

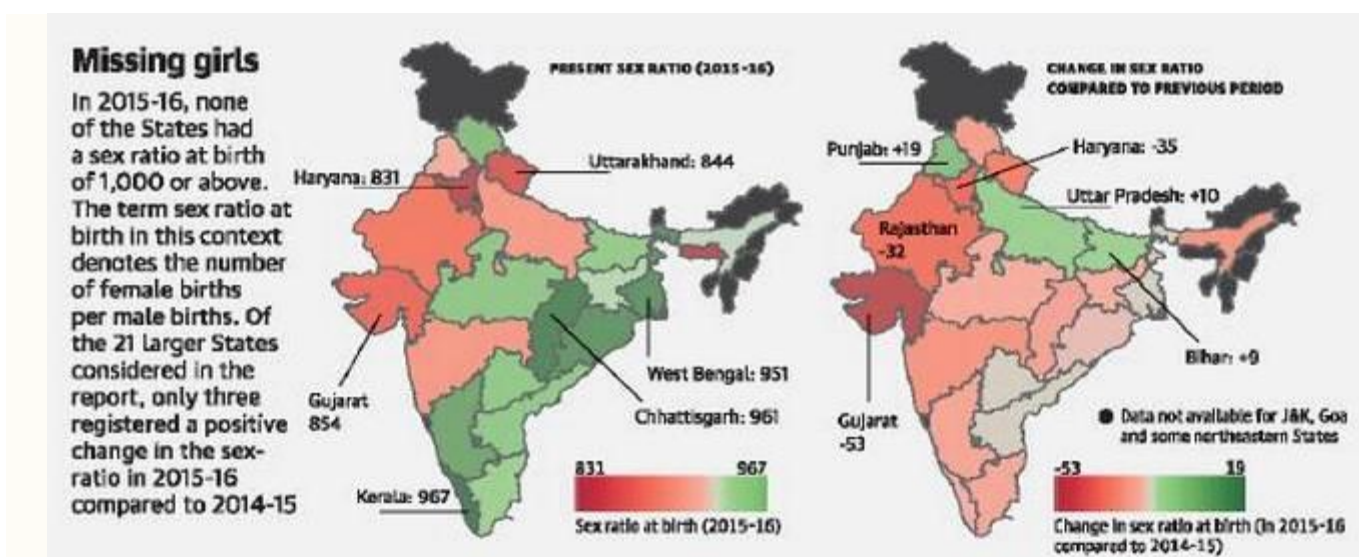
## Healthy States, Progressive India Report

### Why in news?

A report has been released by the Niti Aayog named *Healthy States, Progressive India*.

### What are the findings?

- Sex ratio at birth (SRB) refers to number of female births per 1000 male births.
- It reflects the extent to which there is reduction in number of girl children born by sex-selective abortions
- SRB saw a decline in 17 out of 21 large states of the country.
- Gujarat records an alarming dip of 53 points i.e 854 females from 907 females per 1,000 males born.
- Gujarat is followed by Haryana, which registered a drop of 35 points, Rajasthan (32 points), Uttarakhand (27 points), Maharashtra (18 points), Himachal Pradesh (14 points), Chhattisgarh (drop of 12 points), and Karnataka (11 points).
- The improvement in SRB was witnessed in Punjab, which registered a rise of 19 points, followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 points) and Bihar (9 points).



- The report also stated that there is a clear need for states to effectively implement the **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994** and take measures to promote the value of the girl child.

## Prospects of 5G Technology

### What is the issue?

- The global roll-out of 5G commercial services is expected by 2020.
- India government is taking various measures for the sooner deployment of the technology.

### What is 5G technology?

- 5G promises ultra-reliable, very fast speeds and high bandwidth mobile connectivity, which provides peak speeds of 20 times, compared with 4G.
- It is expected to provide 10-plus Gbps speeds, which allow access to high-bandwidth multimedia and data services for various industry applications.
- 5G is intended to support mission-critical applications such as financial transactions and healthcare, and latency and high speed will be achieved through the use of Fibre optic cables.

### What are Prospects for 5G in India?

- ✓ High-speed broadband remains the top priority for telecom service providers, the government and the citizens alike.
- ✓ 5G will significantly contribute in transforming everyday lives of Indians by resolving real issues within e-healthcare, e-education, infrastructure and e-governance.
- ✓ This technology would entail accelerating the BharatNet programme for deploying connectivity infrastructures.

### What are the measures taken by India in this regard?

- ❖ **Bharat Net** - BharatNet project was established in 2017, to provide digital infrastructure on a non-discriminatory basis by an affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households.
- ❖ The objective is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet and other services to the rural India.
- ❖ **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** - National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas.

- ❖ It aims to connect all the Gram panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats (GPs).
- ❖ **NTP-** Union government has initiated measures to introduce 5G technology in India via the National Telecom Policy (NTP), from March 2018.
- ❖ It aims to achieve 100% tele-density, high-speed internet highways and delivery of citizen-centric services electronically.
- ❖ **Forum to develop 5G roadmap** - Recently, the Department of Telecommunications set up a high-level forum to develop the roadmap for operationalizing 5G services in India by 2020.
- ❖ **Waivers for Private telecoms** -The government also announced a subsidy of `3,600 crore to private telecom players such as Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India and Reliance Jio to set up Wi-Fi in rural areas as part of the second phase of the BharatNet project.

**Source: Financial Express**

### **Revival Trend in Indian Industrial Activity**

#### **Why in news?**

In India Industrial activity has been improved in terms of IIP and PMI.

#### **What is the status of Indian Industrial growth?**

- ❖ Industrial growth is measured by the government's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and the private sector Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).
- ❖ Both of these Indexes has been improved significantly in the months of Nov 2017 – Feb 2018.
- ❖ Growth in the IIP soared to 8.8% in November, the highest since October 2015, and stood at a slightly slower but still robust 7.07% in December, this growth was largely driven by the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ The PMI surged to a 60-month high of 54.7 in December 2017 and came in at 52.4 in January 2018.

#### **How industrial activity has been revived?**

- ✓ The November 2016 demonetisation had a major impact on industrial activity and the manufacturing sector was slowed down.
- ✓ Activity resumed thereafter, but was hit again by the prospect of the Goods and Services Tax and then its fallout.

- ✓ Industrial activity contracted in June because firms halted production to get rid of their stock in preparation for the GST.
- ✓ A combination of impending festive season and the re-stocking of inventory led companies to increase their activity thereafter, with a recovering global economy boosting exports, which further propelled industrial growth in November and December.
- ✓ There were other factors at play, such as companies getting increasingly comfortable with the GST regime.
- ✓ The government has also taken steps to ease the woes of exporters due to the input tax credit system.

### **What are implications of this revival?**

- ✓ While the IIP is an output measure, the PMI is an indication of the activity at the input, or purchasing, level.
- ✓ If both show strong growth, the implication is an overall recovery in industrial activity and sentiments.
- ✓ Economic growth itself is expected to increase, with private sector analysts and economists saying there are signs of a recovery.
- ✓ It is also important to note that the IIP and the PMI measure only the formal sector.
- ✓ Several accounts say the informal sector, a very large segment of the economy that accounts for significant employment, is still recovering from the effects of demonetisation.
- ✓ This trend also implies that part of the recovery is based on global economic trends, any dip there will have a detrimental effect on India's exports.

### **IIP**

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an abstract number or ratio which measures the growth of various sectors in the economy.

- ❖ In India, IIP is a representative figure which measures the general level of Industrial activity in the country.
- ❖ Being an abstract number, it does not show volume of activity and only shows the magnitude which represents the status of production in the industrial sector for a given period of time as compared to a reference period of time.

## PMI

- ❖ The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ The PMI is based on five major indicators such as new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment.
- ❖ The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current business conditions to company decision makers, analysts and purchasing managers.

## Surajkund- Lake of the sun

- ✓ The place where Surajkund Mela takes place has an ancient connection to Tomar Dynasty.
- ✓ Surajkund (the lake of the sun) is the oldest-surviving monument of Delhi.
- ✓ Suraj Pal Tomar, in the 10th century, built Surajkund, the huge water reservoir along with a sun temple on the western bank.
- ✓ The reservoir was constructed around 686 AD, as said by Syed Ahmed Khan in his book Asar-us-Sanadid.
- ✓ The reservoir is built against the backdrop of Aravalli Hills forming a semi-circular shaped embankment.

It is designed in the shape of a rising sun with an eastward arc.

## Forest owl

The century old debate on forest owl's genetic relationship with spotted owl is resolved.

The bird belongs to the same genus as spotted owl (Athene).

- ✓ The *Heteroglaux blewetti* is endangered under IUCN classification.
- ✓ Also the bird is endemic to the central Indian forests.
- ✓ It is sedentary resident with recent sightings from fairly open dry deciduous forest dominated by teak.
- ✓ The species faces a number of threats such as forest loss and degradation as a result of illegal logging and human encroachment, forest fires and minor irrigation dams.

- ✓ The birds is included under CITES Appendix 1.

### **Sunderbans Mangrove forest**

- ✓ Unique mangrove ecosystem that hosts a sizeable tiger population is unable to expand due to developmental pressures and sea level rise.
- ✓ The Indian Sunderbans that comprise almost 43% of total mangrove cover.
- ✓ 'State of Art Report on Biodiversity in Indian Sundarbans' published by World Wide Fund for Nature, India, outlines the threats facing the ecosystem.
- ✓ The threats are climate change, habitat degradation due to industrial pollution and human disturbance, fuel-wood collection.
- ✓ If the present rate of change prevails, the Sunderbans may disappear due to sea level rise.
- ✓ Its natural response to retreat further inland is blocked by geographical features and man-made obstructions.
- ✓ The population density of the Indian Sunderbans outside the Tiger Reserve area is 1,000 people per sq km.
- ✓ Rehabilitation of former mangrove areas and creation of new mangrove habitations through intensified afforestation program are the only way out.

### **Jatan and Darshak**

- Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (C-DAC), has developed software named "Jatan" that is set to revolutionize museum experience.
- The latest technology will help online visitors get a 3-Dimensional (3D) view of hundreds of artifacts displayed at the museums.
- The software will enable virtual tours to museums.
- The group has developed "Darshak", a mobile-based application, aimed at improving the museum visit experience among the differently-abled.
- It allows real-time museum visitors gather all details about objects or artifacts simply by scanning a QR code placed near the object.
- C-DAC is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

### **Atal Bhoojal Yojana**

- Atal Bhoojal Yojana is an ambitious plan aimed at efficient management of available water resources.



- Atal Bhujal Yojana will focus on demand side management (how to meet requirements by minimum use of water).
- The emphasis of the scheme will be on recharge of ground water sources and efficient use of water by involving people at the local level.
- The half of the fund of 6000 crore will be supported by a world bank loan of 3000 crore and the rest will be funded by central government.
- It would initially be implemented with community participation in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

### **Enhanced Oil Recovery Program –ONGC**

- The program plans to introduce carbon dioxide injection in oil field to recover an extra 20 million barrels of crude oil.
- It is carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in its Gandhar field.
- The plan is carried out under enhanced oil recovery (EOR) program, whose objective is to improve India's energy security.
- It will be the first large scale CO<sub>2</sub> injected project in South Asia.
- Injected gas is miscible with residual oil and reduces its viscosity, making it easier to displace the oil from the rock pores.