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1. Saving lives

It needs political will for India to bring down its shamefully high newborn mortality rate.

The **infant mortality rate** is the number of deaths under one year of age occurring among the live births in a given geographical area during a given year, per 1,000 live births occurring among the population of the given geographical area during the same year.

What are the reasons for a high infant mortality rate in India? For fact- CLICK ME

There are many reasons for this, and it relates to the reasons for mortality. In areas of poverty or just an overall less financially well situation, one might expect mortality to be heavily influenced by

- geographical location
- level of income of family
- higher likelihood of a disease outbreak
- lower level of education and/or medical care
- bad-health habits of parents in the case of infants
- Social barriers
- Unhygienic environment
- Patriarchal mindset among other factors.

2. An umbrella for the consumer

A new bill seeks to give protection online and offline.

To know features of Consumer Protection Bill..<u>CLICK ME</u> Salient Features ::

- a) Enables Consumer to get information about quality and purity of Goods and Protection against Product/Service that is injurious to health.
- b) Establishment of 'Central Consumer Protection Authority' to enquire into violation of Consumer rights and order recall of hazardous products with provision of penalties on manufacturer.

- c) CCPA may impose penalty for misleading advertisement and Jailed for repeated offence.
- d) Establishment of 'Consumer Dispute redressal Commission' to file complaint, investigate and give decisions in cases related to frauds and malpractices by manufacturer.

Significance of Bill::

- a) The Bill For First time Covers Online consumers that is necessary keeping in mind the increased online transactions under Digital India and other Services.
- b) The Provision of a mediation cell would help in settling disputes between aggrieved parties.
- c) The Bill Seeks to Protect Rights of consumers against fraudelent practices.
- d) The Bill also holds Endorser responsible, in certain cases, against misleading advertisement. This will increase moral and ethical responsibility of endorsers.

3. Wealth from waste

GOBAR-Dhan initiative will aid Swachh Bharat, increase rural incomes.

"GOBAR-Dhan" (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources-Dhan)

4. Remembering an act of insurrection

The Royal Indian Navy mutiny was overshadowed by the INA trial. Its celebration would have run counter to the logic of the democratic nation-state.

Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutiny 1946

On February 18, 1946, a section of non-commissioned officers and sailors known as Ratings, serving in the Royal Indian Navy, mutinied against the British Officers.

The mutiny started as a strike by the ratings to protest against the hardships regarding pay, food and racial discrimination.

• In the same night, a Naval Central Strike committee was created by the Ratings.

- This committee was presided by Signalman M.S Khan and Vice president was Petty Officer Telegraphist Madan Singh.

 The populace of India was already fascinated by the heroic tales of the Indian National Army. So, the strikes and hartals spread from Bombay to Calcutta, Madras and even Karachi. The foolish British commander made some derogatory remarks on the nationality of these personnel and the result was that they took possession of some ships, mounted guns over there and started firing.
- The mutineers hoisted three flags tied together on the ships which they had captured -One of Congress, One of Muslim League, and the third Red Flag of the Communist Party of India.

 The mutiny was ended by intervention of **Sardar Patel**, who after a meeting with M. S. Khan made a statement of ending the strike. The similar statement was made by Jinnah in Calcutta. The mutineers surrendered but despite the assurances of Congress and Muslim League, many mutineers were arrested, subjected to court martial and dismissed from the services. The violence broke out in Mumbai and over 200 people lost lives in this disturbance. The mutiny made an impression on the British, that it would be better to leave the country. On February 19, the second day of this mutiny, **Cabinet Mission** was sent to India.

5. India's choice in the Maldives

The Maldives emergency is a defining moment for India. Will it intervene militarily, or will it allow President Abdulla Yameen to continue to enable China to pursue its strategic objectives in the region?

Geo-strategic importance of Maldives to India?

Major oil exports/trades in the Indian Ocean region is carried in between the Gulf of Aden and Strait of Malacca.

The Maldives are located in the center of these 2 regions.

A considerable amount of trade/cargo passes through Maldives.

Over China:

Recently Maldives has approved a law passed by the Parliament, which allows foreigners to own the land for the first time.

As per the law, foreigners can invest more than 1 billion\$ to own a land and 70% of the land is from the Indian Ocean region.

This move could enable China to set up military bases in Maldives.

Over Pakistan:

It can serve as potential launchpad for terrorists targeting India >Post 26/11 attacks, India has enforced full security in Mumbai Ports and other areas. So, terrorists can easily transport men and material via Maldives >Lashker-e-toiba is planning to have its base in Maldives. If this happens, terrorists can enter into India through Kerala

- Due to this, India has various Military assets in Maldives to enhance its surveillance capabilities and ability to respond swiftly to threats. This makes Maldives a part of our Security Grid.
- Some of the assets we have in the Maldives include
 - Two helicopters permanently stationed in Maldives
 - India is helping set up Coastal Radars on each of the Maldivian atolls, for coverage of vessels in the region.
 - We fly Dornier sorties around the Maldives, to search for suspicious vessels.

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