



PT
365

SOCIAL ISSUES

Classroom Study Material

(May 2018 to February 2019)

SOCIAL ISSUES

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DELHI

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18 Apr 1 PM	15 May 9 AM	11 June 1 PM	13 Apr 9 AM	25 Apr	11 Apr 1 PM	15 May
						AHMEDABAD



1. WOMEN AND CHILD RELATED ISSUES

1.1. HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE

Why in news?

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014 and has made the disclosure of compliance (under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act) mandatory in the Annual Reports of Private companies.

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

- It seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work. The **Act defines sexual harassment at the workplace** and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.
- The definition of “aggrieved woman,” who will get protection under the Act, is extremely wide to **cover all women**, irrespective of their age or employment status and whether in the organized or unorganized sectors, public or private, and covers clients, customers and **domestic workers** as well.
- The Act covers **concepts of quid pro quo harassment** and hostile work environment as forms of sexual harassment if they occur in connection with an act or behaviour of sexual harassment.
- An **internal complaint committee (ICC)** is **mandatory** in every private or public organisation that has 10 or more employees.
- The Internal Complaints Committee has been given **powers of a civil court** for summoning, discovery and production of documents etc.
- Each Internal Committee requires membership from an NGO or association committed to the cause of women.
- A ‘**Local Complaints Committee**’ is required to be constituted in every district by the respective State government (which will receive complaints from organizations having less than 10 workers or if the complaint is against the employer himself).
 - An additional ‘Local Complaints Committee’ shall also be constituted at the block level to address complaints in situations where the complainant does not have recourse to an Internal Complaints Committee or where the complaint is against the employer himself.
- It also provides **safeguards against false or malicious charges**.

Additional Information

Criticism of the Act

- The Act **does not cover the agricultural workers and armed forces**.
- It is **not a gender-neutral legislation** and protects only women from sexual harassment at workplace.

SHe-Box

- It seeks to **ensure effective implementation** of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- **Once a complaint is submitted** to the portal, it will be directly sent to the ICC/LCC of the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action into the matter.
- Both, Ministry of Women & Child Development Ministry as well as complainant, can **monitor the progress of inquiry**.
- **Users of SHe-Box** also have the option of interacting with Ministry of WCD through this portal, with an assured time-bound response.

1.2. NATIONAL DATABASE ON SEXUAL OFFENDERS

Why in News?

India recently became the **ninth country** in the world to launch a **National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)**. It was rolled out by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) along with Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Features of NDSO

- **Contains details of around 4.5 lakh people convicted of various sexual offences:** It will include names and aliases, address, photograph, identifiers including PAN and AADHAAR, criminal history, fingerprints and palm prints among others of the people convicted under charges of rape, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and of “eve-teasing”, from 2005 onwards.
- **Maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (under Ministry of Home Affairs):** It will also track regular updation of records by the State Police.
- **Accessible only to Law Enforcement Agencies:** for the purpose of investigation and monitoring cases of sexual offences and employee verification.
- **Would not compromise any individual's privacy:** will have details of persons above 18 years of age and appeals against a conviction will have to be updated by state prisons. An accused can be tracked until an acquittal on appeal.

- Help keep track of released convicts who have moved from one place to another.

About online portal—cybercrime.gov.in

- Another portal – **cybercrime.gov.in** was launched by the government to receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, and sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.

1.3. ADULTERY

Why in News?

The Supreme Court unanimously struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that makes adultery a punishable offence.

Court's Stand

- SC held that the law was unconstitutional and fell afoul of **Article 21** (Right to life and personal liberty) and **Article 14** (Right to equality). It destroys and deprives women of dignity and offends sexual freedom of women.
- Mere adultery can't be a crime** unless it attracts the scope of **Section 306 (abettment to suicide)** of the IPC. It can be ground for civil issues including dissolution of marriage but it cannot be a criminal offence.
- The apex court also declared **Section 198(1) and 198(2) of the CrPC**, which allows a husband to bring charges against the man with whom his wife committed adultery, unconstitutional.

1.4. SECTION 498A OF IPC

Why in News?

The Supreme Court restored an immediate arrest provision in the Section 498A of IPC.

Background

- The Supreme Court last year ordered that '**family welfare committees**' to be set up in districts and these committees were supposed to act as a **vanguard against** misuse of the anti-dowry harassment provision of **Section 498-A**.
- Supreme Court in its latest verdict held that **such panels had no place under the established criminal procedural law** and they were beyond the Criminal Procedure Code.

Section 498A IPC

- It says - Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may

extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

- The offence is **non-bailable**.

1.5. PATERNITY LEAVE

Why in News?

As per the recent DoPT notification, male personnel in the central government who are single parents to dependent children can now avail of child care leave (CCL) of a total 730 days during their entire period of service, a provision that till now applied only to women employees.

More on News

- Child Care Leave** was introduced by the **6th Pay Commission**.
- Current move comes after the recommendation of the **7th Pay Commission**. A single male government employee has been defined as "**an unmarried or widower or divorcee government servant**".

Paternity Leave in India

- In Government Sector:** The Central Government in 1999, by notification under **Central Civil Services (Leave) Rule 551 (A)** made provisions for paternity leave –
 - for a male Central Government employee (including an apprentice and probationer)
 - with less than two surviving children
 - for a period of 15 days to take care of his wife and new born child.
- In private sector:** There isn't any such law that mandates private sectors to provide the paternity leaves to its employees. Some of the major MNCs have already taken steps through their HR policies such as Microsoft (12 weeks), Infosys (5 days), Facebook (17 weeks), TCS (15 days).

Related Information

Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017

- It provides for full paid absence from work for a **period of 26 weeks** (**earlier 12 weeks**) to take care of the child.
- The Act is applicable to **all establishments employing 10 or more women**.
- For women who are expecting **after having 2 children**, the duration of paid maternity leave shall be **12 weeks**.
- Maternity leave of **12 weeks** to be available to mothers adopting a **child below the age of three months** from the date of adoption as well as to the "commissioning mothers".
- The Act makes it **mandatory** for employers to **educate women about the maternity benefits** available to them at the time of their appointment.
- Any establishment which has **50 or more employees** shall have the **facility of creche**.

1.6. THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012

Why in news?

The Supreme Court recently directed all high courts in the country to constitute judges' committees to monitor cases pending under the POCSO Act and set up special child-friendly courts for trials.

About POCSO Act

- The **Act defines a child** as any person below eighteen years of age and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- It **defines different forms of sexual abuse**, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and 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 vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.
- The Act also makes it **mandatory to report such cases**. It makes it the **legal duty of a person aware of the offence** to report the sexual abuse. In case he fails to do so, the person can be punished with six months' imprisonment or fine.
- Each district shall designate a **Sessions Court to be a Special Court**. It shall be established by the state government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. The Court shall, as far as possible, **complete the trial within one year**. The **trial shall be held in camera** and in the presence of the child's parents or any person trusted by the child.
- The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights/ State Commission for Protection of Child Rights** is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Act.
- It also provides for **relief and rehabilitation of the child**, as soon as the complaint is made. The Special Juvenile Police Unit or the local police are also required to report the matter to the Child Welfare Committee within 24 hours of recording the complaint, for long term rehabilitation of the child.
- Recently the government has introduced in Lok Sabha amendments to the POCSO Act,

which provides for **death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children**, making it **gender neutral** and introducing provisions against child pornography and for enhancing punishment for certain offences.

Related Information

POCSO e-box

- It is a **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** initiative to help children report such crimes directly to the Commission.
- The online complaint management system enables easy reporting and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.

National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights

- This **statutory body** at the National and State level has been set up under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005.
- It is under the control of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**, set up in 2007.
- It consists of one Chairman and Six other members (out of which atleast two are woman having experience in Child Psychology, Education etc.).

1.7. DRAFT CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Why in News?

Recently, **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has released Draft Child Protection Policy.

Highlight of the draft Policy

- It's a **first policy dedicated to the protection of children**, which until now was only a part of the broader National Child Policy, 2013.
- **Aim:** It aims at providing a **safe and conducive environment** for all children through the prevention and response to child abuse, exploitation and neglect.

National Child Policy 2013

- It recognizes a child to be a person below the age of 18 yrs.
- It recognizes that **children are not a homogenous group** and require different responses.
- It aims to give a social safety net to family to help nurture child.
- It says that every child has universal, inalienable and indivisible human rights.
- It has four priority areas:
 - **Survival, health and nutrition**
 - **Education and development**
 - **Child Protection**
 - **Child Participation**
- **National Action Plan for Children (NPAC), 2016** links the 2013 Policy to actionable strategies under its priority areas.

Related Information**Integrated Child Protection Scheme**

- It has been introduced to **bridge the gaps** in previous schemes & their implementation and to provide safe and secure environment for overall development of children in difficult circumstances, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- There is a provision for opening up of 'Open Shelters' for children in the need of care and protection, including the street children, in urban and semi-urban areas, activities of which includes access to vocational training, recreation, bridge education, etc.
- It provides for setting up of District Child Protection Societies (DCPS) by the State Governments/ UT Administrations in every district of the State responsibility of which includes identifying families and children at risk to prevent destitution of children.
- It provides financial resources to States/UT Administrations for the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

1.8. PCPNDT ACT 1994

Why in news?

Data released by the Union health ministry has revealed that Haryana has the maximum number of sex determination tests in the country.

About the Act

- The main purpose of enacting the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 has been to:
 - Ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception
 - Prevent the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortions
 - Regulate such techniques
- Under this law, all centres which have any equipment which can potentially detect sex of foetus pre-conception or pre-natal have to be registered with the appropriate authorities.
- It prohibits advertisements in relation to such techniques for detection or determination of sex.
- The Act and Rules deal elaborately with the maintenance and preservation of proper records.
- The Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the **powers of Civil Court** for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses.
- It was amended in 2003 to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection.

Related News

- Ireland passed a Bill (popularly called **Savita Law**) to legalise abortion following a referendum.

1.9. ADOPTION IN INDIA

Why in news?

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2018 seeks to empower the District Magistrate, instead of the court, to issue adoption orders to ensure timely processing of adoption cases.

Adoption Rules in India:

- Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015** has provisions for adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered (OAS) children and also adoption of children by relatives.
- All adoptions under the Act must proceed as per the Adoption Regulations framed by **Central Adoption Resource agency (CARA)** and notified by the Central Government.
- The Act mandates the **State Government** for recognizing one or more institutions or organizations in each district as a **Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA)** for the rehabilitation of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through adoption and non-institutional care.

Adoption Regulations as notified in 2017

- Intercountry and intra-country adoption procedures (including adoption by relatives) have been defined clearly.
- CARA will report and facilitate all adoptions under the JJ Act, 2015 through **Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS)**.
- For safeguards, CARA would maintain adoption records and ensure post-adoption follow up.
- Currently **only biological parents or adoptive parents are recognized** leaving out the step parent of any legal responsibility. The regulation:
 - Defines the step parent legally.**
 - Allows birth certificate of the adopted child to have their name in it.
- District Child protection Unit (DCPU)** will maintain a panel of professionally qualified or trained social workers.

Eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents (PAPs)

- The prospective adoptive parents shall be physically, mentally and emotionally stable,

- financially capable and shall not have any life-threatening medical condition.
- Any prospective adoptive parents, irrespective of his marital status and whether or not he has biological son or daughter, can adopt a child subject to following, namely:
 - the consent of both the spouses for the adoption shall be required, in case of a married couple;
 - a **single female** can adopt a child of any gender;
 - a **single male** shall not be eligible to adopt a girl child;
 - No child shall be given in adoption to a couple unless they have at least **two years of stable marital relationship**.

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- It is a statutory body (under JJ Act) of Ministry of Women & Child Development. 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 India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS)

- It is an e-governance measure to facilitate child adoption.
- It is a centralized data bank of adoptable children and PAPs.

Related Information

Hague Adoption Convention

- The Hague Convention of 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention) protects children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad.
- The Convention **operates through a system of national Central Authorities** and reinforces the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 21) to uphold the best interest of children.
- It also seeks to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children.

1.10. REGULATING CHILD MARRIAGE

Why in news?

The Centre is moving ahead with a proposal to amend an existing law so as to make all future child marriages in the country invalid from the

outset. Currently, child marriages are valid, but can be annulled on request.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- It **defines child, child marriage, minor, etc.** and declares all the marriages void, after or even before the passing of the act at the option of the contracting party who was a child at the time of the marriage, in which one of the two parties is a minor.
- The district court shall have the power to add to, modify or revoke any order made for maintenance and custody of child, and if there is any change in the circumstances at any time during the pendency of the petition and even after the final disposal of the petition.
- It **lays down punishment for an adult male** marrying a minor or someone who promotes or solemnizes such a marriage.
- Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, an offence punishable under this Act shall be **cognizable and non-bailable**.
- The State Government shall, by notification, appoint for the whole State, or part of state, an officer or officers to be known as the **Child Marriage Prohibition Officer** having jurisdiction over the area or areas specified in the notification.
- Other laws that may provide protection to a child bride include the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

1.11. NEW DIVISION FOR WOMEN SAFETY

Why in news?

Recently, Ministry of Home Affairs has created a new division to address issues related to women safety in comprehensive manner in coordination with relevant Ministries/ Departments and State Governments.

About the Division

- This new Division will also deal with
 - Crimes against SCs & STs.
 - Crimes against children, elderly persons.
 - Anti-trafficking Cell.
- Matters relating to
 - Prison legislation and prison Reforms
 - All schemes **under NIRBHAYA fund**.
 - Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network System (CCTNS)

- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- Further, the division would focus to **enhance capacity** of the existing administrative, investigative, prosecution and judicial machinery, along with **appropriate measures** for rehabilitation of victims and bringing attitudinal changes in the society.

Nirbhaya Fund

- It is a dedicated fund set up by **Ministry of Finance**, in 2013, for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.
- It is a **non-lapsable corpus fund**.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is the nodal Ministry to appraise schemes under Nirbhaya Fund and also to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned Schemes in conjunction with the line Ministries/Departments.
- **Central Victim Compensation Fund** has been created under Nirbhaya, which is a corpus fund to support States/UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme. This helps in ensuring adequate and timely support for women survivors of crime and violence.

1.12. RECENT INITIATIVES UNDER NIRBHAYA FUND

1.12.1. ONE STOP CENTRES

Ministry of Women and Child Development has approved 100 additional One Stop Centres.

One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme

- It is a sub-scheme under **National Mission for Empowerment of Women** being run by Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- It is aimed at supporting **women affected by violence** in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace.
- Establishment of OSCs was one of the **key components of Nirbhaya Fund**. Every OSC is integrated with newly operational **Women's Helpline (181)**.

Services Offered by OSC

- Emergency response and rescue services.
- **Medical Assistance** to women affected by Violence.
- **Skilled counsellor** to provide Socio-Psychological Support/ Counselling.
- Assistance to women in **lodging FIR**.
- **Temporary shelter** to aggrieved women.
- **Legal Aid** and Counselling.
- **Video Conferencing** to facilitate speedy and hassle-free police and court proceedings.

Related Information

National Mission for Empowerment of Women

- It is an initiative of the Government of India (GOI) with a view to empower women socially, economically and educationally by securing convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments as well as effective implementation of various social laws concerning women.
- In this endeavour, the Mission seeks to utilise existing structural arrangements of participating Ministries, wherever available, and make use of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as far as possible.
- It has a National Mission Authority (NMA) at the apex level **under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister**, which is meant to provide policy direction to the Mission and enable convergence across ministries.

1.12.2. SAFE CITY PROJECT

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved a Safe City project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs.194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.
- This approval is a part of MHA's plans to implement Safe City projects in 8 selected cities, namely, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow under Nirbhaya Fund with the purpose of strengthening safety and security of women in public places.
- The project is implemented with collaboration of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology**, respective municipal and police commissioners of the cities besides civil society organizations.

1.12.3. MAHILA POLICE VOLUNTEER

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs has envisaged engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) in the States/UTs who will act as a link between police and community and help women in distress.
- **Haryana is the first state** to adopt this initiative.
- For implementing the initiative of Mahila Police Volunteer, fund will be released out of Nirbhaya Fund to the States.

2. OTHER VULNERABLE SECTIONS

2.1. STUDY ON TRANSGENDERS

Why in news?

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for the first time did a study on the conditions of transgenders in India.

Findings of the study

- The total population of transgenders according to 2011 census is **4.8 lakhs**. However various other estimates suggest there are 50 to 60 lakh transgenders in India, but most keep it a secret to avoid discrimination.

Efforts taken to improve the situation of transgenders in India

- National Legal Services Authority versus Union of India:** The Supreme Court of India legalized the presence of transgender people in 2014, and allowed the legal creation of a “third gender” category.
 - The judgement also called for affirmative action in education, primary health care, and that transgenders be identified as beneficiaries of social welfare schemes.
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016** defined a transgender person and prohibited discrimination against them.
 - Offences like compelling a transgender person to beg, denial of access to a public place, physical and sexual abuse, etc. would attract up to two years’ imprisonment and a fine.
 - It directs Central government to constitute a **National Council for Transgender** headed by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Important steps taken by states:**
 - Tamil Nadu established a **transgender welfare board** in 2008 (West Bengal, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka have also established the board).
 - Kerala brought the ‘**State Policy for Transgenders in Kerala 2015**’ to provide the “right to live with dignity.” It was the first state to have a transgender policy.
 - Odisha is the first state to give transgender people **social welfare benefits**.

Related information

Yogyakarta principles

- Supreme Court has held that the 'Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Law

in Relation to Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' should be applied as a matter of national law.

- These were published as the outcome of an international meeting of human rights groups in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in November 2006.

2.2. MANUAL SCAVENGING

Why in news?

Recent deaths of manual scavengers in Delhi highlights how the practice of manual scavenging persists.

Manual Scavenging: Related constitutional and International provisions:

- Sanitation is a **State subject**.
- The Constitution of India, in conformity with the international position, abolishes untouchability (**Art. 17**) and prohibits caste-based discrimination (**Art. 15**).
- Under the Constitution human dignity is an inalienable right which is part of the fundamental right to life under **Art. 21**.
- It is a universally recognized right, endorsed by the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** by way of Articles 1, 22 and 23.

Current law on Manual Scavenging

- The Parliament has enacted the '**Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013**'.
- It intends to:
 - Eliminate** the insanitary latrines.
 - Prohibit Employment** as Manual Scavengers, Hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
 - Survey of Manual Scavengers and their **rehabilitation**.
- The **Act thus prohibits dry latrines and all kinds of manual cleaning** of excrement as well as cleaning gutters, sewers, and septic tanks without protective gear.
- Under section 8 of this Act**, a person violating this will be punishable with imprisonment for up to two years or a fine of up to 12 lakh or both. For any subsequent violations, the imprisonment may extend up to five years and the fine can go up to 15 lakh or both.
- The Act also has following **provisions for the rehabilitation** of the identified manual scavengers
 - An initial one-time cash assistance
 - Scholarship to the children of manual scavenger

- Allotment of residential plot and financial assistance for house construction of a ready built house
- Training in a livelihood skill with payment of stipend of at least Rs 3000 per month
- Provision for subsidy, along with concessional loans, to at least one adult member of the family.
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is responsible for rehabilitation of manual scavengers and it implements the '**Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers' (SRMS)**.

Related information

- **Bandicoot**- India's first 'manhole cleaning robot' is an exoskeleton robot which cleans manholes without the need for humans to enter the pit.

2.3. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKARAM (PMJVK)

Why in news?

The **Multi-sectoral Development Programme** (MsDP) under Ministry of Minority Affairs has been restructured and renamed as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram** (PMJVK).

MsDP

- It has been identified as one of the **Core of the Core Schemes** under National Development Agenda of NITI Aayog.
- The programme was launched in the year 2008-09 in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population.
- It was designed 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.
- The projects considered are additional class rooms, laboratories, school buildings, hostels, toilets, buildings for Polytechnics, ITIs, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres / Sub-centres, Anganwadi Centres, Rural Housing etc.
- It also provides for taking up innovative projects which are not covered by any of the existing CSS of various ministries and these are funded in the ratio of 60:40 (90:10 for NE and Hilly States) between the Centre and States.

PMJVK or Restructured MsDP

- The **criteria for identification** of Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) and Cluster of Villages has been rationalised and is based on 2011 census.
 - Earlier only those Towns which were found backward in terms of both in **Basic Amenities and Socio-economic parameters** were taken up as MCTs. Now, the Towns which were found backward in **either or both** criteria have been taken up as MCT.
 - Now the population criteria for selection of cluster of villages has been **lowered to 25% population** of minority community (which was earlier at least 50%).

- **Funding of the scheme** would be from budgetary provision of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The recurring/maintenance expenses will be borne by the State Government/UTs/Organization.
 - **80%** would be earmarked for projects related to **education, health and skill development**.
 - **33 to 40%** would be specifically allocated for **women centric projects**.
- The PMJVK would now cover **five more States/UTs** namely Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Goa and Pondicherry (total 32 States/UTs).
 - Minority Concentration Areas of 61 districts out of **115 Aspirational districts** have been covered under PMJVK.
 - Unit area of implementation has been further broadened by including **Minority Concentration Districts Headquarters** in addition to the minority concentration Blocks, Minority Concentration Towns and cluster of minority concentration villages.
- The area to be covered under PMJVK would be **57% more** (308 districts) as compared to the existing MsDP (196 districts).
- **Monitoring Mechanism:**
 - An online module along with **geo-tagging** has been included.
 - All implementing agencies are to be brought under **Public Finance Management System** (PFMS) and its effective use ensured to monitor fund utilization has been made in PMJVK.

Transformation of Aspirational Districts

- It aims to quickly and effectively transform the chosen 115 districts, with at least one from 28 states (excluding Goa).
- The broad contours of the programme are **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes), **Collaboration** (of Central, State level 'Prabhati' Officers & District Collectors), and **Competition** (among districts driven by a mass Movement).
- The **states would be the main drivers** of this programme while NITI Aayog will anchor it.
- The **Key Performance Indicators** chosen to monitor the progress of districts are to be district specific.

- 5 sectors identified to monitor the progress are- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Basic Infrastructure and Financial Inclusion and Skill Formation.
- The programme includes appointment of Central and State Government Officers at the level of Additional/Joint Secretary as the “**Prabharti**” and Nodal Officers. These officers are to act as a bridge between centre, state and district.

2.4. CENSUS 2021 TO COLLECT OBC DATA

Why in news?

Census 2021 will for the first time collect data on Other Backward Classes (OBC).

About Census of India

- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The **Census Act** was enacted in 1948 to provide for the scheme of conducting population census with duties and responsibilities of census officers.
- For the first time Census was conducted in **1872**.
- The 2011 Census collected information in 29 categories that included a separate column for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes.

2.5. THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS (PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION) BILL, 2018

Why in news?

Lok Sabha passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018.

Salient Features of the Anti-trafficking Bill, 2018

- A **National Anti-Trafficking Bureau (NATB)** will be established for coordinating, monitoring and surveillance of trafficking cases. It will also deal with crimes having inter-state ramifications.
- **Anti-Trafficking Relief and Rehabilitation Committees** to be established at the national, state, and district levels.
- **Anti-Trafficking Units:** ATUs will deal with the prevention, rescue, and protection of victims and witnesses, and for the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences. In districts where an ATU is not functional, this

responsibility will be taken up by the local police station.

- **Protection and rehabilitation:** It requires the central or state government to set up Protection Homes. These would provide shelter, food, counselling, and medical services to victims.
- **Designated courts** will be established in each district to provide **time-bound (within a year) judgement**. The bill also provides penalties for various offences.

Other Steps taken to combat human trafficking

- India ratified the **United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crimes, 2000**, including its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in person.
- The Government of India applies the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013**, as well as Section 370 and 370A IPC provides stringent punishment for human trafficking; trafficking of children for exploitation in any form including physical exploitation; or any form of sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude or the forced removal of organs.
- **Ujjawala scheme** for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation of victims of trafficking.
- Apart from this, there many other laws and provisions that protect people from exploitation, like-
 - **Article 23 (1)** of Indian Constitution prohibits Trafficking in Human and forced labour
 - **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956** for prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation
 - Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976

Related news

- Recently the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has released '**Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018**'.
 - As per the Report, **Women and girls make up most trafficking victims** worldwide: Almost three-quarters of them are trafficked for sexual exploitation, and 35 per cent (women and girls) are trafficked for **forced labour**. **Children now account for 30 per cent** of those being trafficked.
- About UNODC:** It was established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.
- UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90 per cent of its budget.
 - It created **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** (entered into force 2003-04), which have supported international law's

- ability to combat human trafficking. It was ratified by India in 2011. Its two related protocols are-
- **United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons**, especially Women and Children
 - **United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air**,
 - In support of enforcing these instruments, the UNODC established the **United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking** (UN-GIFT) in 2007.

Additional tools of international law that include segments against the trafficking of persons include Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (1966); the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949) and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979).

2.6. PREVALENCE OF BONDED LABOUR IN INDIA

Why in news?

In the last week of December 2018, 52 trafficked labourers had been rescued from a ginger farm in Karnataka.

Bonded Labour

According to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930, forced or compulsory labour is "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily".

Safeguards and measures taken to combat prevalence of bonded labour

- **Constitutional Safeguards:** Under the Art 23 it provides to eradicate any form of bonded labour system.
- **Legal Provisions** include Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 which abolishes bonded labour system throughout the country, Minimum Wages Act (1948), Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act and IPC (Section 370).

Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016

- It is the revamped version of Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour (1978). The salient features of the scheme are as under:
 - It provides **financial assistance** to people rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation.

- The financial assistance for rehabilitation is **100% funded by the Central Government**.
- It also provides for financial assistance to the States for conducting survey of bonded labourers.
- The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused.
- It provides for creation of a **Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund** at District level by each State at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.

Related Information

- **India is a founder member** of the **International Labour Organization** (ILO), which came into existence in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I.
- **Conventions and Recommendations:** ILO sets International labour standards in the form of conventions and recommendations.
 - Conventions are legally binding international treaties that may be ratified by member states while recommendations serve as non-binding guidelines.
- **Fundamental conventions:** The ILO's Governing Body has identified eight conventions as "fundamental" or Core. These principles are also covered in the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998).
- India has now **ratified 6 out of 8 core ILO conventions**.
- The six core ILO conventions ratified by India are:
 - **Forced labour convention**
 - **Abolition of Forced Labour convention**
 - **Equal Remuneration convention**
 - **Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) convention** relating to removing discrimination between men and women in employment and occupation.
 - **The Minimum Age Convention**
 - **The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention**
- Two core ILO conventions which are yet to be ratified by India are:
 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention
 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention
- India is a signatory to the **International Labor Organization's 189th convention**, known as the Convention on Domestic Workers, but has not ratified it yet.

2.7. ALL INDIA PENSION ADALAT

Why in news?

The 'All India Pension Adalat' was organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.

About Pension Adalats

The Pension Adalats are being convened with the objective of on-the-spot redressal of pensioners' grievances within legal framework by bringing on a common table the aggrieved pensioner, the concerned department, the bank or Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) representative.

Other Initiatives for Pensioners

- Grievance Portal for the Central Government pensioners called CPENGRAMS (Centralized Pensioners Grievance Redress And Monitoring System)
- Bhavishya- an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System
- Sankalp- to provide a platform for the pensioners to access opportunities available for useful interventions in the society. It also facilitates the Organizations working in these areas to select appropriate skill and expertise from the available pool of volunteers.
- Anubhav- A platform for retirees to share experience of working with the Government. This facility provides a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction to the retirees and also create a data base of useful suggestion and information.
- Jeevan Praman: It is a biometric enabled Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners Scheme. Pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization can take benefit of this facility.

2.8. NATIONAL TRUST

Why in news?

Parliament recently passed the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to amend the tenure of the Chairperson and members of the Board of the National Trust.

More on news

- **The Amendments:**
 - **Tenure of the Board:** Under the Act, the Chairperson and members of the Board of

the National Trust can hold office for a term of three years from the date of their appointment or until their successors are appointed, whichever is longer.

- ✓ The Bill amends this provision to fix the tenure of the Chairperson and members of the Board to three years.
- ✓ Further, the Bill states that the central government will initiate the process for appointment of the Chairperson or any member of the Board, at least six months prior to the expiry of his tenure.
- **Resignation of Chairperson:** The Act states that if the Chairperson or members of the Board resign, they will continue in office until the appointment of their successor is made by the central government.
- ✓ The Bill amends this to allow the Chairperson or members of the Board to hold office till their resignation is accepted by the central government.

About National Trust

- National Trust is a **statutory body** of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- The **objectives of the National Trust** are:
 - to enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to their community as possible;
 - to facilitate the realisation of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability;
 - to extend support to its registered organisations to provide need-based services; and
 - to evolve procedures for appointments of guardians and trustees for persons with disabilities.

2.9. DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE BOARD FOR DENOTIFIED, NOMADIC AND SEMI-NOMADIC COMMUNITIES

Why in news?

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for constitution of Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Communities (DNCs).

Details

- During the British colonial rule, if the local government had reason to believe that a gang

or a tribe had “addicted to systematic commission of non-bailable offences”, then it was registered as criminal tribe under the **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**.

- Next came the **Criminal Tribes Act (CTA), 1924**. Under this act, the local government may establish reformatory schools and separate criminal tribe children from their parents and guardians and place them in such schools.
- **Nomadic Tribes and Denotified Tribes** both are the ones that were regarded as **criminal tribes** under CTA. Most Denotified Tribes are spread across the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories.
- After the **Ananthsayanam Ayyangar Committee** (gave a comprehensive report on how CTA worked throughout India), the CTA was repealed in August 1949 and former “criminal tribes” were **denotified** in 1952, when the Act was replaced with the **Habitual Offenders Act, 1952** of Government of India.
- In 2002, **Justice Venkatchaliah Commission** recommended for strengthening the programmes for economic and educational development of De-Notified Tribes (DNTs). It also recommended constituting a special commission to look into the needs and grievances of the DNTs.
- Consequently, a **National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes** was constituted in 2005 under the chairmanship of **Balkrishna Sidke Renke**, to study the socio-economic conditions of these groups.
- Another National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes chaired by **Bhiku Ramji Idate** was constituted in 2015 for a three-year period. It submitted its report viz “**Voices of the Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes**” in 2018.
- In consonance with the recommendations of **IDate Commission**, the Union cabinet has **approved a permanent Development and Welfare Board** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Various challenges faced by DNT include:** social discrimination, economic hardships, declining populations and lack of census data, large scale exclusions etc.

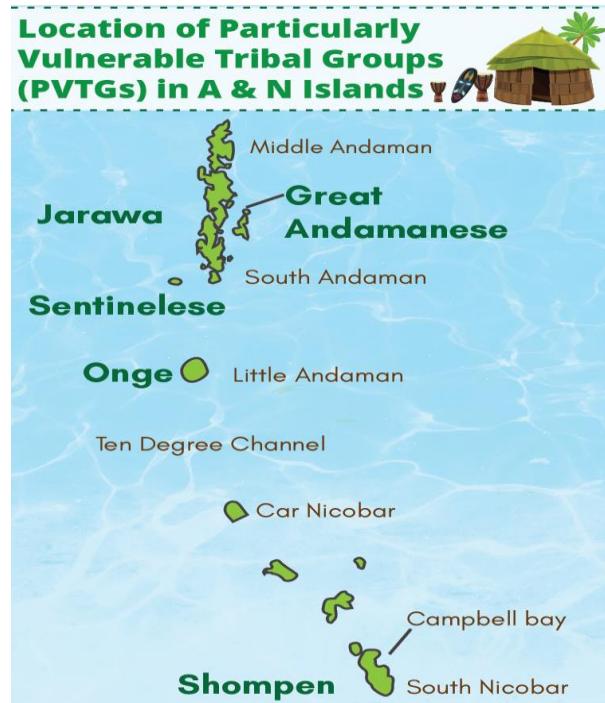
2.10. PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR

Why in news?

The Central government is planning to reimpose **Restricted Area Permit (RAP)** in the North Sentinel Island where an American was killed by members of the Sentinelese tribe.

More on news

- Due to security reasons, certain areas have been declared as **Protected Area/Restricted Areas** where no foreigner can enter or stay without obtaining permit from the competent authorities.
- Under the Foreigners (Restricted) Areas Order, 1963, parts of Sikkim and entire Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been declared as ‘**Restricted’ Areas**’.
- Under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, all areas falling between the ‘Inner line’ and the International Border of the State have been declared as ‘**Protected Areas**’.
- Currently Protected Areas are located in- all of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- The North Sentinel island is one of 29 islands for which government had relaxed the RAP in order to promote tourism and boost employment opportunities.



Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar

- There are **6 aboriginal tribes** in Andaman & Nicobar Islands belonging to **two broad groups of Negrito and Mongoloid**. Except **Nicobarese (Mongoloid)**, the rest 5 are recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) i.e. Sentinelese (Negrito), Great Andamanese (Negrito), Ongs (Negrito), Jarawas (Negrito) and Shom Pens (Mongoloid).
- **Sentinelese:** They are the only remaining tribe in the Andamans to still maintain their **isolation** from the rest of the world and live like **hunter gatherers**.
 - They are connected to the Jarawa on the basis of physical, as well as linguistic similarities.
 - Both Sentinelese men and women do not wear cloths.
- **Great Andamanese:** The great Andamanese is a **collective term used for 10 different tribes** that lived in most of the large islands in the Andaman.
 - They are also known for their brave History where they fought with bows and arrows with the English men who tried to occupy their land (**The Battle of Aberdeen**).
 - Today most tribes are extinct and their **cultural and linguistic identities largely been lost**. (e.g. their members now speak mostly Hindi).
- **Jarawa:** Jarawas continue to be hunting and gathering nomadic tribe and are often hostile to outsiders.
 - Men fish with bows and arrows in the coastal waters while women catch fish with basket.
- **Ong:** They are hunting and gathering tribe settled at Dugong Creek and South Bay on Little Andaman Island.
- **Shompen:** The Shompens are primarily hunter-gatherers and also practise a little bit of horticulture and pig rearing.
- **Nicobarese:** They are **largest of tribes** and are primarily horticulturalists.

About Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. They were later renamed as PVTG.
- States/UTs submit proposals to the Central Ministry of Tribal Welfare for identification of PVTGs.
- Some basic characteristics of PVTGs are:
 - Mostly homogenous

- A small population
- Relatively physically isolated
- Primitive Social institutions
- Absence of written language
- Relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change
- Their livelihood depends on food gathering, Non-Timber Forest Produce, hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works.

Efforts to protect PVTGs

- The **ANTRI** (Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research and Training Institute) has been set up with an objective of formulation of policies for tribal integration and protection of PVTGs.
- The **A&N (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956** provides protection to the aboriginal tribes by declaring their traditional areas as reserves and prohibited entry of all persons except those with authorisation.
- With regard to Sentinelese tribes, the A&N Administration has adopted an '**eyes-on and hands-off**' policy to ensure that no poachers enter into the island.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the "**Development of PVTGs**" scheme which covers the 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in various states/UTs.
- Recently, Odisha government in partnership with UNICEF India has launched "**Jiban Sampark**" to generate awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of state government among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of the state.

2.11. EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Why in news?

Recently Government approved **revamping of 'Eklavya Model Residential Schools'** set up for Tribal students.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** is implementing Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.
- EMRS are set up in States/UTs **with grants under Article 275(1)** of the Constitution of India.
- Management of each EMRS is under a committee which include, among others, reputed local NGOs involved with education.

Objectives of EMRS

- Provide **quality middle and high-level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students** in remote areas.
- Enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and in jobs in government and public and private sectors.

- Construction of infrastructure that provides education, physical, environmental and cultural needs of student life.

Coverage of Scheme

- As per existing guidelines **at least one EMRS** is to be set up in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)/ Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area.
- As per the budget 2018-19**, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.

Status of Tribal Education in India

- Low Literacy Level:** According to census 2011 literacy rate for STs is 59% compared to national average of 73%.
- Interstate disparity:** Wide Interstate disparity exists across the states e.g. in Mizoram and Lakshadweep STs literacy is more than 91% whereas in Andhra Pradesh it is 49.2%. In fact, in most of the north eastern states like Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, STs are at par with the general population.
- Gender disparity:** Literacy level among ST men is at 68.5% but for women it is still below 50%

Other facts on tribal communities

- According to 2011 census, the tribal population in India is over **104 million** which is spread **across 705 tribes and accounts for 8.6% of country's population.**
- Numerically **M.P. has highest tribal population (15mn)** followed by **Maharashtra (10mn), Odisha and Rajasthan.**
- Majority of tribals live in rural areas.
- Sex ratio** among tribals is **990/1000** as compared to national average of **933/1000.**
- Livelihood status** - 40.6% of tribals live below poverty line vis-a-vis 20.5% non tribals.

Constitutional provisions for Tribal education

- Article 46** of Indian constitution lays down that, the state shall promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.
- Article 29(1)** provides distinct languages script or culture. This article has special significance for scheduled tribes.
- Article 15(4)** empowers the state to make any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizen or for SCs or STs.
- Article 275(1)** provides Grants in-Aids to states (having scheduled tribes) covered under fifth and six schedules of the constitution.
- Article 350A** states that state shall provide adequate facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage of education.

2.12. VAN DHAN VIKAS KENDRAS

Why in news?

Ministry of Tribal Affairs proposed to expand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in Tribal Districts across the country.

Van Dhan Scheme (Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram)

- It is primarily a component under the **Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain.**
- It is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan. The programme aims to **tap into traditional knowledge & skill sets of tribals** by adding technology & IT to upgrade it at each stage and to convert into a viable economic activity.
- Under the Van Dhan Scheme, **TRIFED will facilitate establishment of MFP-led multipurpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras**, a cluster of 10 SHGs comprising of 30 tribal MFP gatherers each, in the tribal areas.
- Each Kendra would act as **common facility centres** for procurement cum value addition to locally available MFPs and skill-based handicraft. Training and technical support is provided by TRIFED.
- The scheme is being 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.
- It aims at **convergence of various schemes** and initiatives of other Central/State level departments/ agency/ institutions.
- Besides, partnership models with Banks/ PSUs/ private sector shall also be explored for their active participation and financial assistance under CSR funds.
- The first multipurpose "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra"** on pilot basis is being run in **Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh** for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.

About TRIFED

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987. It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.
- The ultimate objective of TRIFED is socio-economic development of tribal people in the country by way of marketing development of the tribal products on which the lives of tribals depends heavily.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

- MFP, also known as Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), is a major source of livelihood and provides nutrition, medicinal needs and cash income to a large number of STs who live in and around forests.
- The Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price & Development of Value chain for MFP scheme** is designed as a social safety net for improvement of livelihood of MFP gatherers by providing them fair price for the MFPs they collect.
 - The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry** for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.
 - The responsibility of purchasing MFP on MSP will be with State designated agencies.
 - The scheme **supports primary value addition** as well as provides for supply chain infrastructure like cold storage, warehouses etc.
 - The scheme is **applicable in all States**.

**फाउंडेशन कोर्स
सामान्य अध्ययन**

प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा **2020**

इनोवेटिव कलासरम प्रोग्राम के घटक

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• PT 365 कक्षाएं

• MAINS 365 कक्षाएं

• PT टेस्ट सीरीज

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• निबंध टेस्ट सीरीज

• सीसैट टेस्ट सीरीज

• निबंध लेखन - शीली की कक्षाएं

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3. EDUCATION

3.1. PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

3.1.1. SAMAGRA SHIKSHA - INTEGRATED SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Why in news?

The Government of India has launched Samagra Shiksha - An Integrated Scheme for school education.

About the Programme

- It is an overarching programme for the school education sector which envisages the '**school as a continuum**' from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels
- It **subsumes the three erstwhile centrally sponsored schemes** i.e. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- The **major objectives** of the Scheme are
 - **Provision of quality education** and enhancing learning outcomes of students;
 - **Bridging Social and Gender Gaps** in School Education;
 - Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education;
 - Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions;
 - Promoting vocationalisation of education;
 - Support States in **implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**;
 - Strengthening and up-gradation of SCERTs/State Institutes of Education and DIET as nodal agencies for teacher training.
- It will be implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** by the Centre through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.
- **At the National level**, there would be a **Governing Council headed by Minister of Human Resource Development** and a **Project Approval Board (PAB)** headed by Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy.
- The Department will be assisted by a Technical Support Group (TSG) at Educational Consultants of India Limited (EdCIL).
 - EdCIL is a **Mini Ratna Category-1 CPSE** under Ministry of Human Resource Development offering management and

consultancy services in all areas of education and human resource development, both within India and overseas.

- **States** are expected to bring a **single Plan** for the entire school education sector.
- The **fund sharing pattern** for the scheme between Centre and States is 90:10 for the 8 North-Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States and 60:40 for all other States and Union Territories with Legislature. It is 100% centrally sponsored for Union Territories without Legislature.
- **Some of the interventions proposed under the scheme include:**
 - Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention;
 - Gender and Equity, Inclusive Education and Quality;
 - Financial support for Teacher Salary;
 - Digital initiatives;
 - RTE Entitlements including uniforms, textbooks etc.;
 - Pre-school Education, Vocational Education and Sports and Physical Education;
 - Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training;
- In interventions under the scheme, preference would be given to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWEs affected districts, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 115 Aspirational districts.

3.1.2. THE RTE AMENDMENT ACT 2019

Why in News?

The President has given assent to **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019** to abolish the 'No-Detention' policy in schools.

Details

- The **86th Constitution Amendment Act, 2002** requires the State to provide free and compulsory elementary education to all children. **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** seeks to give effect to this Amendment under which all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years have the right to elementary education (class 1-8) in a neighborhood school.
- The **Section 30 (1) of the RTE Act** states that a child cannot be detained in any class till the completion of elementary education.



- In recent years, two expert committees—**Geeta Bhukkal (2014)** and **TSR Subramanian (2016)**—reviewed the no-detention provision in the RTE Act and recommended it be removed or be discontinued in a phased manner.
- As per the amended Act, regular examination will be held in Classes 5 and 8 and if a child fails there is a provision to give his/her additional opportunity to take a re-examination within two months.
 - If s/he fails again in the re-examination, the relevant Central or State Government may decide to allow schools to detain the child.
 - But, **no child shall be expelled** from a school till the completion of elementary education.

3.1.3. PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT (PISA)

Why in news?

Government of India has decided that India will participate in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) to be conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2021.

More on News

- India had stayed away from the assessment when it was ranked dismally low—72nd among 74 countries in 2009. India, subsequently, chose to not participate in the 2012 and 2015 cycle.
- Government-run Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and schools in Chandigarh will participate in the test.

About PISA

- It is an international assessment that measures 15 years old students' reading, mathematics, science literacy and even innovative subjects like collaborative problem solving and money literacy every three years.
- By design, PISA emphasizes functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of compulsory schooling. It is a **competency-based assessment** and not content-based assessment.
- It was first conducted in 2000 and is coordinated by **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**.
- It assesses students in 80 countries and education system and helps to understand the education system and how it can be improved.
- The result is shown not individually but it shows a national mean score. Its goal is to

provide outcomes of learning and not outcomes of schooling.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- It is an intergovernmental economic organisation which aims to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.
- It has 36 member countries and was founded in 1960 by 18 European nations plus the United States and Canada.
- India is not a member of OECD.

3.1.4. KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (KGBV)

Why in News?

A recent Supaul incident of sexual harassment reveals the problems with KGBV administration in country.

About the Scheme

- **Objective:** KGBV scheme under **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** provides residential elementary educational facilities at upper primary level to girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority communities and families below the poverty line in **Educationally Backward Blocks**.
- **Present Status:** There are 3703 KGBVs, out of which 3697 KGBVs are operational, enrolling 3.78 lakh girls.
- **Convergence with other Scheme:** Under the newly launched **Integrated Scheme of School Education-Samagra Shiksha**, provision has been made to upgrade the existing KGBVs at upper primary level to upto senior secondary level in convergence with the erstwhile **Girls Hostel Scheme**.

3.1.5. OPERATION DIGITAL BOARD

Why in News?

Recently, Ministry of Human Resource Development launched Operation Digital Board (ODB).

About Operation Digital Board

- It aims to set up one digital and interactive board per classroom in **government and government-aided schools by 2022**.
- It will be introduced in schools from **class 9th onwards as well as in higher education institutions**.
- It aims to make the learning as well as the teaching process interactive and popularize **flipped learning** as a pedagogical approach.

- It will work on emerging technologies including Machine Learning (ML), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics and provide ‘Intelligent Tutoring’ to students based on their personal requirements.
- University Grants Commission (UGC)** will be the implementing agency of ODB for higher education institutions.

Flipped Learning

- It is a pedagogical approach in which the conventional notion of classroom-based learning is inverted, so that students are introduced to the learning material before class, with classroom time then being used to deepen understanding through discussion with peers and problem-solving activities.

Other digital initiatives for Education

- SWAYAM:** A Web portal where Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) will be available free of cost on all kinds of subjects with a provision of certificate / credit-transfer.
- Swayam Prabha:** It is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.
- Diksha: National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers portal,** to help teachers to create training content, profile, in-class resources, assessment aids, news and announcement and connect with teacher community.

3.1.6. ASER ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT

Why in News?

Recently, 13th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) by Pratham NGO was published which threw light on status of primary education in rural India.

Additional Information on ASER Report

- In 2017, it conducted the first alternate-year design known as ASER ‘Beyond Basics’, focusing on youth in the 14 to 18 age group in 28 districts across India.
- In 2018, ASER returns once again to the ‘basic’ model.

About ASER 2018 Survey: The report covers three major aspects of status of education

- School enrollment and attendance among children aged 3-16 years.
- Basic reading and math abilities among children aged 5-16 years.
- School infrastructure with sports infrastructure

Key Findings of the Report

Positive Takeaways

- Increased school Enrolment:** It has now crossed 97% with the proportion of children in this age segment who are out of school falling below 3% for the first time.

- Decrease in out of School girls** in the age group 11 to 16.
- Stable Private School enrolment** indicating overall trust in public schooling.
- Improvement in school infrastructure** in terms of girls’ toilet, boundary walls and playground
- The Early Childhood (0-8 yrs) Education:** At age 3, two-thirds of children were enrolled in some form of preschool. Enrolment patterns only stabilize at age 8 when over 90% of children are enrolled in primary school.

Areas of Concern

- Equity in Learning – State-wise Disparities:** While learning levels are up in most states in Std III and Std V, wide disparity exists in learning levels in the same grade.
- Only Marginal Improvement in Reading Abilities** of Class V and Class VIII students who can read Class II text.
- No Improvement in Mathematical Ability** such as subtraction etc.
- Gender-gap in mathematical ability:** The Proportion of girls who can read atleast a Std II text is very similar to that of boys at 77%, although girls outperform boys in many states. But in basic arithmetic, boys seem to hold a substantial advantage.

Difference between ASER and NAS (National Achievement Survey)

ASER Survey	NAS Survey
It is a household survey conducted since 2005.	It is a school-based survey.
One-on-one oral assessments.	It is a pen-paper test.
Aimed at representative sample of all children (whether in school or out of school).	It takes into account the children enrolled in government and government aided schools.
It focuses on foundational skills such as reading and math.	It looks at wider variety of skills.
It is limited to rural areas of the country.	It is conducted throughout the country in both rural and urban areas.
It is a citizen-led survey (conducted by PRATHAM).	It is conducted by NCERT under Ministry of Human Resource Development.

3.1.7. PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (PGI)

Why in news?

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has introduced the Performance Grading Index or PGI to assess the quality of school education offered by all states.

About PGI

- The Index will grade States and UTS thus allowing for more than one State/UT to occupy the same grade, and therefore all 36 States and UTS to ultimately reach the highest level.
- It has been conceptualised as a tool to encourage States and UTS to adopt certain practices like online recruitment and transfer of Teachers, electronic attendance of Students & Teachers etc.
- It has **70 indicators divided into two categories** viz Outcomes and Governance processes.
 - The first category is divided into four domains viz. Learning outcomes, Access outcomes, Infrastructure and Facilities and Equity outcomes.
 - The second category covers attendance, teacher adequacy, administrative adequacy, training, accountability and transparency.

3.1.8. HAPPY SCHOOLS PROJECT

Why in news?

Recently, Happy School Project was launched by UNESCO with the involvement of UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGI EPS) in India.

About the Project

- It was launched in 2014 with the aim of promoting learner well-being and holistic development in school.
- It aims to **bring happiness and the quality of education together** by calling for education systems to shift away from traditional measures and to instead embrace a diversity of talents and intelligences by recognizing values, strengths and competences that contribute to enhancing happiness.
- The Project framework consists of 22 criteria for a happy school under three categories – People, Place and Process.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development

- It is the first UNESCO specialized education institute in India, and the first Category 1 institute in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Its role will be to support member governments, provide advocacy, commission research and enhance capacity building.
- It will also act as a clearing house for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Peace Education.

3.1.9. BHARATIYA SHIKSHA BOARD

Why in news?

Ministry Human Resource Development has given its approval for the setting up of country's **first national school board for Vedic education-Bhartiya Shiksha Board (BSB)**.

About the Board

- Its **objective** is to standardise Vedic education through drafting syllabus, conducting examinations and issuing certificates.
- BSB will also be assigned the responsibility of **evolving new kinds of schools** that offer a blend of Vedic and modern education **apart from affiliating traditional pathshalas**.
- The board will be setup as per the model bye laws framed by **Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Vedavidya Pratishtan**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- MSRVP was set to develop and propagate **oral studies of the Vedas**.
 - It currently affiliates 450 institutions of traditional learning like **pathshalas and guru-shishya parampara yojana** across the country.
 - Although this organisation has been conducting Class X and XII examinations, its certificates are not considered equivalent to mainstream levels of education by several institutions.

3.2. HIGHER EDUCATION

3.2.1. DRAFT HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION OF INDIA (HECI) BILL, 2018

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has prepared a **HECI (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Bill 2018** and has placed it in public domain for comments and suggestions.
- The Bill repeals the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and establishes the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- It came into existence on 28th December, 1953 and became a statutory Organization in 1956.
- It has the unique distinction of being the only grant-giving agency in the country which has been vested with two responsibilities: that of providing funds and that of coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education.



3.2.2. INSTITUTIONS OF EMINENCE

Why in news?

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has granted Institution of Eminence (IoE) status to **six institutions**, three public — IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IISc Bangalore – and three private — BITS Pilani, Manipal University, and the yet-to-open Jio University.

Background

- None of the Indian universities had found a place in World University (top 100) Rankings in 2017. Thus, **in budget 2016**, the government had committed to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions.
- In this context, the government had formed an Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) chaired by **N. Gopalaswami** to recommend 20 institutions as Institutions of Eminence.

What is IOE?

- IOE is a tag given to institutions which
 - are **either among Top 50 in the National institution Ranking Framework** (in their category) or **among Top 500 in internationally recognised rankings** like the Times Higher Education World University Rankings;
 - have a good mix of foreign and domestic students as well as faculty;
 - have international standard infrastructure and are multi-disciplinary in their approach.

National Institution Ranking Framework

- This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country, **launched in 2015**.
- The parameters broadly cover “Teaching, Learning and Resources,” “Research and Professional Practices,” “Graduation Outcomes,” “Outreach and Inclusivity,” and “Perception”.

Benefits of declaration as IoE

- Financial Assistance:** financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crore over the period of five years.
- Autonomy:** These Institutions shall be provided with greater autonomy to:
 - admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students;
 - recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength;
 - offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes;
 - enter into academic collaboration with top 500 in the world ranking Institutions without permission of UGC;

- fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction;
 - flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree;
 - complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, etc.
- World Class Institutions:** They will get more opportunity to scale up their operations with more skills and quality improvement so that they become World Class Institutions in the field of education.
 - World Ranking:** It is expected that the above selected Institutions will come up in top 500 of the world ranking in 10 years and in top 100 of the world ranking eventually overtime.

3.2.3. THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON ACADEMIC NETWORK (GIAN) COURSE

Why in news?

Second GIAN Course on ‘Urban Analytics: Evaluating and Measuring Sustainability of Cities’ was released recently.

About GIAN (Ministry of Human Resource Development)

- GIAN in Higher Education aims at **tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally** to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India
- It would help to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.
- The initiative provides **participation of foreign faculty** as Distinguished / Adjunct / Visiting faculty / Professors of Practice, etc. in delivering Short or Semester-long Courses in IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, IISc Bangalore, IISERs, NITs and IIITs and subsequently cover good State Universities.
- These lectures would be made available later to the students across the country through the **SWAYAM** and the **National Digital Library**.

3.2.4. ALL INDIA SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION (AISHE)

Why in news?

Recently the results of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2017-18 were released.



About AISHE

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) initiated an AISHE in the year 2010-11 to build a robust database and to assess the correct picture of higher Education in the country.
- The **main objectives of the survey** were to –
 - identify & capture all the institutions of higher learning in the country
 - collect the data from all the higher education institutions on various aspects of higher education
- Indicators of educational development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure is also calculated from the data collected through AISHE.
- The survey is now an **annual exercise**.

Data is being collected on following broad items

- Institution's Basic Details
- Teacher's Details
- Details of Non-Teaching Staff
- Programme conducted under various Faculties/Schools & departments/Centres
- Students enrolled in these Programme
- Examination result of terminal year of each Programme
- Financial Information such as Receipt and Expenditure under various heads
- Availability of Infrastructure
- Scholarships, Loans & Accreditation

3.2.5. REVITALISING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS IN EDUCATION (RISE) BY 2022

Why in news?

- The Government approved an initiative named "**Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022**"

About RISE by 2022 initiative

- Its objectives include:
 - Qualitatively upgrade the research and academic infrastructure in India to global best standards by 2022.
 - Make India into an education hub by making available high-quality research infrastructure in Indian higher educational institutions.
 - To allow access of HEFA funding to institutions like Central Universities, AIIMS, IISERs and newly created Institutes of National Importance, without creating any additional burden to the students.
 - To bring greater accountability and speed in execution of infrastructure projects and

avoid all cost/time over-runs, moving from the block-grant mode to project-mode for all infrastructure projects.

- To cater to the requirements of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, and medical institutions like AIIMSS in a faster time frame.
- Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) has been tasked to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 crore for this initiative.
- As per this initiative, the scope of institutions to be funded through HEFA has been enlarged to encompass School Education and Medical Education institutions, apart from Higher Education.

About HEFA

- HEFA was setup in 2017 by the Central Government as a **Non-Profit, Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC)** for mobilising **extra-budgetary resources** (funds from the market using market-based instruments) for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Government.
- The total authorized equity capital of HEFA has been raised to Rs.10,000 crore.
- HEFA is a **joint venture of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and Canara Bank** with an agreed equity participation in the ratio of 91% and 9% respectively.
- Mission of HEFA:** To provide **timely finance at competitive interest rates** for capital assets creation in India's educational institutions and supplement it with grants by channelizing CSR funds from the corporate and donations from others.

3.2.6. NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY (NTA)

Why in news?

NTA decided to hold NEET, JEE Mains twice a year from 2019.

About NTA

- It has been established as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/ fellowship in higher educational institutions.
- It is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- The major examinations to be conducted by NTA** include University Grant Commission-NET Eligibility (UGC-NET), JEE (Main), CMAT, GPAT and NEET.

- All the examinations of NTA were mandated to be conducted twice a year for the benefit of students.
- It will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.
- The **objectives of the NTA**, inter-alia, are conducting efficient, transparent tests designed in a scientific manner for assessing competence of students. It will train subject matter experts and prepare test items in collaboration with psychometricians to ensure that the tests are well balanced.

3.2.7. CONSORTIUM FOR ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ETHICS

Why in news?

University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to set up Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) to refine and strengthen research publication.

More on news

- The good quality Research Journals in disciplines under Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Arts, Culture, Indian Knowledge Systems etc., will be maintained by CARE and referred to as '**CARE Reference List of Quality Journals**'.
- This will be used for all academic purposes. The '**CARE Reference List of Quality Journals**' will be regularly updated and published by the

UGC and the Members of the Consortium at their respective websites.

3.2.8. BHASHA SANGAM PROGRAM

Why in News?

The Department of School Education & Literacy under MHRD has initiated Bhasha Sangam Program – as part of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'.

About the Program

- Its objectives are:
 - To enhance linguistic tolerance and respect, and promote national integration.
 - To introduce school students to all the 22 Indian Languages of Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
- This will be run by the State/UT Department of School Education.
- This initiative is not mandatory and there would be no formal testing of any kind.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- Launched on 31st Oct, 2015 on 140th Anniversary of Sardar Patel, this program intends to enhance interaction between people of different States/UTs.
- Under this, there is a pairing of States/UTs for one year, during which they will exchange and connect people through culture, tourism, language, education, trade etc.

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4. HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SANITATION

4.1. HEALTH

4.1.1. NATIONAL HEALTH PROFILE-2018

Why in News?

Government has released the **National Health Profile (NHP)**.

About National Health Profile

- Objective of this annual publication is to **create a database of health information of India** which is comprehensive, up-to-date and easily accessible to all stakeholders in the healthcare sector.
- National Health Profile covers- **Demographic information, Socio-economic information, Health status, Health finance indicators, Comprehensive information on health infrastructure and human resources in health.**
- It is prepared by **Central Bureau of Health Intelligence**.

Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)

- Established in 1961 by the Act of Parliament on the recommendation of **Mudaliar committee**, it is the Health Intelligence Wing under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- Its vision is to have "**A strong Health Management Information System in entire country**".

The Objectives of CBHI are:

- To collect, analyze & disseminate Health Sector related data of the country for evidence-based policy decisions, planning and research activities.
- To identify & disseminate innovative practices for Health Sector Reforms.
- To develop Human Resources for scientifically maintaining medical records in both Government & private medical Institutes in India.
- To function as collaborating centre (CC) for WHO Family of International Classification in India & South-East Asian Region countries.

Key Findings

- Estimated birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate are showing a declining trend.**
- Total Fertility Rate -in 12 States has fallen below two** children per woman and 9 States have reached replacements levels of 2.1 and above. Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have lowest fertility. **Fertility is declining rapidly, including among the poor and illiterate.**
- The **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** has shown a **decrease** of 11 points during 2010-12

to 2011-13. MMR is highest for Assam (300 per 1, 00,000 live births) and lowest for Kerala (61) in 2011-13.

- Infant mortality rate (IMR)** has declined considerably i.e. 37 in 2015; however, there is a **huge gap** between IMR of rural (41 per 1000 live births) and urban (25 per 1000 live births).
- Health Finances:** India spends only 1.02% of its GDP (2015-16) as public expenditure on health. However, per capita public expenditure on health in nominal terms has gone up.
 - Out of total persons covered under insurance, 79% were covered by public insurance companies, with the remaining being covered by private insurance companies.

Important Terms Used –

- Natural Growth Rate** – It refers to the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths occurring in a year, divided by the mid-year population of that year, multiplied by a factor (usually 1,000). This measure of the population change excludes the effects of migration.
- Total Fertility Rate** - It refers to total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her life time if she were subject to the prevailing rate of age-specific fertility in the population.
 - TFR of about 2.1 children per woman is called **Replacement-level fertility**. This value represents the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
- Maternal mortality rate** - Number of registered **maternal deaths** due to birth- or pregnancy-related complications per 100,000 registered live births
- Infant Mortality Rate** - number of **deaths** per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age.

4.1.2. NATIONAL HEALTH RESOURCE REPOSITORY (NHRR)

Why in news?

Government has recently launched **National Health Resource Repository (NHRR)**.

About NHRR

- It is the **first ever registry in India** of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all **public and private healthcare resources** which inter-alia includes, hospitals, diagnostic labs, doctors and pharmacies, etc.

- NHRR is conceptualised by CBHI. ISRO is the project technology partner for providing data security.
- Under the **Collection of Statistics Act 2008**, healthcare establishments such as hospitals, doctors, clinics, diagnostic labs, pharmacies and nursing homes would be enumerated under this census.
- It aims to **strengthen evidence-based decision making** and develop a platform for citizens and provider-centric services by **secured Information Technology (IT)-enabled repository** of India's healthcare resources.
- It shall **enable advanced research** towards ongoing & forthcoming healthcare challenges arising from other determinants of health like – disease, environment etc.
- It shall also enhance the **coordination between central and state government** for optimization of health resources, and decentralize the decision making at district and state level.
- It shall **promote convergence between similar programmes** by providing interoperability.

4.1.3. INTEGRATED HEALTH INFORMATION PLATFORM

Why in news?

Government recently soft-launched the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states viz. Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

Integrated Health Information Platform

- IHIP is a **web-enabled near-real-time electronic information system** to enable the creation of standards compliant Electronic Health Records (EHRs) of the citizens on a pan-India basis.
- **Key features of IHIP**
 - Real time data reporting (along through mobile application); accessible at all levels (from villages, states and central level)
 - Advanced data modelling & analytical tools
 - GIS enabled Graphical representation of data into integrated dashboard
 - Role & hierarchy-based feedback & alert mechanisms
 - Geo-tagging of reporting health facilities
 - Scope for data integration with other health programs

- **Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP):** aims to strengthen/maintain decentralized laboratory-based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Team (RRTs).
- **IDSP as a segment of IHIP** intends to receive person-level data from health facilities across all States and Union Territories on all health events.

Related information

National Health Portal (NHP)

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), has set up the National Health Portal in December 2014 in pursuance to the decisions of the National Knowledge Commission, to provide healthcare related information to the citizens of India and to serve as a single point of access for consolidated health information.
- This portal serves as a **single point of access for consolidated and authentic information and resources on the health sector** to a wide spectrum of users such as academicians, citizens, students, healthcare professionals and researchers.

4.1.4. NATIONAL HEALTH STACK

Why in news?

NITI Aayog has unveiled the blueprint of National Health Stack (NHS), a shared digital healthcare infrastructure.

About NHS

- It is a collection of **cloud-based services**.
- **Scope:**
 - Induction of Private Hospitals and Private Practitioners into the Primary and Secondary healthcare ecosystem;
 - Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD); Disease Surveillance; Health Schemes Management Systems; Nutrition Management; School Health Schemes; Emergency Management; e-Learning Platform for health, Telehealth, Tele-radiology; Diagnostic Equipment; Health Call Centre(s) etc.
- It will be **India's first** futuristic nationally shared digital healthcare infrastructure usable by both the **Centre and states across public and private sectors**.

4.1.5. AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA

Why in news?

Prime Minister recently launched the world's largest state funded health insurance scheme,

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Details

Initially announced in the General Budget 2018-19, it has two components -

- **Health and Wellness Centre:** As envisioned in the National Health Policy, 2017, 1.5 lakh centres will provide **comprehensive health care**, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services. These centres will also provide **free essential drugs and diagnostic services**.
- **National Health Protection Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana):** covers over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

Features of the Scheme

- **Beneficiary Identification:** PMJAY primarily targets the poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers' families as per the latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** data for both rural and urban areas as well as the active families under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). There is **no cap on family size and age** as well as restriction on pre-existing conditions.
- **Hospitalization cover from inpatient care to post hospitalization care:** The Yojana will provide a coverage up to Rs. 5,00,000 per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization through a network of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP). The services will include 1350 procedures covering pre and post hospitalization, diagnostics, medicines etc.
- **Universality:** One unique feature of the PMJAY is its **national portability once fully operational**. The beneficiaries will be able to move across borders and access services across the country through the provider network seamlessly. The beneficiaries will not need a special card. Their Aadhaar numbers will suffice.
- **Implementation agency:** The **National Health Agency (NHA)** will provide overall vision and stewardship for design, roll-out, implementation and management of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in alliance with state governments. This has been **renamed as National Health Authority**.
- **Alliance with the States:** The Scheme is **principle based rather than rule based** -

- It allows enough flexibility to states in terms of packages, procedures, scheme design, entitlements as well as other guidelines while ensuring that key benefits of portability and fraud detection are ensured at a national level.
- The States will have the option of implementing this scheme through a **Trust model or Insurance Company based model**, though the Trust model will be preferred.
- For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, it is proposed to set up **Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPC)** at apex level Chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.
- **Fraud detection and Data privacy:** NHA Information Security Policy & Data Privacy Policy are being institutionalized to provide adequate guidance and set of controls on the secure handling of Beneficiaries Personal Data & Sensitive Personal Data in compliance with all laws and regulations applicable. It is the **first healthcare scheme with Privacy policy**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Aarogya Mitra (PMAM):** The scheme is creating a cadre of certified frontline health service professionals called **Pradhan Mantri Aarogya Mitras (PMAMs)** who will be primary point of facilitation for the beneficiaries to avail treatment at the hospital and thus, act as a support system to streamline health service delivery.
 - NSDC will skill them in terms of behavior, knowledge and presentation.
 - NSDC will use its network of PM Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVV).
 - They will also be **certified by Health Care Sector Skill Council** (non-statutory body for health sector under NSDC).

4.1.6. NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NHA)

Why in news?

The Union Cabinet has approved the **restructuring of existing National Health Agency as "National Health Authority"**.

More on news

- It has now been made an **attached office to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** for better implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- The Cabinet also approved a proposal to **upgrade the post of the NHA CEO** to that of a

- Secretary to the Government of India. Now the CEO will have-
- **Full financial powers** (Till now, all funds released by the NHA were done through the Ministry of Health).
 - Complete **administrative control** of the NHA.
 - The existing multi-tier decision making structure has been replaced with the **Governing Board**:
 - It will be chaired by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare
 - Its members will include NITI Aayog CEO and NHA CEO.
 - Due representation has been provided to domain experts and the states shall also be represented on the Board on rotational basis.
 - The board will meet at least once in three months.

The Union Cabinet took this step through an executive order, thus taking the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) out of the ambit of the **Ministry of Health whose role will now be limited** to acting as the nodal ministry for NHA in parliamentary matters, like the presentation of annual reports.

4.1.7. JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA - OXO-BIODEGRADABLE SANITARY NAPKIN

Why in news?

Government launched the 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA' – Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin – under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

Details

- The **affordable sanitary napkins** (at Rs. 2.50 per pad) will now become available at Janaushadhi Kendras. This will go a long way in making the basic hygiene requirement aid for women affordable for the underprivileged sections.
- Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes it **biodegradable** when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded, thus ensuring '**Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha**' for the underprivileged Women of India.

About Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

- It is a campaign launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Janaushadhi Kendra.

- The implementing agency for the scheme is **Bureau of Pharma PSU of India**
 - It was established in 2008 comprising all the Pharma CPSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
 - It brings about effective collaboration and cooperation in furthering the working and resources of these organizations.

Related information

The Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins initiative

- It is an initiative by three oil marketing companies – IOCL, BPCL and HPCL (under Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry) – was launched in Odisha.
- 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.

Menstrual Hygiene for Adolescent girls Schemes

- It is under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- Under the scheme, funds are provided to States/UTs through National Health Mission for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins packs for provision primarily to rural adolescent girls at subsidized rates as per proposals received from the States and UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans.
- This scheme encompasses provision of funds to ASHAs to hold monthly meeting with adolescents to discuss issues related to menstrual hygiene.

Related facts

- According to the National Family Health Survey 4, about 58% of women aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons.
- Further, about 78% women in urban areas use hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period; only 48% women in rural areas have access to clean sanitary napkins.

4.1.8. SCHEME FOR PHARMACOVIGILANCE OF AYUSH DRUGS

Why in news?

Ministry of AYUSH has introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of AYUSH Drugs.

About pharmacovigilance

- It is defined as the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug-related problem.

Related News

- **Ministry of AYUSH** recently launched **e-AUSHADHI portal** for Online Licensing System of AYUSH Medicine.
- It will provide real time information of the licensed manufactures and their products, cancelled and spurious drugs and contact details of the concerned authority for specific grievances.

About the scheme

- Objective:** To develop the **culture of documenting adverse effects** & undertake safety monitoring of AYUSH drugs.
- It will undertake **surveillance of misleading advertisements** appearing in the print and electronic media.
- All India Institute of Ayurveda**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, has been designated as National Pharmacovigilance Centre for coordinating various activities of the initiative.
- Representatives of **Central Drug Standards Control Organisation** as the national drug regulatory authority and the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission** being the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmacovigilance in the country are associated in the initiative as mentor and guide.

About Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO)

- It is the national drug regulatory authority under Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- It is **responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials** in the country and laying down the **standards for Drugs**.
- It exercises **control over the quality of imported drugs** and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations.
- It provides expert advice with a view of bringing about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

About Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

- It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- It is dedicated for setting of standards for drugs, pharmaceuticals and healthcare devices/ technologies etc.
- It also provides Reference Substances and Training.

While CDSCO has sole responsibility for Periodic Safety Update Reports, Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is in charge of co-ordinating Adverse Drug Reports (ADRs).

4.1.9. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION (2018-2023)

Why in news?

Recently Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment unveiled **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)**.

Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production

Golden Triangle

- It is the region between the borders of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.

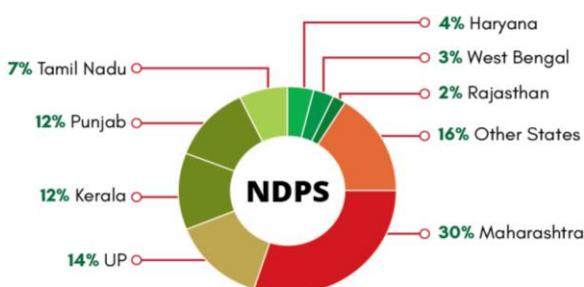
Golden Crescent

- It is the second major area of illicit opium production in Asia spanning across three nations; Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.
- It is located at the crossroads of Central, South and Western Asia.

About NAPDDR

- Objectives:** It aims to employ a **multi-pronged strategy** such as
 - Preventive Education, awareness generation, counseling, de-addiction, treatment and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.
 - Training and capacity-building of service providers through collaborative efforts of the Centre, state and NGOs.
- Administrative Mechanism**
 - Coordination with implementing agencies** for controlling sale of sedatives, painkillers and muscle relaxant drugs, and checking online sale of drugs by stringent monitoring by cyber cell.
 - A **multi ministerial steering committee** with representatives from Ministries of Social Justice, Health, Home Affairs, Human Resource Development and skill.
- Initiatives to be taken**
 - Holding awareness generation programmes** at educational institutes, workplaces and for police functionaries, etc.
 - Increasing community participation and public cooperation** in the reduction of demand by involving local bodies and other local groups like Mahila Mandals, self-help groups etc. is also planned.
 - Modules for re-treatment, ongoing treatment and post-treatment** of addicts of different categories and age groups and database on substance use.

NDPS CASES BY STATE



TOTAL: 49,256 Cases

Legal/ Constitutional Framework for Drugs Control

- Article 47** of the Constitution directs the State shall to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and to improve public health. It

asks for **prohibition of the consumption** drinks and drugs which are injurious to health.

- United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
 - It provides **comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, including provisions against money laundering.**
 - It provides for **international cooperation** through, for example, extradition of drug traffickers, controlled deliveries and transfer of proceedings.
- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act)
 - Essentially, the Act deals with **supply reduction activities**. It prohibits a person to produce/manufacture/cultivate, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store, and/or consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
 - Certain provisions for health care for drug dependent individuals also exists. It authorizes Central Government to take necessary measures for identification, treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation of addicts and preventive education.
 - It gives the Central Government the power to establish, maintain and regulate **treatment centres**.
 - It permits **supply of “drugs” to registered addicts**, and use of these substances for medicinal and scientific purposes.
 - There is **no provision for compulsory treatment** of addicts under this Act.
 - As a follow up to the act, **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** was constituted and empowered to coordinate all activities for administration and enforcement of the Act.
 - The **death penalty** was introduced in the Act in 1989, to deter narco-terrorism.
 - The law also provides a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years for offences involving commercial quantities of drugs. This determination assumes that people found with commercial quantities of drugs are drug traffickers.

4.1.10. WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO

Why in News?

Cabinet has given approval for India to accede to the Protocol under **WHO Framework convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) to eliminate unlawful trade in tobacco products.**

Background

- The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the **first international public health treaty** negotiated under the auspices of the WHO.
- The **objective of this Convention** and its protocols is to **protect present and future**

generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke.

- The convention recommends **large pictorial health warnings**.
- India is a party to WHO FCTC. India, for the first time, hosted the 7th session of COP meeting of FCTC.

Related News

The Supreme Court ruled that the tobacco products will continue to carry pictorial warning covering 85 per cent of the packaging space.

- The Union Health Ministry notified the new health warnings in its gazetted notification in April'2018 under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, 2014 (COTPA) for a mandatory display of **85% of the pictorial warning on both sides** of tobacco product packages all over India.
- The image must be printed with "Tobacco Causes Cancer" wordings along with **quit line number**- a dedicated toll-free number for free support and guidance for the tobacco users.

4.1.11. 71ST ASSEMBLY OF WHO

Why in news?

The World Health Organization's 71st World Health Assembly was recently held.

Highlights of the assembly

- The meet's primary focus this year was **universal health coverage**.
- It has **developed a new strategic plan for the next five years** to help the world **achieve the Sustainable Development Goals** – with a particular focus on SDG3- ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages by 2030.
- It sets **three targets** to ensure that by 2023
 - 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage;
 - 1 billion more people are better protected from health emergencies; and
 - 1 billion more people enjoy better health and wellbeing.
- WHO estimates that achieving this "**triple billion**" target **could save 29 million lives**.
- **Digital health resolution initiated by India was adopted** as its first resolution on digital health.
- The Assembly also adopted a resolution to help countries **tackle snake bites**.

World Health Assembly

- It is the **decision-making body** of WHO, attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.



- The **main functions** of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- It is **held annually** in Geneva, Switzerland.

4.1.12. WHO RELEASES NEW GLOBAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES

Why in News?

Recently, WHO released its **11th edition of International Classification of Diseases (ICD- 11)**.

About ICD

- It is the bedrock for health statistics. It maps the human condition from birth to death: any injury or disease we encounter in life – and anything we might die of – is coded.
- Not only that, the ICD also captures factors influencing health, or external causes of mortality and morbidity, providing a holistic look at every aspect of life that can affect health.
- The ICD serves as a foundation for identifying global health trends and is used by health insurers whose reimbursements depend on ICD coding.
- Some significant features of ICD-11 which will be presented at the **World Health Assembly** in May 2019 for adoption include:
 - It **includes more codes** and closely reflects the progress in medicine and advances in scientific understanding. For eg: the codes relating to antimicrobial resistance in the new ICD are more closely aligned with the **Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS)**.
 - It **better captures data** regarding healthcare safety.
 - It also uses for the first time an **electronic and user-friendly format**.
 - Inclusion of new chapters**, including ones on traditional medicine and sexual health.
 - Addition of **gaming disorder** to the section on addictive disorders.

About Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS)

- Launched in October 2015, it is being developed to support the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.
- It is aimed at **supporting global surveillance and research** in order to strengthen the evidence base on **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** and help informed decision-making and drive national, regional, and global actions.

- It promotes and supports a **standardized approach to the collection, analysis and sharing of AMR data at a global level** by encouraging and facilitating the establishment of **national AMR surveillance systems** that are capable of monitoring AMR trends and producing reliable and comparable data.

4.1.13. DELHI DECLARATION ON DIGITAL HEALTH

Why in news?

Recently, the Delhi Declaration on digital health for sustainable development was adopted at the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit.

More about declaration

- It called for WHO's leadership in digital health.
- It committed to accelerate and implement the appropriate **digital health interventions** to improve health of the population at national and sub-national levels by 2023.
- The Global Digital Health Partnership Summit was hosted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP).
 - The **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)** is a collaboration of governments and territories, government agencies and WHO, to support the effective implementation of digital health services.

4.1.14. ASTANA DECLARATION

Why in news?

Recently, Global Conference on Primary Health Care by UNICEF and World Health Organisation (WHO), has concluded with **Astana Deceleration** in Kazakhstan. All the 192-member countries of the United Nations, **including India**, signed the Astana Declaration.

More on news

- It is the global commitment to **strengthen Primary Health Care**.
- This declaration reaffirms the historic 1978 **Declaration of Alma-Ata**. **Alma-Ata Declaration** was the first declaration which identified **Primary Health Care** as a key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All.

4.1.15. PARTNERS FORUM 2018

Why in news?

The fourth Partners' Forum was recently held in New Delhi.

Details

- It was hosted by the Government of India, in association with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH).
- The PMNCH is an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 192 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities, as well as health influencing sectors.
- It was launched in September 2005 to accelerate efforts to reduce child and maternal mortality, improve adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health.
- Its Secretariat is hosted at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The PMNCH Partners' Forum serves as a regular global platform to consolidate and increase members' commitment to the objectives of The Partnership and maintains and reinforces high level political commitment.
- This is the second time India is hosting the Partners' Forum (earlier in 2012).

4.1.16. 2ND WORLD INTEGRATED MEDICINE FORUM 2019

Why in news?

Recently the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing global collaboration' was organized in Goa.

More on news

- The mission of the World Integrated Medicine Forum is to further develop evidence based Traditional and Integrated Systems of Medicine by promoting public-private co-operation.
- It was organised by Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), Ministry of AYUSH, Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States (HPCUS), Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

4.2. NUTRITION

4.2.1. GUIDELINES FOR SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Why in news?

The National Technical Board on Nutrition (NTBN) has approved guidelines proposed by Ministry of Women and Child Development for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

Severe Acute Malnutrition

- SAM is the most extreme and visible form of undernutrition. Its face is a child – frail and skeletal – who requires urgent treatment to survive.
- As per the **National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16)**, 7.5% children under 5 years of age have severe acute malnutrition in the country.

About the guidelines

- The measures are part of the **community-based health management** of children suffering from SAM. The government had, till now, only put in place guidelines for the hospitalisation of severely wasted children who develop medical complications.
- The guidelines **outline the role of anganwadi workers and auxillary nurse midwives (ANMs)** in identifying severely wasted children, segregating those with oedema or medical complications and sending them to the nearest health facility or nutrition rehabilitation centres.
- Anganwadi workers have to provide modified morning snacks, **hot cooked meals and take home ration** for SAM children. It is also suggested that local self-help groups, mothers or village committees be engaged for the preparation of these meals.

National Technical Board on Nutrition (NTBN)

- It has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Vinod Paul, member of NITI Aayog, under Ministry of Women and Child Development to make technical recommendations on policy relevant issues on Nutrition.**
- NTBN shall meet once in three months to review technical recommendations on policy relevant issues in nutrition. The Board for their day-to-day work shall be serviced by the concerned divisions of NITI Aayog.
- Role of Board is advisory and important terms of reference include-**
 - Advise the states/UTs on preventive measures (including behaviour change) and management of SAM children.
 - To coordinate the collation, synthesis of existing scientific and operational research, identify research gaps and make technical recommendations for the research agenda.
 - To provide technical guidance on the design of nutrition surveys proposed by States/UTs, other sectors and institutions and their coherence with ongoing National Health and other surveys.
 - Formulation of India specific growth indicators including stunting.

About NFHS

- The 2015-16 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) is the fourth in a series of national surveys; earlier

National Family Health Surveys were carried out in 1992-93 (NFHS-1), 1998-99 (NFHS-2) and 2005-06 (NFHS-3).

- All National Family Health Surveys have been conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, serving as the nodal agency.
- NFHS-4 funding** was provided by the Government of India, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the MacArthur Foundation.

Other Important findings of National Family Health Survey-4 (not for remembering, only indicative)

Indicators	NFHS-4 (2015-16)			NFHS-3 (2005-06)
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	29	46	41	57
Under-five mortality rate (U5MR)	34	56	50	74
Current Use of Family Planning Methods (currently married women age 15-49 years)	57.2	51.7	53.5	56.3
Mothers who had full antenatal care (%)	31.1	16.7	21.0	11.6
Institutional births (%)	88.7	75.1	78.9	38.7
Children age 12-23 months fully immunized (BCG, measles, and 3 doses each of polio and DPT) (%)	63.9	61.3	62.0	43.5
Under-five Stunted (height-for-age) (%)	31.0	41.2	38.4	48.0
Under-five Wasted (weight-for-height) (%)	20.0	21.5	21.0	19.8
Under-five Severely Wasted (weight-for-height) (%)	7.5	7.4	7.5	6.4
Under-five Underweight (weight-for-age) (%)	29.1	38.3	35.8	42.5
All women age 15-49 years who are anaemic (%)	50.8	54.3	53.1	55.3
Under-five Anaemic Children (6-59 months) (%)	56.0	59.5	58.6	69.4

Related News

- Recently, a research '**Understanding the geographical burden of stunting in India**' was published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It has tried to understand the geographical burden of stunting

across districts, using data from the National Family Health Survey 4 (2015-2016).

- According to it, high-stunting districts are heavily clustered in the northern and central states of India.** They are home to 80% of the stunted children in India. In comparison, all the southern states put together account for about 13% of the stunted children in India.
- About International Food Policy Research Institute**
 - It was established in 1975 to provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.
 - It is a research center of CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), a worldwide partnership engaged in agricultural research for development.
 - Its releases **Global Food Policy Report** annually.

4.2.2. POSHAN ABHIYAAN

Why in news?

POSHAN Abhiyaan (**PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment**) was formally launched by the Prime Minister from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

Details

- POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition from the Country in a phased manner, through the **life cycle concept**, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach.
- Implementation strategy and targets:** It would be based on intense monitoring and Convergence Action Plan right upto the grass root level. NNM will be rolled out in three phases from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- NNM targets to reduce** stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. Although the target to reduce Stunting is atleast 2% p.a., Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (**Mission 25 by 2022**).
- One of the key activities of Abhiyaan is implementation of **ICDS-Common Application Software**. Anganwadi workers feed the information regarding the services delivered, through the mobile devices installed with ICDS-CAS application.

The **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries.

The proposal consists of

- Mapping of various Schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition

- Introducing a very robust convergence mechanism
- ICT based Real Time Monitoring system
- Incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools
- Social Audits
- Setting-up Nutrition Resource Centres, involving masses through Jan Andolan for their participation on nutrition through various activities, among others.
- An **Executive Committee** has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development to provide policy support and guidance to States/ UTs under POSHAN Abhiyaan from time to time.
- A **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** has also been set up under the Chairpersonship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog for policy direction, review, effective coordination and convergence between Ministries which have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of nutrition.
- September 2018 has been celebrated as the **Rashtriya Poshan Maah** across the Country.

4.2.3. MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Why in news?

Recently Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the revision of norms under **Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme**.

About the Scheme

- It envisages to provide cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20 g of protein at upper primary level.
- It also involves providing nutritional support to children of **elementary stage in drought-affected area** during summer vacation.
- It is a **Centrally-Sponsored Scheme** and the cost of the MDMS is shared between the central and state governments.
 - The central government provides free food grains to the states.
 - The cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains and payment of honorarium to cooks and helpers is shared by the centre with the state governments. The central government provides a greater share of funds.
 - The contribution of state governments differs from state to state.

Recent revised norms

- Annual increase in **Cooking cost linked to Inflation Index** to offset the impact of inflation on the food items under Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- Two new components** have also been approved

- **Repair of kitchen-cum stores:** Assistance for the kitchen-cum-stores constructed ten years ago on sharing basis between Center and States.
- **Fortification of food items** in a systematic manner through Food Corporation of India (FCI) starting with rice Kitchen gardens in each school will be encouraged.
- **Delegation of power of implementing the scheme with minor modifications** from the existing guidelines to District Level Committee Chaired by the District Magistrate.
- Other norms include:
 - **Use of Pulses from buffer stock** -The States and UTs may procure pulses as per their local taste for the Mid-Day Meal from the Central buffer stock created by the Government of India.
 - **Monitoring of attendance** – All States and UTs are required to ensure that daily data from 100% schools is uploaded through Automated Monitoring System (AMS).
 - **Menu under MDM** - States and UTs are required to adopt ways to develop a menu that reflects local taste and local produce that is different on different days.
 - **Tithi Bhojan:** to encourage people from the community to celebrate important days such as child birth, marriage, birthdays etc. by contributing to the MDM Scheme. **Tithi Bhojan is not a substitute to MDM** but it supplements or complements MDM.
 - **Usage of Jails, Temples, Gurudwaras etc. for MDM**- All States and UTs are being advised to involve community and other agencies such as Jails, Temples, Gurudwaras etc. in the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

4.2.4. ASHA, ANM AND ANGANWADI WORKERS

Why in news?

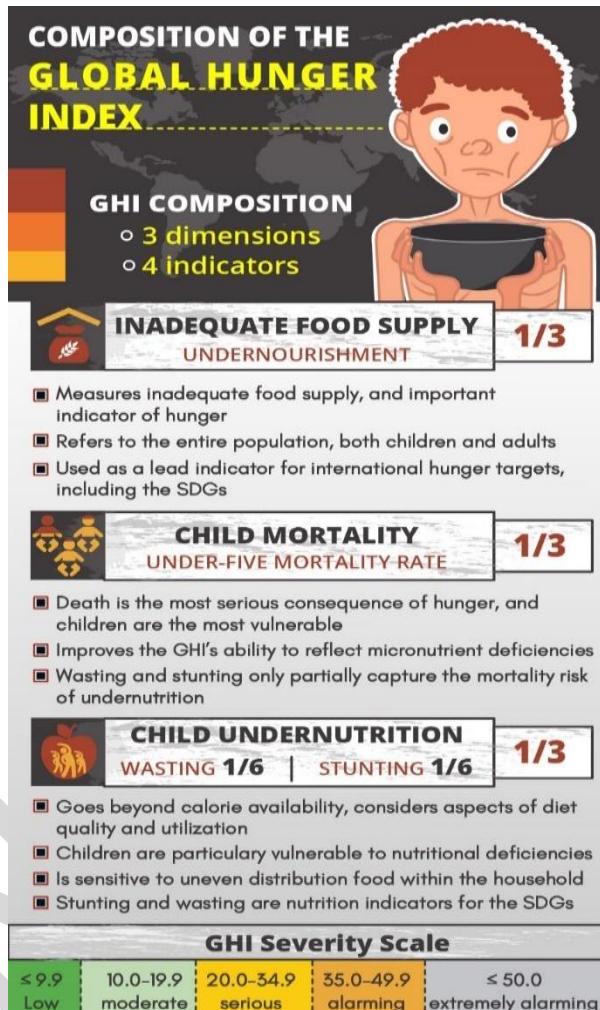
- The Prime Minister announced the doubling of routine incentives given by the Union Government to ASHA workers. In addition, all ASHA workers and their helpers would be provided free insurance cover under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- Prime Minister also announced significant increase in the honorarium given to Anganwadi workers (AWWs).

India has three cadres of Community Health Workers.

- **Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife (ANM)** – they manage immunization and Maternal and Child Healthcare programs. They are based out of sub-centers, the lowest facility in the rural public health care system.
- **Anganwadi Worker (AWW)** – they manage nutritional supplementation at anganwadi centers for young children, adolescent girls, and lactating women. They also help with promotion of healthy behaviors and mobilization of the community for improved water and sanitation, participation in immunization activities and other special health activities.
- **Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)**– they encourage women to seek Ante-Natal Checkup and give birth in health centers, assist the ANM with health events such as immunization days, and provide basic first aid and medical supplies such as ORS, contraceptive pills and iron folic acid tablets.
 - ASHA workers are to be based in their villages, and they refer people to their local primary health center and community health center.
- The ANM cadre is the most well-educated and oldest cadre among the village-level health workers, having been established in the 1960s. The AWW is also well-established in the domain of childcare and nutrition, having been part of the health care system since the mid-1970s. The ASHA is an entirely new cadre, launched in 2005 by the National Rural Health Mission. As the new and often younger addition, ASHAs are monitored and supported by the ANM and AWW.

4.2.5. IMPORTANT REPORTS IN NEWS

- **Global Hunger Index 2018**- It is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels. It was published jointly by **Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide**.
 - India has been ranked at 103 out of 119 countries in the GHI 2018, with hunger levels in the country categorised as “serious”. India’s ranking has dropped three places from 2017.
 - Apart from child wasting, India has shown improvement in three of the indicators.



- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** - This is an **annual report jointly prepared** by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - **It seeks to inform** on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - One of the measures used by the report - **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)**, which is a new tool (introduced in 2017) based on direct interviews to measure people's ability to access food.
 - 2018 report confirms a rise in world hunger: the number of people who suffer from hunger has been growing over the past three years, returning to levels from almost a decade ago.

- **Global Nutrition Report** - It came into existence 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.
 - It has observed that India is facing a **major malnutrition crisis** as it is the country with the **highest number of 'stunted' and 'wasted' children** in the world.

4.3. SANITATION

4.3.1. SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2019

Why in news?

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs recently launched Swachh Survekshan 2019, SBM ODF+ and SBM ODF++ Protocols and web-based citizen engagement platform Swachh Manch.
- Results of Swachh Survekshan 2019 have been announced recently.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban)

- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) aims at
 - elimination of open defecation
 - eradication of manual scavenging
 - modern and scientific municipal solid waste management
 - to effect behavioural change regarding healthy sanitation practices
 - generate awareness about sanitation and its linkage with public health
 - capacity augmentation of Urban Local Bodies and
 - to create an enabling environment for private sector participation in capital and operation and maintenance expenditure.
- **At the core of this mission lie six components:**
 - Individual household toilets (IHHL);
 - Community toilets;
 - Public toilets;
 - Municipal Solid Waste Management;
 - Information and Educating Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness;
 - Capacity Building

Results of Swachh Survekshan 2019

- Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the third straight year. The second and third positions in the category were grabbed by Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh and Mysore in Karnataka.
- While the New Delhi Municipal Council area was given the 'Cleanest Small City' award, Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged the 'Best Ganga Town' in the central government survey. The 'Cleanest Big City' award has been bagged by Ahmedabad, while Raipur is the 'Fastest Moving Big City'.

Swachh Survekshan 2019

- This fourth edition Swachh Survekshan 2019 aims to increase the coverage of the ranking exercise to **all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**. (Swachh Survekshan 2018 ranked 4,203 Cities.) The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** is responsible for carrying out the assessment.
- The distinctive features of the survey include encouraging large-scale citizen participation, ensuring sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, providing credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification etc.
- Data will be collected from 4 broad sources – 'Service Level Progress', Direct Observation, Citizens Feedback and Certification (newly introduced). Certification will be done on two different components-
 - **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities** (20% weightage of marks)- It includes components such as cleanliness of drains & water bodies, plastic waste management, managing construction & demolition waste, etc. which are critical drivers for achieving garbage free cities.
 - **Open Defecation Free Protocols** (5% weightage)

Quality Council of India

- It was set up jointly by the **Government of India and the Indian Industry** represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- It aims to establish and operate **national accreditation structure** and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.
- It is governed by a Council of 38 members with equal representations of government, industry and consumers.
- Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the industry to the government.
- The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.

SBM ODF+ and ODF++ Protocol

- The original ODF protocol, issued in March 2016, said, "A city/ward is notified as ODF city/ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open. With 18 states / UTs and 3,223 cities declared ODF. The ODF+ and ODF++ protocols are the next step for the SBM-U and aim to ensure sustainability in sanitation outcomes.



- The **ODF+ protocol** says that a city, ward or work circle could be declared ODF+ if, “at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or **urinating in the open**, and all community and public toilets are functional and well-maintained.”
- The **ODF++ protocol** adds the condition that “**faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated**, with no discharging and/or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.”
- Thus, the **SBM ODF+ protocol focuses on** sustaining community/ public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance while **SBM ODF++ will focus on** achieving sanitation sustainability by addressing complete sanitation value chain, including safe containment, processing and disposal of faecal sludge and septage.

Swachh Manch web portal

- It is a web-based platform which aims to bring together every stakeholder contributing to the Swachh Bharat Mission under a common platform. It will allow stakeholders to create/invite/participate in volunteering opportunities around neighborhoods.
- It will enable uploads of pictorial evidence of citizens and organizations participating in the initiatives, as well as record the number of hours volunteered, as acknowledgement of citizens'/organisations' efforts and contributions to the cause of 'swachhata'.
- The Swachh Manch will also be integrated with the existing Swachhata App to act as a citizens' grievance redressal platform.

Including Public Urination in New Protocol - This is the first time that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is officially including the elimination of public urination in its agenda.

4.3.2. DARWAZA BAND CAMPAIGN

Why in news?

Ministry of Drinking Water and sanitation has launched part two of the nation-wide campaign called Darwaza Band to **promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation**.

More on news

- It is promoted under the aegis of **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** and envisages to

- bring about a behavioral change in men who have toilets but are not using them.
- In part 2 of the campaign it aims to further promote the use of toilets and to sustain the open defecation free status of villages across India.
- **World Bank** is supporting the ongoing part two of the Darwaza Band campaign.

4.3.3. SWACHHATA HI SEVA CAMPAIGN

Why in news?

Recently, Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign was launched.

About the Campaign

- It is the second edition of the campaign launched in 2017, which aims at accelerating the vision for a Clean India.
- **Objectives of SHS**
 - **Accelerate** the momentum of Swachh Bharat in the run-up to its 4th anniversary.
 - **Re-energise** the Swachh Bharat Jan Andolan and lay down the foundation of sustainability.
 - **Reinforce** the concept of “Sanitation as everyone's business”.
 - Commence Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth year celebrations with a **nationwide campaign**.
- It also aims at engaging **sharamdan activities** with huge community mobilisation through grassroot swachhata champions such as woman sarpanches, students, film celebrities, sports persons etc.
- The Campaign also aims to engage with media which has been playing crucial role in creating awareness about the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Related News

Swachh Shakti-2019 Programme

- It is a **convention of Women Sarpanches**, aimed at empowering the women, which was held in Kurukshetra.
- It aims to bring in to focus the **leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- It is being organized by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** in association with the **Government of Haryana**.
- The Swachh Shakti program was **first held** in 2017 at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

5.1. SDG INDIA INDEX - BASELINE REPORT 2018

NITI Aayog recently came up with the SDG India Index- Baseline report 2018.

SDG India Index

- NITI Aayog has developed the SDG India Index in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute and United Nations in India.
- The SDG India Index tracks progress of all States and UTs on 62 Priority Indicators selected by NITI Aayog, which in turn is guided by MoSPI's National Indicator Framework and based on multiple-round consultations with Union Ministries/Departments and States/UTs.
- It measures their progress on the outcomes of the interventions and schemes of the Government of India.
- SDG India Index spans across 13 out of 17 SDGs (excluding Goals 12, 13, 14 and 17).
- A composite score has been computed between the range of 0-100 for each State and UT.
- If a State/UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies that it has achieved the 2030 national targets.
- Classification Criteria based on SDG India Index Score is as follows:
 - Aspirant: 0-49
 - Performer: 50-64
 - Front Runner: 65-99
 - Achiever: 100
- Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are the top performers among states with a score of 69. Chandigarh leads the UTs with a score of 68.
- According to the SDG India Index, the nation as a whole has a score of 58, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark in meeting the SDGs.
- The Index can be useful to States/UTs in assessing their starting point on the SDGs.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

- It is a treaty-based international, inter-governmental organization dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.
- India is not yet a member country of the GGGI but is recognised as a partner.

Sustainable Development Goals

- In 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- These seek to build upon Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGs were a set of eight goals set by the UN in 2000.

- SDGs were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.
 - GOAL 1: No Poverty
 - GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
 - GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - GOAL 4: Quality Education
 - GOAL 5: Gender Equality
 - GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
 - GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
 - GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
 - GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
 - GOAL 13: Climate Action
 - GOAL 14: Life Below Water
 - GOAL 15: Life on Land
 - GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
 - GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

5.2. DUBAI DECLARATION' ADOPTED TO MEASURE PROGRESS OF SDGS

At the conclusion of the UN World Data forum, 2018, 'Dubai Declaration' was adopted.

About the Declaration

- It is hard to measure the actual progress of the SDGs due to lack of data for two-thirds of the indicators. Only 0.3% of aid goes to the development of statistical systems.
- Recognizing this, Dubai Declaration was adopted which detailed measures to boost funding for data and statistical analysis for monitoring and speeding up progress towards the 2030 SDGs.
- Aimed towards mobilizing domestic and international funds and activating more effective data partnerships, this Declaration supports the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

About Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data

- Informally launched at the 1st UN World Data Forum and was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017.
- Intended to provide a framework for discussion on, and planning and implementation of statistical capacity building necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

About UN World Data Forum

- It was created after recommendation of a report titled 'A World That Counts' by UN Statistical Commission.
- The first United Nations World Data Forum was hosted from 15 to 18 January 2017 in Cape Town.



- It is meant for intensifying cooperation between professional groups (IT Experts, Geospatial Information Managers, Data Scientists etc. as well as civil society stakeholders).
- In India the review process is led by NITI Aayog, Research and Information system, a think tank attached with Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. They prepare the Voluntary National Review (VRN) Report.

5.3. WORLD SUMMIT ON ACCREDITATION

Why in news?

The World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) was held New Delhi, which provides platform to stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.

About WOSA

- It is a **biennial summit** organized by **National Board of Accreditation (NBA)**.
- The theme of WOSA 2018 is “**Challenges and Opportunities in Outcome Based Accreditation**”.

About NBA

- It is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It was initially established **under AICTE** (All India Council of Technical Education) act, in 1994.
- It is engaged in quality assurance of programs offered by professional and technical institutions in India through accreditation.
- It has been accorded **Permanent Signatory Status of Washington Accord** since 2014.

5.4. UN GLOBAL MEDIA COMPACT

Why in News?

Recently more than 30 organizations from across the world including India's **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** have come together to form a global media compact.

More about the compact

- It is an initiative of the United Nations, in collaboration with the UN Foundation.
- It is aimed at advancing awareness and ensuring accountability in the Governments regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030.
- It seeks to inspire organisations around the world to create content partnerships with the UN and leverage their resources and creative talent to advance the Goals.

5.5. SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGULATORY NETWORK

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the **Information Sharing Platform**

(ISP) **Gateway for SEARN** developed by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)**.

- **SEARN** was launched by the WHO South-East Asia Region member countries to enhance information sharing, collaboration and convergence of medical product regulatory practices across the Region to **guarantee access to high-quality medical products**.
 - It is led by a steering group of which India is a permanent member.

5.6. WEB-WONDER WOMEN CAMPAIGN

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched an online campaign, '#www: Web-Wonder Women'.
- The Campaign aims to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media. It will recognize and acknowledge the efforts of these meritorious women.
- Indian-origin women, working or settled anywhere in the world, are eligible for nomination. The shortlisted entries will be open for public voting on Twitter and the finalists will be selected by a specialized panel of judges.

5.7. WOMEN'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY (W-GDP) INITIATIVE

- The **White House** has launched the W-GDP Initiative, a **government project led by Ivanka Trump**.
- It aims to coordinate current programs and develop new ones to **assist women in areas such as job training, financial support, and legal or regulatory reforms**.
- Its goal is to reach **50 million women in the developing world by 2025**.
- The effort will draw on public and private resources, with the U.S. Agency for International Development initially setting up a USD 50 million fund.

5.8. GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

- Karnataka became the first state in the country with a Good Samaritan law in place

More on news

- The legislation aims to give protection to good Samaritans and ensure immediate medical assistance for road accident victims within the 'golden hour' and encourage people to offer first aid to victims without fear of harassment in the hands of police and investigations.
- In medical terminology, the '**golden hour**' is the **first hour** after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial.

5.9. REPORTS AND INDEXES

Report/Indexes	Details
Global Peace Index, 2018 by the Institute for Economics and Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a measure of global peacefulness. It uses 23 indicators under three thematic domains – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The level of Societal Safety and Security The extent of on-going Domestic and International conflicts The degree of Militarisation India has been ranked 136 out of 163 in 2018. Iceland remained the most peaceful country while Syria the least peaceful country
Global Liveability Index 2018 by The Economist Intelligence Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an annual index which ranks global cities according to their living conditions. It is based on 30 indicators covering five broad categories—stability (25%), healthcare (20%), culture and environment (25%), education (10%) and infrastructure (20%) and uses New York as a baseline to measure each city While Damascus (Syria) is the least liveable city, Vienna has come at the top of the 2018 list Delhi and Mumbai are the only two cities from India to feature on the Global Liveability Index which and they have been ranked 112 and 117 respectively.
Global Wage Report 2018-19 by International Labor Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an annual publication of ILO which focuses on different aspects of labour wages and its impact on equitable growth and social justice. Findings of Global Wage Report 2018-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real global wage growth in 2017 (1.8%) fell to its lowest growth rate since 2008 High income countries have lower wage inequality than low- and mid-income countries. E.g. Sweden has the lowest wage inequality. India has the highest average real wage growth (5.5%) in South Asia in 2008-17. India and Pakistan had the highest gender pay gap

Global Education Monitoring Report 2019 by UNESCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report is titled Migrations, Displacement and Education and discusses impact of migration on education. India is home to some of the world's largest internal population movements alongside China.
The Global Slavery Index 2018 by the Walk Free Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 Global Slavery Index provides a country by country ranking based on 3 key indicators: number of people in modern slavery, governments response to modern slavery, and the factors that make people vulnerable. This is the 4th edition with others being 2013, 2014, and 2016.
Global Gender Gap Report 2018 by World Economic Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was introduced in 2006 as a framework for capturing the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracking the progress overtime. The Report benchmarks 149 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. In 2018, India recorded improvements in wage equality for similar work and fully closed its tertiary education gap for the first time, but progress lags on health and survival, remaining the world's least improved country on this sub-index over the past decade.