India still has the largest number of people living in multidimensional poverty in the world- around 364 million people. 156 million out of 364 million people who are MPI poor in 2015/2016 are children.
- Among states, Jharkhand had the greatest improvement, with Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Nagaland only slightly behind. However, Bihar is still the poorest state in 2015/16, with more than half of its population in poverty.



Government / Private Initiatives

1. Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins Initiative

- The mission, which forms part of the CSR initiative of oil marketing companies in Odisha, is aimed to **educate women on female hygiene and health**, improve accessibility to low cost eco-friendly sanitary pads and boost rural employment and economy.
- The three companies will set up 100 manufacturing units at the Common Service Centres (CSC) covering 93 Blocks across 30 districts of Odisha at an estimated cost of ₹2.94 crore.
- The Ujjwala pads will be made of virgin wood pulp sheet, non-woven white sheet and a gel sheet which are all biodegradable in nature and will leave minimal carbon footprint.

2. Shiksha Setu

- Shiksha Setu is a mobile application launched by Haryana Government.
- **Aim:** To bring in Transparency in the education department and in the administration of colleges and to increase the connectivity between students, parents, teachers and administration.

3. National Cancer Institute

- National Cancer institute has been opened at Jhajjar in Haryana. The institute has been established under a project of Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

4. Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)

- Himachal Pradesh is the first state to launch pan-India single emergency number '112' under ERSS.
- It will **connect to Police, Fire, Health** and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in the State.
- A "SHOUT" Feature:
 - **To ensure safety of women**, a SHOUT feature has been introduced in 112 India mobile app to seek **immediate assistance from registered volunteers** in the vicinity apart from the immediate assistance from Emergency Response Centre.
 - This feature is **exclusively available for women**. **Central Government** has allocated Rs 321.69 crore under **Nirbhaya Fund** for implementation of ERSS project across the country.

What is Nirbhaya Fund?

- **In order to eradicate violence against women and girls**, Central Government has set up Nirbhaya Fund.
- It is administered by the **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**.
- It can be utilized for projects for women safety and security.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is the **nodal authority for appraising/recommending** the proposals/schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya fund.

5. Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP)

- The government has launched Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) for higher education faculty.
- Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) is a three weeks Flagship leadership development training programme (2 weeks domestic and one-week foreign training) **for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions**.
- **The main objective** is to prepare second tier academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
- **The programme would provide** senior faculty, with high academic credentials, the required leadership and managerial skills including skills of problem-solving, handling stress, team building work, conflict management, developing communication skills, understanding and coping with the complexity and challenges of governance in HEIs, financial & general administration.

- **The implementation** of LEAP Programme will be through 15 NIRF top ranked Indian Institutions namely. The foreign Universities identified for the training are also within the top 100 in the world global rankings.

6. Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) Program

- The government has launched the 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program under Innovation cell of MHRD.
- **About 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program:**
 - The purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.
 - The program aims to institutionalize innovation and develop a scientific temperament in the country.
 - More than 1000 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's Innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in their campuses.
- **Innovation cell:**
 - **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has established an "Innovation Cell" at AICTE, to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** across the country.

Aim of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs):

- To encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.

Major Focus of IIC –

- To create a vibrant local innovation ecosystem.
- Start-up supporting Mechanism in HEIs.
- Prepare institute for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements Framework.
- Establish Function Ecosystem for Scouting Ideas and Pre-incubation of Ideas.
- Develop better Cognitive Ability for Technology Students.

7. Assam Wage Compensation Scheme

- Assam Government has become the **first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state.**
- **Aim:** The scheme is aimed at providing better health and nutrition supplements to the pregnant women. It stresses on providing proper healthcare facilities to the pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state.
- **Highlights of the scheme:**
 - Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby without compromising the livelihood of their family.
 - The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments – Rs 2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.
 - The women would also be given a maternity leave. They will not be engaged in work from the third trimester of pregnancy to three months after delivery.
 - In addition, they will get assistance for ante-natal care and the first cycle of immunization of the child.

8. Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

- Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention was held in New Delhi.
- The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention was organised by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** to mark the beginning of the **150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi**, also coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission.

9. Vayoshreshtha Samman

- They were recently presented by the President to eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens.
- Vayoshreshtha Samman is a **Scheme of National Awards** instituted by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** (D/o Social Justice & Empowerment) initially in 2005 and was upgraded to the status of National Awards in 2013, for **institutions involved in rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons** especially indigent senior citizens and to eminent citizens in recognition of their service/achievements.
- Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Health and Rural Development are running such useful schemes for the welfare of elderly persons.
- The awards are presented on 1st of October every year pursuant to the adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons.

10. 2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products

- To enable a holistic view on access to medical products, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India with the support of World Health Organization organized the '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products – Achieving the SDGs 2030' at New Delhi.
- **The main objective** of the 2nd World Conference 2018 is to take forward the recommendations from the 1st World Conference 2017 and build on the work done for access to medical products in the context of SDGs, including trade agreements.
- **The specific objectives** are to promote an enabling ecosystem in the context of WHO's 13th Global Programme of Work for access to medical products; foster new approaches in innovation landscape for medical products and health technologies for accelerating research and innovation; and identify knowledge, information and policy options on the interface of international trade and health to achieve SDG 2030 goals.

11. Swayangsiddha

- To combat human trafficking, the West Bengal government has rolled out a scheme, **Swayangsiddha**, in its different districts.
- Background:
 - As per the NCRB data West Bengal has highest recorded case of trafficking among the States.
- **Highlights of the scheme:**
 - Swayangsiddha, which means self-reliance, will be executed by the West Bengal Police.

- The scheme aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.
- **Swayangsiddha Groups** have been formed in schools and colleges with interested students. These groups were formed with students between the age group of 12 to 21 years.
- **Objectives of the mission:**
 - Raising awareness on human, gender and child rights and strengthening prevention of human trafficking and child marriage using a converging approach.
 - Engaging youth from different schools and colleges to combat human trafficking and child marriage.
 - Strengthening response mechanism in collaboration with Police and child protection committees to build safe community.
 - Strengthening access to schemes and entitlements on education, training, livelihood and food security for vulnerable groups.

12. Portals to Strengthen Women Safety

- The government has launched two portals to strengthen Women Safety:
 - **Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)** portal to check objectionable online content.
 - **National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)** to aid in monitoring & investigation of sexual crimes.

13. #Loo Review Campaign

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban had partnered with Google to launch the Loo Review campaign.
- **About the Loo Review campaign:**
 - It is aimed to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.
 - This campaign will allow all citizens to locate public toilets in their cities on Google Maps, Search and the Assistant and also provide feedback on the same.
 - Local Guides are people who share reviews, photos, and knowledge on Google Maps to help people explore the world.

14. E-VidyaBharati and E-AarogyaBharati (E-VBAB) Network Project

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) have signed an Agreement for the *implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project*. The project is hailed as a **digital bridge of knowledge and health between India and Africa**.
- **About e- VBAB Network project:**
 - E-VBAB Network Project is primarily *a technological upgrade and extension of the Pan-African e-Network Project (Phase 1)* which was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017.
 - The Phase 1 of the Project successfully imparted tele-education and tele-medicine by linking educational institutions and hospitals in India with those from the participating African countries.

- Over the 5 years project duration, e-VBAB Network Project will *provide free tele-education courses in various academic disciplines* to 4000 students every year from African countries.
- The Project will also be utilized for providing free Continuing Medical Education (1000 every year) to African doctors/nurses/para-medical staff. Further, Indian doctors, through this project will provide free medical consultancy to those African doctors who seek such consultancy.
- In order to operationalise the e-VBAB Network Project, *a Data Centre and Disaster Recovery Centre will be established in India* along with Learning Centres in various African countries which decide to be part of the Project. There will be two separate platforms for e-VidyaBharati (tele-education) and e-AarogyaBharati (tele-medicine) which will link, through a web-based technology, various educational institutions and hospitals in India and the participating African countries.
- *The e-VBAB Network Project will be completely funded by the Government of India* for its entire duration and will be open for participation to all our partner countries in Africa. The Project will be another important milestone in our development partnership with Africa.

15. MOVE: Global Mobility Summit

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners, organised 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India.
- **Aim of the Summit:** The summit aims to bring together stakeholders from across the sectors of mobility and transportation to co-create a public interest framework to revolutionize transport. The summit also aims to set the base for a transport system which is safe, clean, shared and connected, affordable, accessible and inclusive.

16. Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)

- A total of 14 lakh AWCs have been sanctioned to various States/UTs across the country which consists of about 1.36 lakh AWCs located in the urban areas.
- **What are Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)?**
 - Anganwadi is a type of rural mother and child care centre in India. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 **as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program** to combat child hunger and malnutrition.
 - They provide **a package of six services**—supplementary nutrition, referral services, immunisation, health check-up, pre-school non-formal education and health and nutrition education— to women and children.
- **Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS):**
 - ICDS is one of the flagship initiatives of Govt. of India that is being implemented in the state by WCD Dept.
 - ICDS seeks to provide young children with an integrated package of services such as supplementary nutrition, health care and pre-school education.
 - The schemes cover children under 6 years of age and their mothers.

- ICDS programme seeks to provide all basic essential services to children and mothers in an integrated manner right in their villages or wards. Gradually, the scheme has been expanded to urban slums and to rural and tribal blocks.

17. Kanyashree Scheme

- West Bengal government has announced that there would not be any ceiling for a family's annual earnings to be a beneficiary under the **UN award winning Kanyashree scheme**. **Currently, girls who belong to families with annual family income not more than Rs 1.20 lakh is entitled to get the benefits.**
- The state government would also be coming up with a "Kanyashree University" for girls soon.
- **About Kanyashree scheme:**
 - **What is it?** Kanyashree is a conditional cash transfer scheme aiming at improving the status and well-being of the girl child by incentivising schooling of teenage girls and delaying their marriages until the age of 18. It received the United Nations Public Service Award last year.
 - **Performance of the scheme:** Through the initiative, cash was deposited into the bank account of girls for every year they remained in school and were unmarried. This initiative led to a "drastic reduction in child marriage, increase in female education and female empowerment."
- **UN Public Service Awards:**
 - The UN Public Service Awards are given by the world body to institutions from across the world for their innovation and excellence in providing public services.

18. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)

- By amending **Sukanya Samriddhi Account Rules, 2016**, the Union Government has reduced minimum yearly deposit required under popular girl child savings scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000 earlier. This has been lowered to enable more people to enjoy benefits of this scheme.
- **What is it?**
 - Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) is a small deposit scheme for the girl child launched as a part of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- **Key features:**
 - It is currently 8.1 per cent and provides income-tax benefit under section 80 C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Even the returns are tax free in the scheme.
 - A Sukanya Samriddhi **Account can be opened any time after the birth of a girl till she turns 10, with a minimum deposit of Rs 250** (Earlier it was Rs 1,000). In subsequent years, a minimum of Rs 250 and a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh can be deposited during the ongoing financial year.
 - **The account can be opened in any post office or authorised branches of commercial banks.**
 - The account will **remain operative for 21 years from the date of its opening or till the marriage of the girl after she turns 18.**

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna
For a Bright Future of Your Daughter
(A Government of India Initiative)

Special Features :-

- ✳ Bank account can be opened for girl child (maximum two-three accounts can be opened in case younger siblings are twin girls) up to 10 years of age.
- ✳ Deposit for only 15 years with maturity at 21 years.
- ✳ Facility of 50% payment after 18 years of age.
- ✳ Facility of account closure on marriage after the age of 18 years.
- ✳ Deposit minimum ₹ 1000/- and maximum ₹ 1,50,000/- per year.
- ✳ Highest interest rate amongst all other small savings schemes.
- ✳ Income Tax benefit under section 80C.

- To meet the requirement of her higher education expenses, **partial withdrawal of 50% of the balance is allowed after she turns 18.**

19. Gujarat Government Granted Religious Minority Status to Jews

- Gujarat Government has granted religious minority status to Jews living in the state.
- **Impact:**
 - Now, Jews living in Gujarat will get religious minority rights envisaged in Constitution of India and various acts and rules of the state government.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - **Gujarat** is third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after **West Bengal** and **Maharashtra**.
 - The Synagogue Judah Hyam Hall is the only place of worship in Delhi for Jews.
 - Constitution of India has not defined word 'Minority' and only refers to 'Minorities' but it speaks of those 'based on religion or language' and rights of minorities have been spelt out in Constitution in detail.
 - Six religious communities, viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by Union Government all over India.
- **Judaism:**
 - Judaism originated in the Middle East over 3500 years ago
 - Judaism was founded by Moses, although Jews trace their history back to Abraham.
 - Jews believe that there is only one God with whom they have a covenant.
 - In exchange for all the good that God has done for the Jewish people, Jewish people keep God's laws and try to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives.
 - Judaism has a rich history of religious text, but the central and most important religious document is the Torah.
 - Jewish traditional or oral law, the interpretation of the laws of the Torah, is called halakhah.
 - Spiritual leaders are called Rabbis.
 - Jews worship in Synagogues.
 - They follow Hebrew calendar. They have special thanks giving ceremony known as Eliyahoo-ha-Nabiore. 'gratitude to Elijah the Prophet', on festive occasions.
 - 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust in an attempt to wipe out Judaism.
- **Jews in India:**
 - The Jewish community in India is one among a large number of groups who had come from outside the country's modern territorial borders and made India their home.
- **Main Jews groups in India:**
 - Cochin Jews.
 - Chennai/Madras Jews.
 - Bene Israel.
 - Baghdadi Jews.

- Delhi Jews.
- Bnei Menashe.
- Bene Ephraim (Telugu Jews).

20. Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has announced '**Padhe Bharat- Badhe Bharat**' an initiative to promote reading culture among students. The initiative has been **launched under 'Samagra Shiksha'**.
- **About 'Padhe Bharat- Badhe Bharat':**
 - Under this initiative, government will give an annual library grant to schools to allow students widen their ambit of learning.
 - The grant will be given to Primary to Senior Secondary levels and will vary between Rs. 5000 and Rs. 20000.
- **About Samagra Shiksha scheme:**
 - 'Samagra Shiksha' is an overarching programme for school education extending **from Primary till class 12**. The programme was introduced in the Union Budget 2018-19 with the aim to treat school education holistically without segmentation of primary and secondary education.
 - This **programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes** of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
 - It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
 - The major interventions, across all levels of school education, under the scheme are:
 - Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention.
 - Gender and Equity, Inclusive Education.
 - Financial support for Teacher Salary.
 - Digital initiatives.
 - Entitlements under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 including uniforms, textbooks etc.
 - Pre-school, Vocational and Sports and Physical Education.
 - Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training.
 - Monitoring and Programme Management.

21. National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme

- With an aim to combat viral hepatitis and reduce mortality and morbidity associated with it, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched **National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme**. It was launched on the occasion of **World Hepatitis Day, that is July 28**.
- The **theme for World Hepatitis Day 2018** is "Test. Treat. Hepatitis".
- **About National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme:**
 - **Aim:** The programme aims at both **prevention and treatment** of hepatitis which is among leading causes of liver cancer, cirrhosis of liver and acute liver failure.
 - **Target:** It aims to treat minimum of 3 lakh hepatitis C cases over a period of three years for eliminating deadly condition by 2030.

- **The programme is part of National Health Mission.** Under it, expensive antiviral for hepatitis B and C infections will be made available free of cost at all government hospitals.
- **Treatment:** It will set up and upgrade facilities for diagnosis and treatment primarily of hepatitis B and C. These designated treatment centres will provide free anti-viral to hepatitis C patients. They will also provide hepatitis B vaccine to babies born to mothers carrying the virus within 24 hours of birth.
- **Decentralization:** The programme also aims to build capacities at national, state, district levels and sub-district level up to Primary Health Centres (PHC) and health and wellness centres to scale program till lowest level of the healthcare facility in a phased manner.
- **What is hepatitis?**
 - Hepatitis is an **inflammation of the liver**. The condition can be self-limiting or can progress to fibrosis (scarring), cirrhosis or liver cancer.
 - Hepatitis viruses are the most common cause of hepatitis in the world but other infections, toxic substances (e.g. alcohol, certain drugs), and autoimmune diseases can also cause hepatitis.
- **Types:**
 - **There are 5 main hepatitis viruses**, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. These 5 types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.
 - In particular, types B and C lead to chronic disease in hundreds of millions of people and, together, are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis and cancer.
 - Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water. Hepatitis B, C and D usually occur as a result of parenteral contact with infected body fluids.
- **Spread:**
 - Common modes of transmission for these viruses include receipt of contaminated blood or blood products, invasive medical procedures using contaminated equipment and for hepatitis B transmission from mother to baby at birth, from family member to child, and also by sexual contact.
 - Acute infection may occur with limited or no symptoms, or may include symptoms such as jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), dark urine, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

22. Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN)

- In a bid to make Indian cities more sustainable, the NITI Aayog has launched a new course on 'Urban Analytics – Evaluating and Measuring Sustainability of Cities' at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. **The course was launched under Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN).** The course will provide an understanding and analysis on the urbanisation and its impacts that would help in evaluating the conditions of sustainability in Indian cities.
- **GIAN is envisaged to achieve the following objectives:**
 - To increase the footfalls of reputed international faculty in the Indian academic institutes.
 - Provide opportunity to our faculty to learn and share knowledge and teaching skills in cutting edge areas.

What is GIAN program?

- Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education was launched in 2015. It is a program of Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- **Aim:** GIAN aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs to engage with the institutes of higher education in India to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms, and further strengthen India's scientific and technological capabilities.

- To provide opportunity to our students to seek knowledge and experience from reputed International faculty. To create avenue for possible collaborative research with the international faculty.
- Develop high quality course material in niche areas, both through video and print that can be used by a larger body of students and teachers.
- To document and develop new pedagogic methods in emerging topics of national and international interest.

23. Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- KVIC has created a world record of distributing maximum number of bee-boxes in one day.
- The record was achieved by the KVIC in the Zangalee Army area at Kupwara in Kashmir beating its previous best of 1000 bee boxes distributed in Kaziranga forest area among the Mishing tribe on the occasion of World Honey Bee Day.
- Two thousand three hundred thirty (2330) bee-boxes were distributed among 233 beneficiaries in the Zangalee Army area.
- **About Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC):**
 - The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is **a statutory body** established by an Act of Parliament
 - (Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956). In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.
 - **Functions:** It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India, which seeks to – “plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.”
- **The Commission has three main objectives which guide its functioning. These are:**
 - The Social Objective – Providing employment in rural areas.
 - The Economic Objective – Providing salable articles.
 - The Wider Objective – Creating self-reliance amongst people and building up a strong rural community spirit.

24. Janaushadhi Suvidha






- The government has launched the ‘JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA’, the **Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin**, under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.
- The affordable sanitary napkins will now become available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 States/UTs across India.
- Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes Sanitary napkin biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded.
- This would ensure ‘Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha’ for the underprivileged Women of India and go a long way in the achievement of vision of Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All.
- **About PMBJP:**

- 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementing agency of PMBJP. BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.
- **What is a Generic Medicine?**
 - Generic medicines are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value.
 - The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent.

25. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras

- Government proposes to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 SHGs across the country.
- The initiative **aims to promote MFPs- centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans**. It mainstreams the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level.
- Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.
- The scheme will be implemented through **Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the central level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level**.
- At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level.
- Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.
- Composition: As per the plan, TRIFED will facilitate establishment of MFP-led multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, a cluster of 10 SHGs comprising of 30 tribal MFP gatherers each, in the tribal areas.
- **Significance of MFP:**
 - Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. The importance of MFPs for this section of the society can be gauged from the fact that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on MFPs for food, shelter, medicines and cash income.
 - It provides them critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless. Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP on which they spend major portion of their time.
 - This activity has strong linkage to women's financial empowerment as most of the MFPs are collected and used/sold by women. MFP sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

Features of the Scheme:

-  10 SHGs* of 30 tribal gatherers is constituted
-  To be trained and provided with working capital
-  SHGs will market their products within and across states
-  To form clusters to aggregate their stock and link with facility of primary processing in Van Dhan Vikas Kendras
-  Involvement of big corporates under PPP** model

*Self Help Groups **Public Private Partnership

26. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

- **'IPledgefor9' Achievers Awards** were given recently to the individuals and teams of doctors from the private sector and States for their exemplary services, outstanding support of institutions and commitment from support partners in achieving PMSMA's objectives of safe motherhood to every woman in the country.
- **'IPledgeFor9' Achievers Awards** have been devised to celebrate individual and team achievements and acknowledge voluntary contributions for PMSMA in states and districts across India.
- **About PMSMA:**
 - The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
 - The program aims to **provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.**
 - PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities.
 - The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign; developing strategies for generating awareness and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities.
 - Different colour stickers will be Red Sticker for Serious patients, Blue Sticker for High blood pressure and Yellow Sticker for Other diseases.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - SDG 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births.

27. Atal Bhujal Yojana

- The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY). The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance.
- **About Atal Bhujal Yojana:**
 - It is a Rs.6000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The scheme aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.
- **Priority areas:**
 - The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India.
 - They also cover two major types of groundwater systems found in India – alluvial and hard rock aquifers- and have varying degrees of institutional readiness and experience in groundwater management.
- **Implementation of the scheme:**
 - Funds under the scheme will be provided to the states for strengthening the institutions responsible for ground water governance, as well as for

encouraging community involvement for improving ground water management to foster behavioural changes that promote conservation and efficient use of water.

- The scheme will also facilitate convergence of ongoing Government schemes in the states by incentivizing their focussed implementation in identified priority areas.

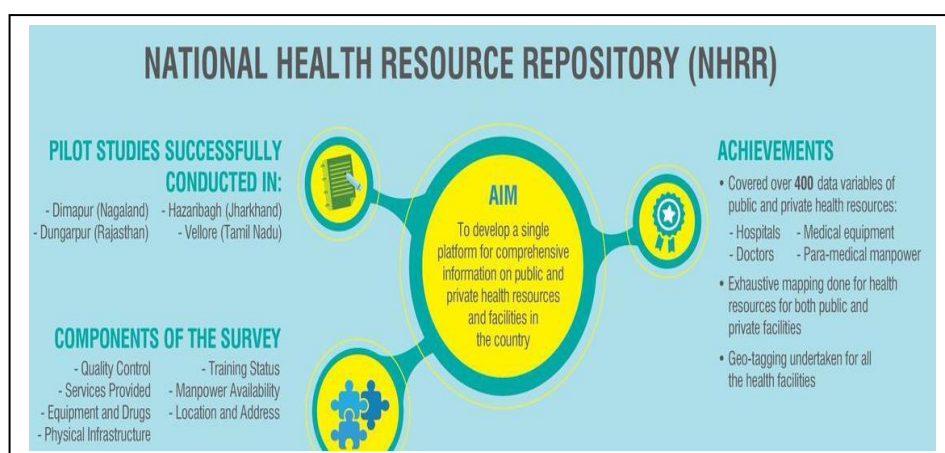
28. National Digital Library of India (NDLI)

- National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a project of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** under the aegis of **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)**. It is developed by IIT Kharagpur.
- **Objective:** The objective of NDL is to make digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country to empower, inspire and encourage learning.
- **Key facts:**
 - NDL is the Single Window Platform that collects and collates metadata from premier learning institutions in India and abroad, as well as other relevant sources.
 - It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media.
 - It makes quality learning resources available to all learners and has 1.7 Crore content from more than 160 sources, in over 200 languages.
- **About NMEICT:**
 - The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been envisaged as **a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in any time anywhere mode.
 - **The Mission has two major components** – providing connectivity, along with provision for access devices, to institutions and learners; and content generation.
 - **The Mission aims** to extend computer infrastructure and connectivity to over 25000 colleges and 2000 polytechnics in the country including each of the departments of 419 universities/deemed universities and institutions of national importance as a part of its motto to provide connectivity up to last mile.
 - LAN of up to 400 nodes on average has also been envisaged to be provided to the universities under the NMEICT scheme. The Mission shall explore the possibility to provide connectivity utilizing Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Virtual Private Network (VPN) and EduSat channels.

29. National Health Resource Repository (NHRR)

- The Union ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) has launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR).

- The NHRR project aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizens and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardised and secured Information Technology (IT)-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner** for providing data security. NHRR shall be the registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare.
- **Uses:**
 - This resource repository shall enable advanced research towards ongoing and forthcoming healthcare challenges arising from other determinants of health such as disease and the environment.
 - It shall also enhance the coordination between central and state government for optimisation of health resources, making 'live' and realistic state project implementation plans (PIPs) and improving accessibility of data at all levels, including state heads of departments, and thus decentralise the decision making at district and state level.
- **Benefits:**
 - Some key benefits of the NHRR project are to create a reliable, unified registry of country's healthcare
 - resources showing the distribution pattern of health facilities and services between cities and rural areas. Additionally, it shall generate real-world intelligence to identify gaps in health and service ratios, and ensure judicious health resource allocation and management.
 - It shall also identify key areas of improvement by upgrading existing health facilities or establishing new health facilities keeping in view the population density, geographic nature, health condition, distance.



30. One Stop Centres (OSCs)

- 100 additional One Stop Centres have been approved by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- **About One Stop Centres (OSCs):**
 - Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up One Stop Centres (OSC), to be **funded from the Nirbhaya Fund**. The scheme is being implemented through States/UTs from 1st April 2015.
 - These Centres will be established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in a phased manner.

- The purpose of these OSCs is to facilitate integrated services for women affected with violence such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal aid/counselling, temporary stay for 5 days etc. such that aggrieved women can avail services under one roof and The OSCs are established in existing buildings and in new constructed buildings in a standard format.

31. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). CCEA has also approved its continuation during the remaining period of the 14th Finance Commission.
- **Background:**
 - Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in the year 2008-09 in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population and below national average with respect to one or both of the backwardness parameters with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities.
 - MsDP has been identified as one of the Core of the Core Schemes under National Development Agenda in the Report of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which was constituted by NITI Aayog.
 - MsDP has been designed primarily to address the developmental gaps/deficits in identified backward minority concentration areas by topping up of existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of various Central ministries/departments without any change in the norms, guidelines and the funding pattern.
- **About PMJVK:**
 - The Programme aims to address development deficits in the identified minority concentration areas. The identification of minority concentration areas has been done on the basis of presence of substantial population of notified Minority Communities based on Census, 2011.
 - The restructured programme would provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities particularly in the field of education, health & skill development as compared to the present situation, which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.
- **States/Districts covered:**
 - The PMJVK will be implemented in Minority Concentration District Hqrs, Minority Concentration Block (MCBs), Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) falling in 308 districts of 32 States/UTs.
 - Moreover, the scheme will also be implemented in Backward Clusters of Minority Concentration Villages (CoMCV). These CoMCV will be identified on the proposal of the States/UTs as per criteria of PMJVK.

32. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD-Divyangjan Shashaktikaran Vibhag), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for the Financial Year 2018-19. It covers major developments to be achieved in this year for the Empowerment of Divyangjan of the country.
- **About ALIMCO:**
 - ALIMCO is a “Not For Profit” Central Public Sector Undertaking working under the administrative control of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
 - For past 40 years, it has been relentlessly manufacturing various types of aids and appliances on mass scale to meet the requirements of PwDs including orthopedically, visual and hearing impaired etc.
 - Since its inception, it has been serving on an average around two lakhs of disabled population every year and has supplied 42 lakhs of aids & appliances (approx.).

Miscellaneous

1. Asbestos in Baby Powder

- Over 12,000 women in the US had sued Johnson & Johnson over claims that the talcum powder manufactured by them is the prime cause behind their ovarian cancer. A recent investigation by Reuters claimed that the talcum powder was contaminated by carcinogenic asbestos, making it poisonous and life-threatening for women using it on themselves.
- **What is talc, and why is asbestos relevant?**
 - Talc is a mineral in clay mined from underground deposits. It's the softest mineral known to man and that makes it useful in a wide range of consumer and industrial products.
 - **Asbestos is also found underground**, and veins of it can often be found in talc deposits, leading to a risk of cross-contamination, geologists say.
- **About Asbestos:**
 - Asbestos is **a set of six naturally occurring silicate minerals**, which all have in common their eponymous asbestiform habit: i.e., long (roughly 1:20 aspect ratio), thin fibrous crystals, with each visible fiber composed of millions of microscopic "fibrils" that can be released by abrasion and other processes.
 - **They are commonly known by their colors**, as blue asbestos, brown asbestos, white asbestos, and green asbestos.
- **Uses and applications:**
 - **Manufacturers and builders** use asbestos for its desirable physical properties. Some of those properties are sound absorption, average tensile strength, affordability, and resistance to fire, heat, and electricity.
 - It was used in such applications as electrical insulation for hotplate wiring and in building insulation.
 - When asbestos is used for its resistance to fire or heat, the fibers are often mixed with cement or woven into fabric or mats. These desirable properties led to asbestos being used very widely.
- **Health effects:**
 - Inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious and fatal illnesses including lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis (a type of pneumoconiosis).

2. Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018

- The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018, was organised by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in association with Rehabilitation International Korea and their associated partner LG Electronics, in New Delhi.
- The Global ICT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities is a capacity building project that helps youth with disabilities to overcome their limitations and challenge themselves for a better future by providing them with access to ICT and related experiences, improving their ability to leverage information and social

participation while setting ICT agendas for participant countries related to disabilities and boosting international cooperation and exchange.

3. National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organised a 'National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres'.
- **About DDRC:**
 - District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) provide comprehensive services to persons with disabilities and facilitate creation of infrastructure and capacity building at the district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation and training of rehabilitation professionals.
 - The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are set up under the Plan Scheme- "***Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 (SIPDA).***"
- **Objectives of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are as under:**
 - Awareness generation, early intervention and assessment of the need of assistive devices to divyangjans.
 - Therapeutic services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy etc. to divyangjans through rehabilitation professionals.
 - Equipment for rehabilitation services.

4. World Habitat Day

- The United Nations designated the ***first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day*** to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
- **2018 theme:** Municipal Solid Waste Management.
- Background:
 - The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
 - It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.
 - World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 40/202, and was first celebrated in 1986.

5. 2018 Nobel Peace Prize

- **Dr. Denis Mukwege** and **Nadia Murad** have jointly been awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. They were given award for their efforts to end use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a committee elected by the Norwegian Parliament.

6. India for Humanity Initiative

- Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched India for Humanity initiative to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honour of his service to humanity. It will feature year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning globe.

- For this initiative, MEA has collaborated with renowned charitable organisation Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS).
- **Aim:** to provide physical, economic and social rehabilitation of differently-abled around world by helping them regain their mobility and dignity to become self-respecting and productive members of society. It focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of compassion, caring and service to humanity.

7. Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- **World Post Day is observed every year on October 9** to spread awareness about the postal services and their role in the everyday lives of people and businesses. The day is celebrated to mark anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
- **The 2018 theme is:** "Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?"
- **About Universal Postal Union (UPU):**
 - It is a specialized agency of United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to worldwide postal system.
 - It was established in 1874 and is second oldest international organization worldwide after International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which was established in 1865. It is headquartered in Berne, Switzerland.
 - It is primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players among member countries.
- **Functions:**
 - It helps to ensure truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.
 - It sets rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations for growth in mail, financial and parcel services volumes and also to improve quality of service for customers.

8. UN Human Rights Prize

- UN names Human Rights Prize winners for 2018. Asma Jahangir, Rebeca Gyumi, Joenia Wapichana and Front-Line Defenders are honoured by the UN for promoting human rights.
- The **United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights** is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights.
- Prize was established by the **UN General Assembly in 1966** and was awarded for the first time on December 10, 1968, on the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The 2018 award ceremony took place on December 10 on World Human Rights Day in New York.

9. Sentinelese

- An American national was killed allegedly by the Sentinelese tribe in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after he illegally entered the protected zone on November 16.
- Who are the Sentinelese?
 - The Sentinelese are **a negrito tribe** who live on the **North Sentinel Island of the Andamans**. The inhabitants are connected to the Jarawa on the basis of physical, as well as linguistic similarities. Their numbers are believed to be less than 150 and as low as 40.
 - Based on carbon dating of kitchen middens by the Anthropological Survey of India, Sentinelese presence was confirmed in the islands to 2,000 years ago.
- **How are they protected?**
 - The Govt. of India issued the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956** to declare the traditional areas occupied by the tribes as reserves. **It prohibited entry of all persons except those with authorisation. Photographing or filming the tribe members is also an offence.** The rules were amended later to enhance penalties.
 - But **restricted area permits** were relaxed for some islands recently. In a major step earlier this year, the Indian government excluded this island and 28 others in the Union Territory from the Restricted Area Permit or RAP regime till December 31, 2022. The lifting of RAP means foreigners can go to the island without permission from the government.

Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime

RAP regime was notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963.

- Under it, foreign nationals are not normally allowed to visit protected or restricted area unless Government is satisfied that there are extra-ordinary reasons to justify their visit.
- Every foreigner, except citizen of Bhutan, who desires to enter and stay in protected or restricted area, is required to obtain special permit from competent authority having power to issue such permits to foreigner, seeking it.
- Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals of Pakistani origin are exception and are not allowed to enter such areas.

10. Tribal Atlas of Odisha

- Odisha Government has unveiled first-ever 'Tribal Atlas of Odisha', a compilation of demographic and cultural information of the tribal population in the state. This book will help provide comprehensive data on tribal population.
- It is claimed to be first-of-its-kind tribal compilation in the country. The book was published by SC and ST Research and Training Institute in collaboration with Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC).
- **Background:** As per Census 2011, Odisha has the second highest tribal population in the country after Madhya Pradesh.