

### PT 360: 5 Years Current Affairs

PT 360 is a Course for **5 years Current Affairs for Prelims.** It includes Current Affairs from June 2016 to May 2021.

**Course Duration:** 25 Hours for 5 Years Current Affairs. Number of Pages: Approx. 300.

**Subjects:** 1. Indian Polity. 2. International Relations. 3. Social Issues. 4. Environment, Geography, and Maps. 5. Economy. 6. Art and Culture. 7. Science And Technology. 8. Governance: Ministries, Schemes, Policies, Acts, and Bills.

#### Approach

- All the subjects are segregated into topics and Subtopics.
- Eg. Social issues PT is segregated into 9 subtopics: 1. Women. 2. Children. 3. Other Vulnerable Sections. 4. Education. 5. Health. 6. Drug Abuse Issues. 7. Food and Nutrition. 8. Index and Reports. 9. Miscellaneous.
- The Women Topic is again segregated into its related subtopics: 1.1 International Initiatives. 1.2 Marriage, Divorce, and Inheritance. 1.3 Violence and Harassment. 1.4 National Initiatives. 1.5 Motherhood. 1.6 Women Education. 1.7 Women Health. 1.8 Schemes
- Schemes related to women are covered in Governance PT under Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Relevance of PT 360 for Mains:** You need to update the analytical part for the Mains. Also, pointers from this course can be used as fodder for Mains. like examples, case studies, court judgements etc.

#### Note:

1. Videos are free at YouTube. Content is not part of free videos.
2. Course completion date: 15 days before Prelims.

### Social Issues

#### Contents

## 1. WOMEN

### 1.1 International initiatives

#### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action-BPFA (1995)**

- It was adopted in **Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing-1995)**.
- It was **one of the largest** gatherings of the **United Nations**
- It was a **critical turning point** in the **world's focus** on gender equality and women empowerment.
- Note: First WC in Mexico City (1975), Second WC in Copenhagen (1980) and Third WC in Nairobi (1985).
- Recently, Ministry of Women & Child Development, and **National Commission for Women (NCW) and UN Women** organized a National Consultation on **Review of Beijing +25**.

#### *Outcomes of BPFA - 1995*

- It sets **strategic objectives and actions for advancement of women** and achievement of gender equality in **12 critical areas of concern**.
- **Not legally binding.**
- The **rights of the girl child** were first time facilitated. Eg. child marriage, female infanticide, genital mutilation and prenatal sex selection.
- The progress in its implementation is reviewed every five years by **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**.

#### **World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics Report**

- It is released by **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.
- This Report analyses **the global status of women** since adoption of **Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action, 1995**.
- This report indicates towards gender equality 6 critical areas:
  - Population and family.
  - Health.
  - Education.
  - Economic Power & Asset Ownership.
  - Power and decision-making.
  - Violence against women and the girl child.

#### **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

- It is a functional commission of **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- It is an **intergovernmental body** exclusively dedicated to promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

#### **UN Women**

- Dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- To make the vision of the **Sustainable Development Goals** a reality for women.
- To stands behind women's **equal participation in all aspects of life**.

#### **SDG Gender Index**

- **By Equal Measures 2030**
- **India** ranks toward the **bottom of the Asia and the Pacific region**.

## Gender Gap Report 2020

- Released by **World Economic Forum**.
- **Four thematic dimensions:**
  - Economic Participation and Opportunity
  - Educational Attainment
  - Health and Survival, and
  - Political Empowerment.
- Performance of India
  - India **slipped four places to 112th rank** and has closed two-thirds of its overall gender gap (score of 66.8%).
  - *While India has improved in political empowerment, it has fallen in other three indicators.*

## World Economic Forum

- Established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It is the **International Organization for Public- Private Cooperation**.
- It is the Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

## Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI)

- Released by **UNDP**.
- It measures how **social beliefs obstruct gender equality**. Eg. in politics, work, and education.
- Despite closing gender inequalities in basic areas like education and health, **enormous power gaps still exist between genders** in the political and corporate arenas.

## Women in Politics

- India has **18.5% representation** of women in Cabinet and is **greater than Asian average**.
- **The top 5 countries in terms of women in Parliament are:**
  - Rwanda, Bolivia, Cuba, Iceland and Nicargua.

## 1.2 Marriage, divorce and inheritance

### Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019

Context: The act will replace the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986; enacted after the Shah Bano Case (1985).

#### Key Provisions

- **Talaq-e-biddat** (the practice of instant triple talaq)
  - It is void and illegal.
  - A **cognizable criminal offence** with imprisonment up to three years and fine.
- **Scope for reconciliation:** without undergoing the Nikah Halala process
- **Allowance to seek subsistence allowance** from her husband for **herself and her children**.
  - The **amount of allowance** will be determined by the **Magistrate**.
- **Custody:** A victim is entitled to **seek custody of her minor children**.
  - The **manner of custody** will be determined by the **Magistrate**.

*Changes made from the Original Bill of 2017*

- The Act makes the **offence cognisable** only if the victim woman, or one related to her by blood or marriage, files a police complaint.
- The offence has been made **compoundable**: that is, parties can mutually **settle the matter**.
- **A magistrate may grant bail** to the husband after hearing the wife.

**Note:**

**Cognizable offence:** For which police may **arrest** an accused person **without warrant**.

### Various forms of Talaq/Separation

#### Talaq-e- biddat

- If a man pronounces talaq thrice in a sitting, or through phone, or writes in a talaqnama or a text message, the divorce is considered immediate and irrevocable.
- The only way back is the Nikah Halala.

#### Talaq-ul-sunnat

- Under this, once the husband pronounces talaq, the wife has to observe a three-month iddat period during which the husband can arbitrate and re-conciliate with the wife.
- Nikah Halala is not required.

#### Nikah Halala

- A practice under which a divorced Muslim woman has to marry another man and consummate the marriage and get a divorce.
- Only then can she be eligible to remarry her former husband.

### Dowry Prohibition Act

- If someone **takes, gives, or even demands** dowry, he can be imprisoned or fined.

### Anti-Dowry Act 1961

- **It defined dowry as:** Any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given in connection with the marriage.
- It **prohibits** giving and taking of **dowry**.
- It does not apply for the presents given at the time of wedding.
- **Section 304B:** It relates to Dowry Deaths.

### Jaya Jaitley committee

- To examine the Minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21.
- **Correlation of age of marriage** and motherhood.
  - with health, medical well-being, nutritional status of the mother and child etc.
- This amendment will be done in Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006.

### Age of majority

- It is the threshold of adulthood as recognized by the law. It is **gender-neutral**.
- At this age, minors cease to be considered such.
- **Indian Majority Act, 1875:** age of majority is 18 years.
- Minors assume legal control over their persons, actions, and decisions.
- It terminates the control and legal responsibilities of their parents or guardian over them.
- The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority.

### Age of consent

- It is the age at which a person is considered to be **legally competent to consent to sexual acts.**
- An adult, who engages in sexual activity with a person younger than the age of consent is **unable to legally claim** that the **sexual activity was consensual.**
- Such sexual activity may be considered **child sexual abuse or statutory rape.**

### Hindu women's inheritance rights

- A Hindu woman's **right to be a joint heir** to the ancestral property **is by birth;** and **does not depend on whether her father was alive or not** when the law was enacted in 2005. – Supreme Court
- Hindu woman's right to be on terms equal to male heirs.

### Background

- **Prakash v Phulwati case (2015):** benefit of the 2005 amendment could be granted only to "**living daughters of living coparceners**" as on September 9, 2005.
- In 2018, contrary to the 2015 ruling, Court held that
  - **The share of a father who died in 2001 will also pass to his daughters** as coparceners during the partition of the property as per the 2005 law.
- In 2018, again, the Court **reiterated the 2015 position.**

### Coparcener

- a person who shares **equally** with others in the **inheritance** of an undivided estate or in the rights to it.
- As per the **Hindu Succession Act, 1956,** any individual born in a **Hindu**

**Undivided Family (HUF)** becomes a **coparcener by birth.**

### Adultery

- Sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband.
- **Current legal status of adultery in India:**
  - It cannot be a criminal offence however it can be a ground for civil issues like divorce.
- **Adultery is not accepted on the moral grounds under:**
  - Central and State Civil services act.
  - Army Act.
  - This could cause 'Unbecoming the member of Service'.

### Violence and harassment

### The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)

- Based on the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).** India ratified it in 1993.

### Key provisions

- **Wide definition**
  - The Act includes not just physical, but also verbal, emotional, sexual and economic violence.
  - The law protects women any domestic **relationship.** Eg. married women, mothers,

- grandmothers, daughters and sisters.
- The law protects women in **live-in relationships**
- Excludes abuses pertaining to martial rape.
- Victim can seek **financial compensation**. They can get **maintenance** from their abuser if they are **living apart**.
- **Right to Secure Housing:** i.e. right to reside in the matrimonial or shared household, whether or not she has any title or rights in the household.
- This right is secured by a **residence order**, which is passed **by a court**.
- A **magistrate** can pass a **protection order** for the victim.
- **Protection officer or NGOs:** for legal aid, medical examination and safe shelter.
- **Punishment:** imprisonment and fine, or both.
- **Exclusion of liability of informant:** If any person has valid reasons to believe, that an act of domestic violence is committed, or is likely to be committed; he may inform the Protection Officer.

#### IPC Section 498A

- It applies to husbands or his relatives, who are **cruel to women**.
- Recently, the Supreme Court **restored an immediate arrest provision** in this section.

#### SHW Act, 2013

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

##### *Key features*

- The **Act defines SHW** and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.

- **Wide definition of “aggrieved woman”:** It **covers all women**.
  - Irrespective of age, employment status; organized or unorganized sectors, public or private; clients, customers and **domestic workers** etc.
- **Quid pro quo harassment included:** i.e. Means something for something.
  - Eg. employment, pay, position etc. are conditioned on the submission to unwelcome sexual advances.
- It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.
- **Internal Complaint Committee (ICC):** It is mandatory in every private or public organisation that has **10 or more employees**.
  - It has **powers of a civil court** for summoning, discovery and production of documents etc.
  - It requires **membership from a women NGO**.
- **Local Complaints Committee**
  - Required to be constituted in every district by the State government.
  - It will receive complaints from organizations having **less than 10 workers**, or if the complaint is **against the employer himself**.
  - An **additional such Committee** shall also be constituted at the **block level**.
- **Criticism of SHW Act:**
  - It 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.

### Important judgments on Domestic Violence

- The Domestic Violence Act will apply **even after divorce.** - Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court has **struck down the words “adult male”** from the DV Act. Now a complaint **against woman can also** be done. (**Gender neutral law**)
- Granting **maintenance** is not dependent upon the expression **“unable to maintain herself”**. Maintenance **doesn't depend on wife's earning.** - Delhi High Court.
- The **brother-in-law** may also have liability to pay maintenance to a victim. - Supreme Court.

### Swadhar Greh Scheme, 2015

- It comes under **Women and Child Ministry.**
- **Objective:**
  - To provide **institutional support** (Relief and Rehabilitation) for women, who are **victims** of Violence, Sexual Harassment, difficult circumstances etc.
- It depends on State/UTs to implement this scheme.

### National initiatives

#### National Commission for Women (NCW)

- It is the **statutory body established in 1992** under NCW Act, 1990.
- One Chairperson and five members.
- All the **members are nominated by the Central Government.**

#### Mandate of commission

- To safeguard women's rights granted by constitution and laws
- To study problems faced by women in the current day
- To **make recommendations** to eradicate these problems,
- **Regular evaluation of the status** of Indian women
- **Funding and pursuing cases related** to women's rights violations in legal courts.

### Women in Territorial Army (TA)

- Women can be the members of Territorial Army- **Delhi High Court.**
- Delhi HC **cancels the Section 6 of the Territorial Army Act,1948**, which says:
  - Only gainfully employed men would become the member of TA and prohibits women's entry.
- **Territorial Army:**
  - It is a voluntary force of civilians in the Uniform without joining the regular army.
  - It is a part of regular army and assists in civil administration.
  - It is also known as 2<sup>nd</sup> line of defence after the regular army.
- **Criteria to join TA:**
  - An individual should be well settled and employed.
  - Age criteria: 18-42 years.

### Women Entry to Religious Places

- women should be allowed to enter to all religious places “at par with men”- **Bombay high court.**
- HC held that the Trust cannot enforce any religious ban to women. As its is the violation of:
  - Article 14, Article 15, Article 25.

## Motherhood

### Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

It amends Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.

#### *Grounds of abortion as per 1971 Act*

- If a woman has a **threat to life**, physical or mental injury due to pregnancy.
- If new-born **child has a threat** to suffer from **physical and mental abnormalities**.
- If pregnancy is caused due to **rape**; or due to the **failure of contraceptive methods**.

#### *Salient features of 2020 Bill*

- **Contraceptive-failure condition relaxed:**
  - **Present provision:** “only married woman or her husband”
  - **Changes made:** “any woman or her partner”
  - Allows them to medically terminate the pregnancy.
- **Defined special category women (SCW).**  
It includes
  - Survivors of **rape**
  - Victims of **incest** (Sexual relations between **close relative**)
  - **Other vulnerables** like differently-abled women, minors etc.
- **Upper gestation limit enhanced for special category women: From 20 to 24 weeks**
- Opinion of **registered medical practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy**

- Opinion of **1 RMP for termination of up to 20 weeks** of gestation.
- 2 RMP's opinion for **termination of 20-24 weeks** of gestation.
- Earlier, **beyond 20 weeks** allowed only after **court's approval**.
- **Substantial foetal abnormalities cases**
  - Limit of **24 weeks will not apply**.
  - It will be diagnosed by a **Medical Board**.
- **Privacy of women** whose pregnancy has been terminated shall be maintained.
  - Except – if authorized by any law.

## Surrogacy

It is an arrangement, often supported by a legal agreement, whereby one woman carries the child for another, with the intention that the child should be handed over after birth.

#### **Altruistic surrogacy**

- The surrogate mother is not paid any compensation, other than the medical and insurance expenses related to the pregnancy.

#### **Commercial surrogacy**

- Compensation (in cash or kind) is paid to the surrogate mother, over and above the reasonable medical expenses.

#### **Gestational surrogacy**

- The child is not biologically related to the surrogate mother or the gestational carrier.
- Instead, the **embryo** is created via **in vitro fertilization (IVF)**, using the

eggs and sperm of the intended parents, and is **then transferred to the surrogate.**

### **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019**

Currently, India remains among a handful of countries where paid surrogacy is legal. It was banned for foreigners in 2015.

#### **Key provisions**

- The Bill bans commercial surrogacy, but allows for altruistic surrogacy.
- Permission banned:
  - To PIO, OCI and foreigners
  - To single women, widows and divorcees.
- The surrogate mother needs to be close relative of the intending couple.
- **Definition of the term infertility:** Intending couple may become eligible by obtaining a **certificate of infertility after 5 years.**
- **Insurance coverage** for the surrogate mother is limited to 16 months only.

### **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017**

- It provides **full paid maternity leave** for **26 weeks** (earlier 12 weeks).
- It is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more women.
- 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 3 months from the date of adoption as well as to the “commissioning mothers”.
- **Commissioning Mother:**
  - Biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo planted in any other woman.

### **Women Education**

#### **Tejaswini Project, Jharkhand**

- It aims to empower adolescent girls and young women (between 14-24 years) with basic life skills.
- This program was approved by World Bank in 2016.

### **Women Health**

## **2. CHILDREN**

### **2.1 International Initiatives**

#### **Child Well Being Index**

- Released by **World Vision India (an NGO)** and **IFMR LEAD** (a research institute in India).
- **3 categories:** Healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.

#### **Future for the world's children Report**

Launched by WHO, Lancet medical journal and UNICEF.

- Parameters: **health, future, climate change.**
- Aim: To estimate **overall well-being of a child.**
- **Flourishing Index:** geometric mean of **surviving and thriving.**
  - **Surviving:** eg. maternal and child survival, health, suicide,

hygiene, sanitation, and lack of extreme poverty.

- **Thriving:** eg. educational achievement, growth and nutrition, reproductive freedom, protection from violence.
- **Sustainability Index:** excess CO<sub>2</sub> emissions relative to 2030 targets' as per 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
- **Equity:** calculated using Gini coefficient.

#### **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC or UNCRC), 1990**

- It is an **international human rights treaty** which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children.
- It is the **first legally binding international instrument** with full range of human rights for children.
- It **defines a child** as any human being **under the age of eighteen**, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation.
- **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:** It is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Convention. The governments are required to report to and appear before the committee regarding the advancement of its implementation.
- **India ratified it in 1992.**
- **First Optional Protocol, 2000:** It restricts the involvement of children in military conflicts.
- **Second Optional Protocol, 2000:** It prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- **Third optional protocol, 2011:** It was related to communication of complaints.

#### **Issues in any global convention: Global standards and cultural relativism**

- There are unresolved tensions between "universalistic" and "relativistic"

approaches in the establishment of standards and strategies.

#### **Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1983-85**

- It **protects children** from the harmful effects of their **wrongful retention**.
- It established procedures to **ensure their return** to their **habitual residence**.
- It secures protection for children's **rights of access**.
- As present, **101 State parties** are part of this Convention.
- **India is not a signatory.**

#### **Hague Adoption Convention, 1993**

- It deals with international adoption, child laundering, and child trafficking in an effort to protect those involved from the corruption, abuses, and exploitation.
- It provides a **formal international and intergovernmental recognition** of **intercountry adoption**.
- The Convention operates through a system of **national Central Authorities**.
- It reinforces the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- It is **ratified by India**.

#### **2.2 National Initiatives**

#### **National Child Policy, 2013**

- **Aim:**
  - Social safety net to family to help nurture child.
  - Survival, Health, Nutrition, Education, Protection.
- It **defines child** a person who has not attained **the age of 18 years**.
- children are **not a homogenous group** and require different responses.

- National Action Plan for Children (NPAC), 2016 links the **2013 Policy** for priority areas.

### National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- It is a **statutory body** at the National and State level. It is set up under the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005**.
- It comes under **Women and Child Ministry**.
- Online complaint management system:** It enables easy reporting to the **Commission** and timely action against the offenders under the **POCSO Act, 2012**.

### Definition of child under different acts

- Factories Act, 1948: Less than 15
- Child Labour Act, 1986: Less than 14
- POCSO Act, 2012: Less than 18
- National Child Policy, 2013: Less than 18 years.
- The Juvenile Justice Act 2015: Less than 16

### PCPNDT Act, 1994

*Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act of 1994*

**Context:** Supreme Court upheld the provision which “*criminalizes non-maintenance of medical records by obstetricians and gynecologists and suspends their medical licenses indefinitely.*”

### Key features of the act

- Objective:**
  - Ban** the use of sex selection techniques.
  - Prevent the misuse** of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortions.

- Registration of centres:** which have **equipment** to detect sex of foetus pre-conception or pre-natal.
- Prohibition of advertisements:** related to techniques for detection or determination of sex.
- Maintenance and preservation of proper **records**.
- Appropriate Authorities with powers of Civil Court**
  - For **search, seizure and sealing** the machines, equipment, or premises
  - To **record of the violators** of law.
  - Commissioning of **witnesses**.
- Amended in 2003** - to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection.

### Provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

- The Act defines a **child as any person below eighteen years of age**.
- It is **gender neutral law**, which includes both girls and boys.
- Defines different forms of sexual abuse.**

Eg.

  - Penetrative assault
  - Non-penetrative assault
  - Sexual harassment and pornography
  - Aggravated sexual assault: where the offender is a relative of the child, or if the assault injures the sexual organs etc.
- Punishment for sexual offences against children enhanced, with a **provision of death penalty**.

- – Added by 2019 Amendment Act
- **Consensual sexual acts not recognised:** It prosecutes any person (including a child) for engaging in a sexual act, even if it was consensual.
- **To establish Special Courts for speedy trial.**
- **Provisions for relief and rehabilitation of the child.**
- **Long term rehabilitation of child:** Special Juvenile Police Unit or the local police to report **Child Welfare Committee** within 24 hours of the complaint.

#### **POCSO Rules 2020**

Notified by the Central government, to give effect to POCSO Act amendments, 2019.

- **Police verification of staff: Mandatory** for all institution coming in regular contact with children.
- Orientation programme and intensive courses for **police personnel and forensic experts.**
- State Governments to **formulate a child protection policy** based on the principle of zero-tolerance
- Central and State Governments shall
  - **Provide periodic training** to all persons, coming in contact with the children. Eg. sensitization workshops.
  - **Prepare age-appropriate educational material and curriculum for children.** Eg. personal safety, emotional and mental wellbeing, Childline helpline (toll free number-1098) etc.

#### **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for rape and POSCO**

- 1023 such courts as a part of **National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW).**
- **Ministry of Law and Justice** has started the scheme.
- **Financing:** 60% by centre, and 40% by state & UT.

#### **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**

- **Centrally sponsored scheme**
- **Aim:** To build **protective environment** through **Government-Civil Society Partnership** for children in difficult circumstances and vulnerable children.
- **Database** for child protection services: by Management information system and Child tracking system.
- **District Child Protection Societies**
  - Set up by State Governments/UT Administrations.
  - Objective: identifying families and children at risk to prevent destitution of children.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000**
  - Provides **financial resources** to States/UT Administrations.

#### **India Newborn Action Plan (INAP)**

- It is a plan for India to **end preventable newborn deaths.**
- It aims to attain **Single Digit Neonatal Mortality and Stillbirth Rates by 2030.**
- It is under the National Health Mission (NHM).

## Aarambh

- It is country's first-ever **online portal** to protect **children of sexual abuse** and to eliminate **child pornography**.
- It has collaborated with the U.K. based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

## Safe Childhood Programme

- It provides children (**aged 3-10**) with a set of **skills** to help them **prevent sexual, emotional, and physical abuse**.
- Implemented by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** and **UNICEF**.

## 2.3 Adoption

- Adoption is the **permanent legal transfer of all parental rights** by taking another's child and bringing it up as one's own.
- Adoptive parents, and adopted children have the same rights and responsibilities as of the biological ones.
- In India, it is governed by the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**. Its subsequent **JJ Model Rules, 2016** govern the adoption procedure.

## Governing principles of adoptions of children from India

- The **child's best interests** shall be of paramount consideration.
- Preference** shall be given to Indian citizens, and to own socio-cultural environment, as far as possible.
- All adoptions** shall be **registered on CARINGS**.
  - Confidentiality** shall be maintained by the Authority.

## Disruption and Dissolution of Adoption

**Context:** Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) reported 246 cases of disruption and 10 cases of dissolution during last five years.

### Disruption

- It means **unmatching of child from adoptive family** due to non-adjustment of child with adoptive family
- State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)** holds **counselling sessions** with parents as well as child.

### Dissolution

- It means **annulment of the adoption legally**, due to non-adjustment of child with adoptive family.

## Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015

- It has provisions for **adoption of orphaned, abandoned children**.
- It is in line with the **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993**.
- It is monitored by **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- It provides adoption of children **by relatives**.
- All adoptions are under **Central Adoption Resource agency (CARA)**.
- The State Government **recognizes institutions** in each district as a **Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA)**.
- Adoption Regulations as notified in 2017:**
  - Intercountry and intra-country** adoption procedures are defined.
  - CARA will report adoptions under the JJ Act through **CARINGS**.
  - CARA would maintain **adoption records** and post-adoption follow up.

- It defines criteria for prospective adoptive parents (PAPs):

#### Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs)

- They are defined under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015.
- They shall be physically, mentally, and emotionally **stable, financially capable**.
- They shall not have any **life-threatening medical condition**.

#### Conditions

- In case of a **married couple**, the **consent of both the spouses** shall be required.
- The married couple should have at least **two years of stable marital relationship**.
- A **single female** can adopt a **child of any gender**.
- A **single male cannot adopt a girl child**.

#### Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- It monitors and regulates in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- It is a statutory body under JJ Act, 2015.
- Under Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- It is the **nodal body for adoption** of Indian children.
- It is designated as the **Central Authority** for inter-country adoptions in accordance with the **Hague Convention, 1993**.

#### Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS)

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

#### 2.4 Child Labour

##### National Child Labour Policy (NCLP), 1987

It contains the action plan for tackling the problem of Child Labour. It envisages:

- **A legislative action plan:** The Government has enacted the **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986**. It prohibits the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.
- Convergence of general development programmes.
- **The families** of the Child Labour are given priority for their upliftment.
- **Project-based action plans** in the areas of high concentration of Child Labour.
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**.

##### National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLPS)

- It was started Under NCLP in **1988** to rehabilitate child labour.
- It is to create Child Labour Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting System.
- It is 100% central government funded scheme.
- It is under the **Ministry of Labour and employment**.

##### Platform for Effective Enforcement for Child Labour (PENCIL)

- Aim: to achieve the target of child labour free society.
- It is an electronic platform.
- It involves Centre, State, District administration and general public.

## Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016

- Amends the Child Labour Act, 1986.
- **The Act prohibits employment of children below 14 years in all occupations** except where the child helps his family after school hours.
- It considers the **RTE Act-2009** (Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009)
- It adds a **new category “adolescent”**.
  - Adolescent age: between 14 and 18 years.
  - The act **prohibits employment of adolescents in specified hazardous occupations.** Eg. mines, inflammable substance and hazardous processes.
  - The **central government may add or omit any hazardous occupation** from this list.

### ILO conventions on child labour

- India has ratified two key ILO conventions on child labour. (Convention No 138 and 182)

International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines child labour as

- *Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.*
- The work that **interferes with their schooling.**

### 1. The Minimum Age Convention (No 138)

- It requires **ratifying states** to pursue a **national policy** for effective abolition of child labour.

- To raise progressively the minimum age for employment or work.

### 2. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No 182)

- The worst forms of child labour include: all forms of slavery, sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and forced labour, forced recruitment of children for armed conflict etc.
- A country commits to **take immediate action to prohibit and eliminate** these forms.

## 3. OTHER VULNERABLE SECTIONS

### 3.1 Transgenders

#### NALSA (National Legal Service Authority) v/s Union of India, 2014

- **Right to choose gender:** It is part of the right to life and life with dignity.
- **Sex: ‘Third gender’** to be included in all official documents, **along with male and female.**
- **Choose any of the three genders:** It should be only the person’s choice.
- Provision for **reservation within the OBC quota.**
- A **commission to protect rights of this community** must be setup on lines of NCSC/STs.

#### Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

##### Salient features

- **Defines a transgender person:** one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.

- It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, genderqueer.
- It also includes persons with socio-cultural identities. Eg. kinnar.
- **Prohibition against 8 types of discrimination:** The act prohibits denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to:
  - Education
  - Healthcare
  - Employment
  - Right to movement
  - Right to reside, rent, or own property
  - Access to public goods and facilities
  - Opportunity to hold public or private office
  - Access to an establishment which has custody of a transgender person.
- **Right to self-perceived gender identity:** A certificate of identity can be issued by the **District Magistrate**.
  - A revised certificate can also be obtained after **Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS)**.
- **National Council for Transgender Persons:** To advise the government on policy formulation, monitor the implementation, grievance redressal etc.
  - To be chaired by Union Minister for Social Justice.
- **Welfare measures by the government:** eg. rescue and rehabilitation, vocational training and self-employment, **transgender sensitive schemes etc.**
- **Health care:** special health facilities including **separate HIV surveillance centre** and **sex reassignment surgeries**.
- The government shall **review medical curriculum** to address health issues.
- **Comprehensive medical insurance** schemes for them.

#### Issues with the bill

- **Limited right to self-identification**
  - Act **removes** the provisions for a **District Screening Committee**
  - District Magistrate, and not a health expert, to issue the certificate.
- **No appeal or review mechanism:** If a transgender person is denied a Certificate of Identity.
- **No provisions for reservation:** despite the Supreme Court mandate in NALSA Judgement.

#### Case studies for Mains

- **Transgender welfare board:** established by Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.
- **Policy for Transgenders:** Kerala was the first state to have a transgender policy to provide the right to live with dignity.
- Odisha is the first state to provide them **social welfare benefits**.

#### 3.2 Scheduled Castes

#### Constitutional and related provisions

- Abolition of untouchability (Article 17) and prohibits caste-based discrimination (Article 15).
- Fundamental right to life under Article 21.
- Universally recognized right: part of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- **Nodal ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

#### **States can sub-classify SCs/STs: Supreme Court**

- States can sub-classify SCs/STs in the Central List to provide preferential treatment to the “weakest out of the weak”.
- By a five-judge constitutional Bench.
- Reservation has created inequalities within the reserved castes.

#### **3.3 Scheduled Tribes**

#### **Constitutional and related provisions**

- Prohibit caste-based discrimination (Article 15).
- Fundamental right to life under Article 21.
- Schedule 5 and 6 of the constitution
- **Nodal ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

#### **Particular Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**

- Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) were created as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.
  - It was done by the Dhebar Commission in 1973.
- Later, PTGs were renamed as PVTGs.

#### **Basic characteristics of PVTGs:**

- Mostly homogenous, small population Relatively physically isolated.
- Primitive Social institutions.
- Absence of written language.
- Primitive Livelihood: eg. food gathering, Non-Timber Forest Produce, hunting, livestock etc.

#### **PVTGs of Andaman & Nicobar:**

- There are 6 major tribes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- It is divided into 2 major groups: Negrito and Mongoloid.
- Except Nicobarese (Mongoloid), the rest 5 are recognized as PVTG.
- These are:
  - Sentinelese (Negrito).
  - Great Andamanese (Negrito).
  - Ongs (Negrito).
  - Jarawas (Negrito).
  - Shom Pens (Mongoloid).

#### **Efforts to protect PVTGs:**

- **“Development of PVTGs” Scheme:** It covers 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes.
- **ANTRI (Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research and Training Institute):** To protect the PVTGs.
- **A&N Regulation, 1956:**
  - It provides protection to the tribes by declaring their traditional areas as reserves.
  - It prohibits entry of all persons except authorities.
- **Jiban Sampark:**
  - It is launched by Odisha government with UNICEF India.
  - It is to generate awareness among the PVTGs.

#### **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**

- Also known as **Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)**.
  - Eg: Grasses, bamboos and canes, oils, gums and resins, fibers and flosses, leaves.

- drugs, spices and poisons, edible products etc.
- Major source of livelihood, nutrition, medical needs, and cash income to a large number of STs.

### Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Marketing Scheme

- Full name: Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain of MFP".
- It is a scheme for **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce**
- It is designed as a **social safety net** for improvement of livelihood of MFP gatherers.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The MSP is determined by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
  - The Ministry announced Inclusion of 23 additional items recently.
- **Responsibility of purchasing:** with State agencies.
- Provides for **supply chain infrastructure**. Eg. cold storage, warehouses etc.
- The scheme is **applicable in all States**.

### TRIFED, 1987

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- Under **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- Objective: socio-economic development of tribal people, by **marketing development** of the **tribal products**.

### Timeline

### Colonial era

- Criminal Tribes Act (1871).
- **Criminal Tribes Act 1924** was the first such major act. The Act was **repealed in 1949**.

### Ananthsayanam Ayyangar Committee (1949-50)

- His recommendations led to the repeal of the CTA. The Act was replaced with the **Habitual Offenders Act, 1952**.
- Former "criminal tribes" were denotified in 1952.
- **Habitual Offenders Act 1952:** Former "criminal tribes" were denotified.

### Justice Venkatchaliah Commission, 2002

- Constitute a **special commission** to look into the needs and grievances of the DNTs.

### National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNSNT)

- Set up in 2005 under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **Balkrishna Sidram Renke** was appointed as the Chairperson.

### Recommendations

- Provisions of the **SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** be applicable to these tribes.
- The provisions were meant to be similar to the CTA, but **identification shifted to the individual, rather than the collective category**.

### UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2007

- **Repeal the Habitual Offenders Act and effectively rehabilitate** the denotified and nomadic tribes concerned.

### **Bhiku Ramji Idate Commission, 2015**

- Another **National Commission** for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes
- Establish a **permanent Development and Welfare Board** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- Approved by cabinet.

### **Interim budget 2019-20**

- A **Committee under NITI Aayog** to be set-up.
- A **Welfare Development Board** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

### **3.5 Persons with Disability**

- In India, **persons with disability** constitute **2.1% of the population**.
- Men: 56%; Women: 44%.

### **UN guidelines on social justice for PWDs**

- **First ever UN guidelines** on access to social justice for people with disabilities.
- To make it easier for them to **access justice systems around the world**.

### **UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD), 2007**

- It was the **first human rights treaty of the twenty-first century**.
- **First legally binding instrument** intended to protect the rights and dignity of people with disabilities (PWD).
- To ensure **full enjoyment of human rights**, and to ensure **full equality under the law**.
- It is the **only UN human rights instrument** with an **explicit sustainable development dimension**.

- The Convention is monitored by the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.
- The convention recognizes that the **notion of "disability" is not fixed** and can be altered, depending on the varying values from society to society.
  - However, it **does not explicitly define disability**.
- **India has ratified the convention.**

### **Evaluation of UNCRPD**

- The Convention has served as the **major catalyst in the global movement** for their rights.
- **Changed perception:** from viewing them as **objects of charity, medical treatment and social protection**; to view them as **full and equal members of society, with human rights**.

### **Principle of reasonable accommodation**

- Defined under **Article 2** of the UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disability (**UNCRPD, 2007**)
- It is the necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments **to ensure the equal enjoyment** of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- It **should not impose** a disproportionate or undue **burden on the organization**.
- It should be **applicable to all aspects of life**.
- **Examples:** making existing facilities accessible; job restructuring; part-time or modified work schedules; acquiring or modifying equipment etc.
- Reasonable accommodation **does not include**:
  - Removing essential job functions
  - Creating new jobs

- Providing personal need items such as eyeglasses and mobility aids.

#### **The Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016**

- The Act is in line with the **UNCRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)**.
- It aims at encouraging establishments to have a **disabled friendly workplace**.

#### **Key Provisions**

- The types of disabilities have been **increased from existing 7 to 21**.
  - Centre will have the power to add more types.
- **Persons with "benchmark disabilities":**
  - Defined as those who have at least **40% of the disabilities**.
  - Additional benefits to them: eg.
    - **Reservation** in education, jobs,
    - Reservation in allocation of land
    - Poverty alleviation schemes etc.
    - **Right to free education** for such child (age group of 6 and 18 years)
- **Reservation in government jobs:** increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or for persons with benchmark disability.
- **Private establishments within the ambit of the act:**
  - There are certain obligations imposed on them.
  - However, it is not mandatory for them to appoint Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

- **Central and State Advisory Boards on Disability:** to serve as apex policy making bodies.
- Provision of **National and State Funds**.
- To strengthen the **PM Accessible India Campaign:** to ensure accessibility in public buildings (both Government and private) in a given **time-frame**.
- **Provisions for penalties**
- **Special Courts** in each district.

#### **Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR)**

- **Different populations face similar risks** of environmental and man-made disasters.
- **But, their actual vulnerability** is dependent factors, like
  - Their socio-economic conditions, civic and social empowerment, and access to mitigation and relief resources.
- **Individuals with disabilities are disproportionately affected** in disaster, emergency, and conflict situations.
  - Due to inaccessible evacuation, response (including shelters, camps, and food distribution), and recovery efforts.
- DiDRR strives to reduce the impact of disasters by **mitigating and reducing risks**.
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is the **legal framework** to support the **inclusion** of persons with disabilities.

#### **National Disaster Management Guidelines on DiDRR**

- Released by **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Centre should **conduct census and survey for data & resource mapping**.

- To institutionalize **Right of Person with Disability Act (RPWDA) 2016**: Inclusion of issues of person with disability and their organization in disaster risk reduction activities
- **Preparedness and mitigation**: such as national stockpiling of durable medical equipment, life saving devices etc.
- **Early warning system (EWS)** for person with intellectual disability.

#### Marrakesh Treaty (Blind Book Treaty)

- It provides **access to Publish works for Visually Impaired Persons**.
- The treaty allows for **copyright exceptions** to help person with impaired visibility.
- **Implementation of Treaty**: World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Geneva, **administers** the Treaty.
- It has an alliance of private and public partners known as the **Accessible Books Consortium** (ABC).
- The ABC has established a **free electronic database** produced by libraries for the blind people.
- **India was the first country to ratify** the Treaty in 2014.

#### National Trust

- It is a statutory body of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **Objectives**:
  - To empower persons with disability to live independent and close to their community.
  - To facilitate the realization of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation.

#### Centre for Disability Sports

- It will be set up at **Gwalior** in MP, under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is to Improve **sports infrastructure** for Persons with **Disabilities**.

#### 3.6 Elderly

#### Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)

- It was **launched** by **Health Ministry** on **International Day for Older Persons**, on **1<sup>st</sup> October**.
- It is endorsed by **World Health Assembly**.
- **Healthy Ageing**: WHO defines it as “the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age.”
- It is based on **Madrid International Plan of Action, 2002**.

#### The National Policy on Senior Citizen, 2011

- It focuses **Income security, healthcare, housing, welfare** etc.
- It establishes a **National Council for Senior Citizens** to suggest policy changes for the elderly.
- Implemented by under **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **National Council of Senior Citizens**
  - It was originally known as National Council for Older Persons (NPOP) and was renamed in 2012.
  - It is the **highest body to advise** the **Governments** for the welfare of senior citizens.

### Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Political Declaration, 2002

- Adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002.
- To address the key challenge of “building a society for all ages”.

### Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and senior citizen Act 2007

- It provides a legal framework for the maintenance of the elderly parents and grandparents.
- It defines senior citizen as, who attains the age of 60 years.

### Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Amends the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

	2007 Act	2019 Bill
<b>Definition of Children</b>	Includes son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter	Expanded to include step-children, adoptive children, children-in-laws.
<b>Definition of Parents</b>	Means father or mother. Biological, adoptive or step parents.	Include parent-in-laws, and grandparents.
<b>Definition of Relative</b>	Means any legal heir of the childless senior citizen who is not a minor	Will include minors represented by their legal guardians.
<b>Maintenanc e</b>	Provisions for food, clothing, residence and medical etc. For a normal life.	Includes healthcare, safety, and security. for a life of dignity.
<b>Maintenanc e orders</b>	The upper limit is Rs. 10,000.	Upper limit removed.
<b>Appeals against the Tribunal</b>	Any senior citizen or a parent can appeal within sixty days.	Children and relatives also allowed.
<b>Time to deposit</b>	30 days	Reduced to 15 days.

maintenance		
<b>Maintenanc e Tribunal</b>	No provision	State Government shall constitute for each Sub-division.

### 3.7 Poor

### Code on Social Security, 2019

It replaces, amends and consolidates nine laws related to social security.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has submitted report to the Lok Sabha Speaker.

### Street Vendors Act, 2014

- To protect the rights of urban street vendors
- To regulate street vending activities.

### The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018

- A National Anti-Trafficking Bureau (NATB) will be established.
- Anti-Trafficking Relief and Rehabilitation Committees will be established at the national, state, district levels.
- Designated courts will be established in each district to provide time-bound (within a year) judgement.

### Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018

- It is released by UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- As per the Report:**
  - Women and girls make up most trafficking victims worldwide.
  - Children account for 30% of trafficking.
- UNODC:**
  - It was established in 1997.

- It is a merger of **United Nations Drug Control Programme** and **Centre for International Crime Prevention.**
- It created UN Convention against Trans-National Organized Crime.

### 3.8 Labours

#### International Labour Organization (ILO)

- It is a United Nations agency.
- Founded in **October 1919 under the League of Nations**, it is the **first and oldest specialised agency of the UN**.
- Established after World War I.
- Aim: to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- The ILO has 187 member states: 186 out of 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- They are set forth in 189 conventions and treaties. **Eight among them are classified as fundamental** according to the **1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work:**
  - Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
  - Elimination of forced or compulsory labour.
  - Abolition of child labour.
  - Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

#### Note: Events of October 1919

- October 13, 1919: Russian Civil War.
- Treaty of Versailles: It was the most important of the peace treaties that brought **World War I to an end.** (21 October 1919).

#### Modern Slavery

- Modern Slavery is a situation in which persons are forced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or under manipulated debt, where the person cannot leave the place/work. – **ILO.**
- **Examples:** Human trafficking, Forced labour, Debt bondage/ bonded labour, Forced and **early marriage.**
- **Modern slavery in India:**
  - There are 8 million people in modern slavery in India.
  - Almost 99 percent of the victims of forced sexual exploitation are women.
  - (Data Collected by National Crime Records Bureau, NCRB)

#### Stacked Odds report on modern slavery

- This report is **prepared by 'Walk Free'** along with **2 UN agencies:**
  - **The International Labour Organization (ILO).**
  - **The International Organisation for Migration (IOM).**

#### National Career Services (NCS)

- It is an ICT based **portal** launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment.**
- It **registers** job seekers, job providers, skill providers, career counsellors etc.
- It has listed the **manual scavengers** under '**unorganised sector.**'

#### Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2017

- It protects the **livelihood rights of street vendors.**
- It provides a **constitution for Town Vending Authority** at local levels, which implements the provisions of the Act.

- Street vending needs to **register** with **Town Vending Committee (TVC)**.
- Workers will be provided **vending certificates**.
- **Town Vending Committee (TVC):**
  - It will comprise municipal commissioner, representatives of street vendors, local authority, local police etc.
- State government shall frame a scheme for street vendors.

### **Manual Scavenging**

- “Manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of, or otherwise handling, human excreta in an insanitary latrine or in an open drain/ sewer or in a septic tank or a pit.”
- **Measures taken in the past to eradicate Manual Scavenging in India:**
  - Article 17.
  - Civil Rights Protection Act, 1955: punishment for violation of Article 17.
  - National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) Act, 1993
  - Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.
  - Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
  - Safai Karmachari Andolan, 1955.
  - Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan, 2002.
- According **Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA)** data, **UP has highest cases of Manual Scavenging**.

### **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013**

- Also known as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013
- To eliminate the **insanitary latrines**.
- To survey of Manual Scavengers and their rehabilitation.

- It **prohibits employment** as Manual Scavengers, or manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- No cleaning **without protective gear**.
- **Section 8:** imprisonment and / or fine.
  - Provisions for rehabilitation of manual scavengers
  - One-time cash assistance
  - Scholarship to their children
  - Allotment of residential plot
  - Financial assistance for house construction.
- Training for a **livelihood skill** with stipend.
- **Subsidy and concessional loans:** to at least one adult family member.
- **Implementing body:** National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK). It can also **take suo-motu notice**.

### **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**

- It **was constituted** as a statutory body under NCSK Act, 1993.
- However, after 2004 it is acting as a **non-Statutory body** under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The tenure is extended by a **Government Resolutions** till 2022.
- **Structure:** Chairman - rank of **Minister for States**, Four members

### **Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge**

- Aim: **to end Manual Scavenging by 2021**.
- It is launched by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in 243 cities.
- **Sewers & Septic Tanks will be Mechanized**.
- A **Helpline** to register complaints.
- It is a part of **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan**.

## Bandicoot

- A manhole-cleaning robot.
- To end the practice of manual scavenging.
- Procured by The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

## 3.9 Minority

## Legal provisions

- Not defined in the constitution.
- Minorities in India are notified by the Government of India.
- Minorities in India: Sikhs; Muslims; Christians; Zoroastrians (Parsi); Buddhists; Jains.

## WAQF Properties

- It is the **property given in the name of God** for religious and charitable purposes.
- **In legal terms:**
  - Permanent dedication by a person **professing Islam**, of any movable or immovable property.
  - It is for any purpose recognised by the Muslim law as pious, religious or charitable.

## National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

- It comes under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **Aim:**
  - To promote **economic and developmental activities** for the benefit of Backward Classes.
  - To assist the poorer section with skill development and self-employment ventures.

- **NBCFDC assists in various sectors such as:**

- Agriculture and Allied Activities
- Small Business
- Artisan and Traditional Occupation
- Technical and Professional Trades/Courses
- Transport and Service Sector etc.

## 4. EDUCATION

### New Education Policy 2020

Union Cabinet has approved the NEP, 2020.

### Evolution of Education Policy

- University Education Commission (1948)
- Secondary Education Commission (1952)
- **Dr. D.S. Kothari** Education Commission (1964)
- National Policy on Education, 1968
- Education in **Concurrent List**: 42<sup>nd</sup> CAA, 1976.
- National Policy on Education, 1986
- NPE 1986 Program of Action, 1992.
- **T.S.R. Subramaniam Committee** (2016): Inputs for Draft National Education Policy, marrakesh.
- **Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee** (2019): Draft National Education Policy, 2019.

**NEP 2020 is formulated based on bottom-up-approach:** involved over 2 lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakhs Gram Panchayats, 6000 ULBs, 6600 Blocks, 676 Districts.

### **National Education Policy, 1986 and Program of Action, 1992**

- All students irrespective of caste, creed, sex, and religion have access to education of a comparable quality.

#### **Elementary Education**

- Universal access and enrolment
- Universal retention of children up to 14 years age
- Quality education to achieve **essential levels of learning**.

#### **Secondary Education**

- **Computer literacy:** To equip students with necessary computer skills.

#### **Higher Education**

- To address the critical social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues.

#### **Objectives of New Education Policy 2020**

- India to have an **education system by 2040 that is second to none**.
- **Transformational reforms** in school and higher education systems.
- To **replace the NPE, 1986**.
- An education system to contribute to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society.
- **To prepare responsible citizens:** To develop a deep sense of respect towards the Constitution, Constitutional values, bonding with country.
- **To prepare a truly global citizen:** roles and responsibilities in the changing world, responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development, global well-being.
- **Overall development of children:** to instil skills and values etc.
- **To achieve the SDG Goal 4:** “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030.

- The **SDG adopted by India in 2015**.
- Such a lofty goal will require the **entire education system to be reconfigured** to support and foster learning.

#### **Key Provisions of NEP 2020**

**1. Reforming School Education:** discussed in next topic.

**2. Reforming Higher Education:** discussed in next topic.

#### **3. Education Financing**

- To increase the public investment in Education sector to 6% of GDP.
- Centre and States to work together.
- Promotion and support for **private philanthropic activity** in education sector.

#### **4. Technology in education**

- **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF):** An autonomous body.
  - To enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration, teacher's professional development.
- **Online Education: To ensure preparedness** with alternative modes of quality education
  - A dedicated unit to be created **in the MHRD**.
  - Digital infrastructure, content and capacity building.

#### **5. Promotion of Indian Languages, Arts, and Culture**

- **New programmes across the country:** for Indian languages, comparative literature, creative writing, arts, music, philosophy, etc.
- **Degrees** to be developed in these subjects.

- High-quality programmes and degrees be created in Art and Museum Administration, Archaeology etc.
- Academies for all languages in the Eighth Schedule to be established.
- Artists-in-Residence: to expose students to art, creativity, and the rich treasures of the region/country.
- Outstanding local artists to be hired as guest faculty.

#### 6. Adult Education

- To achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.
- Use of schools beyond school hours.
- Use technology: eg. online courses, satellite-based TV channels and ICT-equipped libraries.

#### 7. Professional Education

- To be an integral part of the higher education system.
- Multi-disciplinary institutions: Stand-alone health science, technical, legal, agricultural universities etc. will aim to become multi-disciplinary.

#### 8. Inclusive Education:

special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).

#### School Education: NEP 2020

- School education falls under Concurrent list.
- It was transferred from State list to concurrent list by 42<sup>nd</sup> constitutional amendment act, 1976.

#### Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

#### Provisions under NEP 2020

- Universal Access for children of 3-6 years: To bring this hitherto uncovered age group under school curriculum.

- To be delivered through pre-schools and Anganwadis.
- Teachers and Anganwadi workers trained in ECCE pedagogy and curriculum.
- Joint Implementation: by Ministries of Education, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare (HFW), and Tribal Affairs.
- Pre-school sections to be added to Kendriya Vidyalayas and other primary schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
- National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for ECCE (NCPFECC): NCERT will develop it for children up to the age of 8.

#### Attainment of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

It is the ability to read and comprehend basic text and the ability to carry out basic addition and subtraction.

#### Key Provisions under NEP 2020

- National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
  - For all primary schools, upto grade 3 by 2025.
  - by MHRD
  - States/UTs will prepare an implementation plan.
- National Book Promotion Policy is to be formulated to ensure the availability, accessibility, quality etc.
- National Repository of high-quality resources will be made available on Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.

#### To reduce Dropout Rates and to ensure Universal Access to Education

Present Status:

- A significant proportion of enrolled students drop out, **especially after Grade 8.**
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Grades 6-8: 91%
- GER for Grades 9-10: 80%
- GER for Grades 11-12: 56%

#### **Key Provisions under NEP 2020**

- To achieve 100% GER up to secondary level by 2030.
- Providing effective and sufficient infrastructure.
- **Open and Distance Learning (ODL)** Programmes offered by the NIOS and State Open Schools to be expanded.
- Tracking students and their learning levels.

#### **Curriculum and Pedagogy**

##### **Present status:**

- The educational system is of **general education** in nature.
- Technical and vocational education is quite unsatisfactory.

#### **Key Provisions under NEP 2020**

- Restructuring **school curriculum and pedagogy** in a **5+3+3+4 design**, covering age group of 3 to 18 years.
  - **5 years Foundational Stage:** 3 years of pre-school; 2 years in primary school in Grades 1-2.
  - **3 years Preparatory Stage:** Grades 3, 4, 5.
  - **3 years Middle Stage:** Grades 6 to 8.
  - **4 years High Stage:** Grades 9 to 12.
- **Freedom of choosing a variety of subject combination:** no rigid separation

- Among curricular, extracurricular, or co-curricular
- Among arts, humanities, and sciences,
- Between vocational or academic streams.

- **Contemporary subjects:** Artificial Intelligence (AI), Holistic Health, Environmental Education, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), etc.
- **Vocational education:** 10-day bagless period during Grades 6-8. Eg. by vocational experts such as carpenters, artists, etc.
- **Experiential learning** in all stages: eg. arts-integrated and sports-integrated education.
- **Reduced curriculum** to its core essentials to enhance essential learning and critical thinking.
- **National Curricular Framework** for School Education to be developed by NCERT.

#### **Student Assessment**

##### **Present status:**

- The current nature of school exams and entrance exams leads to **coaching culture**.
- These exams force students to learn a **very narrow band** of knowledge.

#### **Key Provisions under NEP 2020**

- **School examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8.**
- **Board exams** for Grades 10 and 12 to be redesigned.
- **National Assessment Centre: PARAKH**
  - To be set up as a **standard-setting body** under MHRD.
  - PARAKH: Performance Assessment, Review, and

Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.

- **Holistic Progress Card:** 360-degree and multidimensional report. e.g.
  - cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains;
  - self-assessment, peer assessment, teacher assessment

- **National Testing Agency (NTA):** An **autonomous** body to conduct entrance examinations for UG, fellowships in HEIs.

### Multilingualism

#### Present status:

- **English** is the medium of instruction, particularly in science subjects.
- Challenge for rural students.
- **Indian languages** are still underdeveloped.
- **Standard publications** are not available in Indian language.

#### Key Provisions under NEP 2020

- **Mother tongue or local language as medium of instruction:** till grade 5, and preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.
- **The Languages of India:**
  - A fun activity to be taken by every student.
  - Under ‘Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat’
- **Three languages formula** with greater flexibility.
- **Options of languages in schools:**
  - All classical languages to be widely available. (Sanskrit, Odia, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam)
- **Pali, Persian, and Prakrit** to be widely available.
- **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** to be standardized across the country.

### Equitable and Inclusive Education

#### For Socio-Economically Disadvantaged groups - SEDGs

#### Present status: U-DISE 2016-17 data

- Drop-off students from primary level to higher secondary:
  - SCs: 20% to 17%.
  - STs: 10% to 7%
  - Differently abled children: 1% to 0.2%
  - Even greater declines for female students.

#### Key Provisions under NEP 2020

- **Gender Inclusion Fund** for female and transgenders
- **Special Education Zones (SEZ):** Large populations from SEDGs will be declared as SEZ.
- **To establish Bal Bhavans:** a special daytime boarding school.
- Fee waivers and scholarships to meritorious SEDG students.
- **Additional Schools** in aspirational districts/SEZs
- Free school infrastructure to be used as Samajik Chetna Kendras.

### Robust Teacher Education and Recruitment

- By 2021: New comprehensive **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education**
- By 2030: a **4-year integrated B.Ed. degree** to be the minimum qualification for teaching.
- Teacher Eligibility Tests (**TET**) for all teachers in both public and private schools.
- **NTA testing** for B.Ed. admission.

- A **National Mission for Mentoring** with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty
- **More autonomy** to teachers in choosing **aspects of pedagogy**.
- **Restructuring of NCTE** (National Council for Teacher Education) as a **Professional Standard Setting Body (PSSB)**.
  - Under General Education Council (GEC).
- **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)**: To be developed by NCTE by 2022.

#### **School Governance**

Present status: Numerous **very small schools**.

- Economically suboptimal and operationally complex.
- Teachers often teach multiple grades and subjects at a time.
- Isolation has a negative effect.
- Challenge for governance and management.

#### **Key Provisions under NEP 2020**

- Schools can be organized into **complexes or clusters**: It will be the basic unit of governance.
- Schools to develop School Development Plans (SDPs).
- Twinning or pairing of one public school with one private school across the country.

#### **Standards and Accreditation for School Education**

Present status:

- **Department of School Education**: All main functions of school education governance system are handled by a single body.

- This leads to conflict of interests and excessive centralized concentration of power
- Commercialization by for-profit private schools

#### **Key Provisions under NEP 2020**

- **National Achievement Survey (NAS)**: a sample based NAS of **student learning** levels by the **proposed new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH**.
- **Public and private schools** to be assessed and accredited on same criteria.
  - Exception: schools managed, aided, controlled by the Centre.
- **We defined and separate systems**: for policy making, regulation, operations and academic matters.
- **State School Standards Authority (SSSA)**: Independent bodies to be set up by the States/UTs.
- School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF) to be developed by SCERT.

#### **Higher Education: NEP, 2020**

A complete overhaul and re-energising of the higher education system.

#### **Institutional Restructuring & Consolidation**

- All HEIs to be consolidated into three types:
  - **Autonomous degree-granting colleges**: almost exclusive focus on teaching.
  - **Teaching Universities**: primary focus on teaching; significant focus on research.
  - **Research Universities**: equal focus on research and teaching.
- **To phase out Affiliation of colleges** in 15 years.

- Stage-wise mechanism to be established for granting **graded autonomy**.
- To increase the **Gross Enrolment Ratio** from 26% to 50% by 2035.
- by 2040: **All HEIs** to become **multidisciplinary institutions**.
- By 2030: at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in or around every district.

#### **Holistic Multidisciplinary Education**

##### **Undergraduate education with flexible curriculum**

- Creative combinations of subjects.
- **Multiple entry and exit points** with appropriate certification.
- Integration of vocational education
- **Academic Bank of Credit:** for **digitally storing academic credits** earned from different HEIs.
  - These can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.
- **MERUS: Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities** at par with IITs, IIMs.
- **National Research Foundation** to be created as an apex body for a strong research culture.

#### **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)**

It will be a **single overarching umbrella body**.

- Public and private higher education institutions to be governed by the same norms.
- It excludes medical and legal education.

##### **HECI structure:**

- **NHERC:** National Higher Education Regulatory Council.

- **General Education Council (GEC)** for standard setting.
- **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)** for funding.
- **National Accreditation Council (NAC)** for accreditation.

#### **Internationalization of HEIs**

- High performing Indian universities to be encouraged to set up **offshore campuses**.
- Selected global universities will be facilitated to **operate in India**.
- Legislative framework for global operations: on par with other autonomous institutions of India.
- Internationally relevant **curriculum**.
- Global research collaboration and student exchanges.
- An International Students Office at each HEI hosting foreign students.
- Credits acquired in foreign universities to be permitted, and to be counted for the award of a degree.

#### **Equity and Inclusion**

##### **Emphasis on SEDGs.**

##### **Steps by Governments**

- Earmark suitable **Government funds**.
- Well defined targets for higher GER for SEDGs.
- **Gender balance** in HEIs.
- **Establishing more HEIs in aspirational districts and Special Education Zones** with larger SEDGs.

##### **Steps by HEIs**

- More inclusive **curriculum**
- To provide more **financial assistance and scholarships** to SEDGs.
- To mitigate opportunity costs and fees.
- Sensitization of faculty, students, and counsellors.

- Strict enforcement of no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules

### Mandarin language

- A type of Chinese language.
- National Education Policy, 2020 has dropped Mandarin or Chinese from the list of foreign languages that could be taught in schools.

### International Education Initiative

### New Delhi Declaration on Education

- It was **declared** in the SAARC Summit of 2014.
- **Aim:**
  - To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education.
  - To promote life-long learning opportunities for all.
  - To promote research cooperation and knowledge and transfer among BRICS countries.
  - To use information and communication technologies for improving access to education.
  - To enhance the quality of teaching-learning process, teacher development.

### PISA Test

- Programme for International Student Assessment Test

### About the PISA test

- It is conducted by OECD's.
- It assesses students enrolled at grade 7 or higher.
- It measures performance in mathematics, reading, and science, problem-solving and money literacy.

- Unlike conventional tests, PISA test does not assess students on memory.

### India's Participation

- India participated **only once** in 2009. Rank: 72 / 73.
- **Government blamed "out of context"** questions for the poor results; and **decided not to participate further.**
- Union Human Resource Ministry confirmed India's participation for PISA 2021.

### World University Ranking

- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020
- IISc Bengaluru continues to be the best Indian institute in this ranking since 2014. (Global Ranking 300+)

### Global Education Coalition (GEC)

- Launched by UNESCO.
- For inclusive learning opportunities during educational disruption period due to COVID-19.
- Solutions to provide education remotely
- Seek equitable solutions and universal access
- It is a multi-sector partnership. United Nations, private sector, civil society, NGOs etc.

### QS World University Ranking

- Released by Quacquarelli Symonds, a British company specialising in education.

### State of the Education Report for India 2020

- It is prepared by UNESCO.
- It aims to support India for skills development under Skill India Mission.
- This report focuses on TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training).
- TVET: UNESCO defines as, "Comprising Education, Training &

**Skills Development** of Occupational Fields, Services & Livelihoods.

- **Major TVET provisions in India:**
  - National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), 2008.
  - National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (NPSDE), 2015.
  - National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), 2013.
  - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), 2014.
  - Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
  - National education Policy, 2020.

#### **Happy Schools Project, 2014**

- It was launched by **UNESCO** with **Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEPS)**.
- **Objectives:**
  - To promote learner well-being and holistic development in school.
  - To bring happiness and the quality of education.
  - To convert education systems from traditional measures to diverse talents.

#### **Mahatma Gandhi Institute of ‘Education for Peace’ and Sustainable Development (MGIEPS)**

- It is the **first UNESCO specialized education institute in India**.
- It is the **first ‘Category 1’ institute in the Asia-Pacific region**.
- **Education for Peace**
- **Education for Sustainable Development**
- **Category 1 Institutes:**

- An **integral part of UNESCO**, and strengthen the capacity of Member States.
- They **contribute to implement UNESCO's programmes**.

#### **National Education Initiative**

#### **Institute of Eminence (IoE)**

- To bring higher educational institutions in global top 500 in next 10 years; and in top 100 eventually.
- To provide world class teaching and research facilities to Indian students **within the country**.
- To enhance general level of education of the country.
- **Empowered Expert Committee (EEC):** four member EEC to **select 20 IoE** from **both public and private institutions**.
- **Financial support** to each Public Institution selected as IoE.
- **No financial support to private institutions.**
  - They will be entitled for more autonomy.
- **Greenfield Institutions:** These would get 3-year period to establish and operationalise the institution.
  - Thereafter, the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) will consider giving IoE status.

#### **Salient features**

- **Greater autonomy** to admit up to 30% foreign students.
- To recruit upto 25% **foreign faculty**.
- To offer upto 20% **online courses**.

- Academic collaboration with top 500 global Institutions **without permission of UGC.**
- Complete flexibility to fix the curriculum.
- Flexibility of course structure: eg. number of credit hours and years.
- Free to charge fees from foreign students.

#### Institute of National Importance (INI)

- It is a status that is conferred on a premier higher education institution in India by an act of the Parliament.
- INI is an institution which "serves as a **pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel** within the **specified region** of the country/state".
- Benefits: special recognition and funding from the Government of India.

#### Examples:

- AIIMS: By All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956.
- IITs: Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
- National Institutes of Technology (NIT): by NIT Act, 2007
- Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER): By amending the NIT Act, 2007.
- IIMs: IIM Act, 2017

#### Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements

- ARIIA is an initiative of the Ministry of Education
- To rank major HEIs and universities in India.
- Courses and programs on IPR, Innovation, Start-up and Entrepreneurship.

#### Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2020

- 15<sup>th</sup> ASER, Wave 1, was released by NGO Pratham.
- Basic reading and arithmetic tasks for children in the **5-16 age group in Rural India.**
- Early language acquisition.
- Early numeracy skills.
- Cognitive abilities.
- Social and emotional learning.
- **Focusing on Early years (age group 4-8):** These are the most important stage of cognitive, motor, social and emotional development.

#### Key Findings

- More than 90% children in age group of 4-8 are enrolled in some type of educational institution.
- **Private schools performing better than the Government schools:** They have a **learning advantage** on all the crucial factors.
  - Eg. age distribution in grade one, home factors such as mother's education, affluence etc.
- **Gender gaps:** more girls are enrolled in government institutions, and more boys are enrolled in private institutions.
- Children from **less advantaged homes** are **affected disproportionately.**

#### Difference between ASER and NAS

ASER Survey	National Achievement Survey (NAS)
It is a <b>household survey / citizen-led survey</b> conducted since 2005.	It is a <b>school-based survey.</b>
Conducted by <b>NGO PRATHAM.</b>	Conducted by <b>NCERT under MHRD.</b>
Oral assessments.	It is a pen-paper test.
It considers <b>all</b>	All students enrolled in

<b>children (whether in school or out of school).</b>	<b>government and government aided schools.</b>
Focus on <b>foundational skills:</b> eg. reading, math.	It focuses on <b>wider variety of skills.</b>
Rural areas only.	Both in rural and urban areas.

#### All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)

- MHRD conducts an **annual web-based AISHE.**
- It covers **all higher education institutions.**

#### Key Findings

- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education in India has risen marginally from 25.8% to 26.3% in one year.
  - Women are more than men.
  - SC student: 15%
  - ST student: 5%
  - Minorities: 5% students to Muslim category and 2% to other minority communities.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has **highest student enrolment** followed by Maharashtra.
- **Gender Parity Index:** Narrowing gender gap.
  - Male: 51.4%, Female: 48.6%.
- **Institution Density:** Number of colleges per lakh eligible population.
  - All India average of 28.
  - 7 in Bihar to 53 in Karnataka.
  - Number of Higher Education Institutions increased.
- Per Student Expenditure.
- **Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)** in Universities & Colleges is 29.
- **Foreign students:** Highest share from neighboring countries. Eg. Nepal, Afghanistan.

#### India Rankings 2020

under National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- Released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
- It is a **voluntary exercise** where only institutions that submit required data are ranked.

#### School Education Quality Index (SEQI)

- Released by NITI Aayog.
- Developed by NITI Aayog + Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) + World Bank + States and Union Territories (UTs), + others.
- Two broad categories of Indicators:
  - **Outcomes:** eg. learning, net enrolment ratio, infrastructure, and equity outcomes.
  - **Governance processes aiding outcomes:** eg. student and teacher attendance, quality of teachers, training, governance accountability and transparency.
- It fosters the spirit of **competitive and cooperative federalism.**
- **Three groups** – Large States, Small States and UTs to facilitate **like-to-like comparison.**

#### Global Education Monitoring Report 2020

- Published by UNESCO.
- 2020 title: **Inclusion and education: All means all.**

**UNESCO:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- Headquarters: in **Paris, France.**
- It has 193 Members, including **India.**

#### Bodies and Agencies

### Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)

- Created in **2017**
- JV: **Ministry of Education, GOI and Canara Bank.**
- **equity participation:** 90.91% and 09.09%.
- HEFA is registered under the **Companies Act 2013**, and as **Non-deposit taking NBFC** with RBI.

#### Objectives:

- To mobilize resources from market by way of equity from individuals / corporates
- Financial assistance to create educational infrastructure.
- To channelise CSR contributions

### National Recruitment Agency (NRA)

- An independent body to conduct examination for government jobs: common eligibility test (CET)
- Announced in the Union Budget; approved by the Union Cabinet.
- **Initially, CET:** to shortlist candidates for **Group B and C (non -technical) posts**, which are currently conducted by the **SSC, RRBs and IBPS.**
- Later on, more exams may be brought under it.
- However, the present recruiting agencies— **IBPS, RRB and SCC**, will remain in place.
- **Screening** to be done at the **CET level.**
  - **Final selection** through separate **specialised Tiers** (II, III, etc.).
  - conducted by the respective recruitment agencies.

#### Structure:

- **Chairman:** rank of the Secretary to the GoI.

- **Members:** from Ministry of Railways, RRB, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, SSC, IBPS.

#### Other details:

- The CET will be held **twice a year.**
- CET score validity: three years.
- Examination centres in every district
- No restriction on number of attempts.
- Subject to upper age limit.
- Examinations in 12 languages.

### National Testing Agency (NTA)

- A registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860.**
- A premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained organization.
- **Major examinations covered:** UGC-NET, JEE (Main), CMAT, GPAT and NEET.
- **Chairman:** an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.

#### Objectives

- To conduct entrance examinations for admission or fellowship in higher educational institutions.
- Conducting efficient, transparent tests designed in a **scientific manner.**
- To train subject matter experts
- To prepare tests in collaboration with psychometricians.

### National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

- It was established in 1994.
- An autonomous institution of the UGC.
- **Aim:** to improve quality of the functioning of Higher Education Institutions.

#### Structure:

- **General Council (GC):** UGC Chairperson is its President.

- **Executive Committee (EC):** Its Chairperson is an eminent academician nominated by the President of GC.

#### Central Board of Advisory Education (CBSE)

- It is **highest advisory body** to Central and State Governments in the field of education.
- **Organization:**
  - It is headed by **Education Minister**.
  - Elected members from **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.
- **Functions:**
  - To review the progress of education.
  - To review education policy implemented by central and state governments.

#### Miscellaneous

#### RISE 2022

#### Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022

- Initiative in the budget.
- HEFA's scope under RISE is greatly expanded.

#### Learning Poverty

- It is defined as the percentage of **10-year-olds who cannot read and understand** a simple story.
- **World Bank** released a report on this titled "**Realizing the Future of Learning: From learning poverty to learning for Everyone, Everywhere**".
- World Bank has launched a **Global Target**: To cut the Learning Poverty rate at least in **half by 2030**.

#### Delhi HC issues notice to UPSC

- USPSC neglected the minimum reservation to be provided to disabled persons.

- **4% mandatory reservation** under section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- only 24 vacancies out of 796 vacancies, (4% is 32)

#### 4.1 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

#### MDRD renamed to Ministry of Education

#### *Structure of the Ministry*

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has been renamed as Ministry of Education. (2020)

It is responsible for **expanding access and improving quality of the educational institutions**.

#### *Department of School Education and Literacy*

- It deals with **primary, secondary and higher secondary** education, **adult education** and literacy,
- **Principle:** Universalization of education
- Sarva Siksha Abhiyan,
- Digital gender Atlas (with UNICEF) (Not in MoWC)

#### *Department of Higher Education*

- It deals with a university education, technical education, scholarship, etc.
- **Education Policy**, Secondary and post – secondary education.
- Deemed university status on the advice of UGC, [UGC: Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Committee]
- International Cooperation: **UNESCO** India, Book Promotion and Copyrights (earlier)
- One of the largest higher education systems in world, after USA and China.

- World – class opportunities of higher education and research
- **Bodies:**
  - UGC, NCERT, ICSSR (Social Science), ICHR (Historical), ICPR (Philosophical).
  - AICTE (Technical Education), IIT, IISER, IIM, NIT, IGNOU.
  - KVS, NVS [Kendriya, Navodaya Vidyalaya]

### Schemes

#### **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA): Education for All Movement**

- It is a **flagship programme** for **Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE)** in a **time bound manner**, as mandated by **86<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment**.
  - Note: 86<sup>th</sup> Amendment made free and compulsory education to children (6 to 14 years) a fundamental right (Article- 21A).
- SSA is **implemented** in partnership with **State Governments**.
- **Beneficiaries:** Children between 6-14 years age.

A **flagship programme**, with sub-programmes:

- Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat
- Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan
- Vidyanjali
- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:** in educationally backward blocks.

### Objectives

- To open **new schools**.
- To **strengthen existing school infrastructure**. Eg. additional classrooms, toilets, drinking water, maintenance grant etc.

- To provide quality elementary education including **life skills**.
- Bridging of **gender and social gaps** in education.
- Special focus on girl's education and children with special needs.
- To provide computer education to **bridge the digital divide**.

#### **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results For States (STARS) Project**

- It is partially **funded by World Bank & rest by Education Ministry**
- It has been included National Education Policy,2020.
- It is to support states in **strengthening the school education system**.
- It would be analysed by an autonomous body **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)** through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- It aims to penetrate **teaching & learning process at grass root level**.
- As of now, the project covers **6 states**:
- Himachal Pradesh, 2. Rajasthan, 3. Maharashtra, 4. M.P. 5. Kerala, 6. Odisha.
- **Two major components of the Project:**
- At the **Centre Level**:
  - Strengthen MOE's (Ministry of Education) national data systems.
  - Improving states Performance Grading Index (PGI).
  - To establish a National Assessment Centre –PARAKH.
  - Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).
- At the **State level**:
  - Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning.
  - Improving Learning Assessment Systems, Strengthening Vocational education in schools.

### Samagra Siksha Scheme

- **Samagra Shiksha** envisages ‘**school** as a **continuum** from pre-school, primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- It is an integrated scheme for school education.
- **It subsumes 3 centrally sponsored schemes:**
  - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
  - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
  - Teacher Education (TE).
- **Governing Council:** Chaired by Education Minister.

### Objectives

- provision of **quality education** and **enhancing learning outcomes**.
- Bridging **Social, regional and Gender Gaps** in School Education.
- Promoting **Vocationalisation** of education.
- To support states in implementation of RTE Act, 2009.
- Strengthening SCERTs or State Institutes of Education and DIET as a nodal agency for teacher training.
- **A Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** a single State Implementation Society (SIS).
- **Regional balance:** preference to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWEs affected districts, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 115 Aspirational districts.

### Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)

- To enhance the **enrollment, retention and attendance** and
- To improve children **nutritional levels** simultaneously.
- To provide **cooked mid-day meal** to every child at schools

- **Primary level:** 450 calories and 12 g of protein.
- **Upper primary level:** 700 calories and 20 g of protein.
- Nutritional support to elementary stage children in **drought-affected area during summer vacation**.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Implementation:
  - At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of Human Resource Development
  - State level Committee headed by the **State Chief Secretary**
  - **District Level Committee:** headed by the senior-most Member of Parliament of the district.

### Recent revisions

- Annual increase in **Cooking cost linked to Inflation Index**.
- Revision of the **transportation rate to PDS rate**.
- Food **Fortification** through Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- **Monitoring of attendance**
- **Menu under MDM** - that reflects local taste and local produce.
- Usage of Jails, Temples, Gurudwaras etc. for MDM.

### Study in India

- **To target foreign students** by branding India as an attractive education destination.
- To use education as a **tool in diplomacy, and to strengthen the soft power of India**.
- **To double** India’s market share of **global education exports** to 2%. (currently less than 1%)

- **To reduce brain drain:** To reduce the export – Import imbalance in global education.
- **Fee waivers** to meritorious foreign students: To be decided by the Institute.
  - **The fee waiver** expenditure will be borne by **the Institute**.
  - No support from Government.
- It is a **joint initiative** of **MHRD, MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Implementing agency:** **EdCIL (India Limited)**, a Mini Ratna CPSE.
- **A single window** for admission of foreign students.
- **Spillover effects:** contribution to economy by international student. Eg. direct spends, indirect spends.

#### **Indo-SAT exam**

- To bring foreign students to Indian campuses
- Proposed in Budget 2020.
- **Under 'Study in India' scheme**

#### **DHRUV: Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme**

- **14-day learning programme:** meritorious students will be mentored and nurtured **by renowned sector experts**.
- It will cover two areas i.e. **Science and Performing Arts**. Later it will be expanded.
- Students broadly from classes 9 to 12, from **all government and private schools**. student to be called '**DHRUV TARA**'.

#### **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)**

- Announced by **MHRD**.

- **Public-private partnership with EdTech Companies:** start-up companies to harness technology for better learning outcomes in higher education.
- Partnership with companies using **artificial intelligence** to make more personalized learning.
- Learning through the **NEAT portal**.
- They would be **free to charge fees** as per their policy.
- **MHRD would ensure** that it is **freely available** to a large number of **economically backward students**.
- **AICTE under MHRD** is the implementing agency.
  - AICTE is the **national level regulator** for technical education.

#### **Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS)**

- Under the National Defence Fund (NDF).
- It aims to **promote technical and post-graduate education**.
- **Beneficiaries:** widows and children of the deceased/ex-service personnel of **Armed Forces** and Para Military Forces and Railway Protection Force.
- **Recent Changes:** Now the **state police officials** who were killed during **terror/naxal attacks** are also included.

#### **Implementation**

- For Armed forces: by the **Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence**.
- For paramilitary forces: **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- For Railway Protection Force: **Ministry of Railways**.

#### **National Defence Fund (NDF)**

- It was established in 1962.

- To take charge of **voluntary donations in cash and kind** received for promotion of the national defence effort.
- Used for the **welfare of the members of the Armed Forces (including Para Military Forces)** and their dependents.
- **Executive Committee: Prime Minister** is the Chairperson. Members: Defence, Finance and Home Ministers.

#### National Institution Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- It ranks institutions across the country, launched in 2015.
- Parameters: Teaching, Learning and Resources
  - Research and Professional Practices
  - Graduation Outcomes
  - Outreach and Inclusivity
  - Perception

#### STRIDE

- UGC has approved “**Scheme for Trans-Disciplinary Research** for India's Developing Economy” (STRIDE)
- To identify young talent, and to **strengthen research culture**.
- Applied research relevant to the overall well-being of society.
- To fund **high impact national** network projects.
- To revive **Indian knowledge systems**.

#### NISHTHA

##### National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement

- **Objective:** To motivate and equip teachers to foster critical thinking in students; and to act as first level counsellors.

- **Beneficiaries:** All teachers and Heads of Schools at elementary level in **Government schools**.
- Launched under the **Samagra Shiksha Scheme**, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Modules: Standardized national module, Activity-based modules like quizzes, Social- emotional learning, **Post training module**
- NCERT developed an app and **Learning Management System (LMS)** based on **MOODLE** (Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment)

#### Raksha

- **It is a self-defence** training to the **girls**.
- To become psychologically, intellectually and physically strong.

#### Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan

- To leverage the potential for **science, mathematics and technology** learning in **non-classroom settings**.
- It is a step to promote **scientific temper and enquiry** promoting the fundamental duty under **Article 51(A)**.
- **Mentoring by institutes** like IITs, IIMs, IISERs and other central universities and reputed organizations
- To develop a **natural sense of passion** towards science and math.
- To **encourage schools** to be **incubators of innovation**.

#### Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat

- **Objectives:** Early reading and writing with comprehension (ERWC) and Early mathematics (EM).
- **National Reading Initiative:** to promote **habit of reading** among students in elementary schools, thereby extending it to class 8.

- An annual library grant to all Government schools.

#### Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

- To provide universal access to **secondary education**.
- Providing a secondary school within a **reasonable distance (5-7 km)** of habitation.
- To ensure 100% GER, and universal retention by 2020, PTR 30:1.
- To improve quality, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers.
- Infra: Additional class rooms, Laboratories, Toilet blocks, Residential Hostels for Teachers in remote areas etc.
- Focus on **Science, Math and English** education.
- **Focus on vulnerable groups:** Preference to areas with **concentration of SC/ST/Minority** for opening of schools etc.

#### Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

- Transformative reforms in **State Higher Education System**.
- To create **an enabling atmosphere** in higher educational institutions (HEIs) for **research and innovations**.
- To improve the **GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) to 30%** by 2020.
- To reduce **regional imbalances, social and gender gaps**.
- Priority to **Aspirational Districts**, identified by the NITI Aayog.
- It is a **centrally sponsored flagship scheme**.
  - Central funding: norm based and outcome dependent.
- Planning and monitoring at the **state level**

- Promoting **autonomy in State Universities** and improving governance.

#### Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK)

- A fund for schemes of **secondary and higher education**.
- It would be maintained as a Reserve Fund in **non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India**.
- **Funding:** All proceeds of **Secondary and Higher Education Cess**.
- 1% cess on central taxes.
- **Expenditure on schemes:** initially from the gross budgetary support (GBS); from the MUSK **only after the GBS is exhausted**.

#### Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK)

- The proceeds of cess are used for **Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM)** Schemes of the Department of School Education & Literacy.
- It would operationalised MUSK initially.

#### Saakshar Bharat Programme

##### A programme for adult education

Eligibility:

- A district, having adult female literacy rate of 50% or below.
- All left wing extremism-affected districts, irrespective of literacy rate.
- Beneficiaries- Non-literate adults, of 15 years and beyond.
- To impart **functional literacy and numeracy** to non-literate and non-numerate adults
- To enable **neo-literate adults** to continue learning beyond basic literacy; and to **acquire equivalency** to formal education system.

- To Impart relevant skill development programmes.

**Note:** **Functional literacy** refers to the **practical skill set needed to read, write, and do math**, that are **adequate to manage daily living**.

#### **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Programme**

- To actively **enhance interaction** between people of **diverse cultures**.
- Every **State/UT would be paired** with another State/UT for **reciprocal interaction** between the people.
- **Rashtriya Ekta Shivir** by KVS (Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan).

#### **Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)**

- Launched by **MHRD**.
- EQUIP is meant to **bridge the gap between policy and implementation**.

#### **Key Objectives:**

- Double the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education,
- To reduce geographical and regional inequality
- To achieve **global quality standards**.
- At least **20 Indian institutions among** the top global institutions
- To promote research and innovation eco system.
- To improve **employability** of the students

#### **Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)**

- To overhaul the quality of technical education in **Low-Income and Special Category States (SCS)**.
- Graduates from premier colleges like IITs, NITs etc to teach in engineering colleges in these regions for 3 years.
- A Central sector Scheme; assisted by World Bank.

#### **Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA)**

- To encourage, create awareness and motivate all people to use a **digitally enabled cashless** economic system.
- Emphasize upon cashless economy.
- NCC/NSS volunteers to spread awareness.

#### **SHREYAS**

#### **Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills**

- To improve employability of students
- A functional **academia-industry connect** on a sustainable basis.
- ‘**earn while you learn**’ system into higher education.
- To help industry in securing **good quality manpower**.
- It will be implemented by the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs).

#### **Implementation:**

- **MHRD:** introduction of BA/BSc/ B.Com (**Professional**) courses in the higher educational institutions.
- **MSDE (Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship):** Add-on Apprenticeship by National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme.
- **Ministry of Labour & Employment:** Linking National Career Service (NCS) with Colleges

#### **Shagun: Shala Gunvatta Portal**

- **To monitor** progress of **implementation of SSA**.
- **SSA Repository:** Capturing and sharing of **best practices from States** and UTs.

#### **Ishan Vikas**

- Exposure to students in premier institutes. Eg. IITs, NITs, IISERs.
- A **Special Scholarship Scheme** for **northeastern students**.

### Ishan Uday Scholarship Scheme

- To promote higher education and increase GER ratio in the North East Region.
- Administered by University Grants Commission (UGC).

### Shala ASMITA

#### All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis

- To track the educational journey of school students, both for private and government schools.
- An online database: information of attendance, learning outcomes, mid-day meal service, infrastructural facilities etc.
- Tracking through Aadhaar numbers.

### Vidyanjali

- To enhance the community involvement by involving volunteers. Eg. NRIs, retired teachers, government officials, professionals, etc.
- To improve co-scholastic activities like- reading, creative writing, public speaking, play acting, preparing story books etc.
- Beneficiaries:** Government school, Government Aided school etc.

### SWAYAM

- It facilitates hosting of all the classrooms courses, from 9th class till post-graduation.
- To be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time, free of cost.
- To bridge the digital divide for students, to bring them into mainstream of knowledge economy.
- SWAYAM Prabha:** to provide 32 High Quality Educational Channels through DTH.

### Operation Digital Board

- To set up one digital interactive board per classroom in government schools, and in higher education institutions.
- to popularize flipped learning as a pedagogical approach.
- Implementing agency: UGC.

### National Digital Library of India (NDLI)

- It is a virtual repository of learning resources which is not just a repository with search/browse facilities but provides a host of services for the learner community.
- To provide full text index from several national and international digital libraries, as well as other relevant sources.
- A project under MHRD.

### GIAN: Global Initiative of Academic Networks

- To foster greater collaboration and knowledge exchange between local students/ faculty and international scholars.
- Lectures available through SWAYAM, the MOOCs platform and the National Digital Library.

**Note: Massive open online course (MOOC):** It is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web.

### National Academic Depository (NAD)

- It is a 24X7 online store house of academic awards. E.g. certificates, diplomas, degrees, mark-sheets etc.
- Duly digitised and lodged by academic institutions, boards etc.
- It validates and guarantees the authenticity and safe storage.

### IMPRESS: Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences

- 1500 research projects to be awarded for 2 years to support the social science

research in the higher educational institutions.

- **Implementing agency:** Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR).

#### **SPARC: Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration**

- To boost joint research with global universities
- To get international expertise to solve major national problems.
- It targets PhD and postdoctoral researchers.
- To improve the international ranking of Indian Institutes.
- **Eligibility: Indian institutions** ranked in top 100 of NIRF
- **Foreign institutions:** global academic rankings in top 100-200.
- Implementing Agency: IIT Kharagpur.

#### **INSET: Integrated National School Education Treasury**

- An information network for all parameters relating to school education. i.e. students, teachers, and schools.
- Fully integrated, instantly accessible and seamless network.
- **Multi-layered eco-system:** school wise, block-wise, district-wise, constituency-wise, state-wise and region-wise.

#### **STARS**

#### **Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science**

- Implementing agency: IISc, Bangalore.
- To promote interdisciplinary and translational research.
- To support socially relevant research.
- Thrust areas: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Nanoscience, Data Sciences & Mathematics, and Earth Sciences.

#### **IMPRINT 2.0 India**

#### **Impacting Research Innovation and Technology**

- To solve major engineering and technology challenges
- It is a joint initiative of IITs and IISc. Joint fund by MHRD and Department of Science and Technology.
- **Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana** scheme is subsumed under it.
- **10 technology domains relevant for the country:** health care technology, nano technology, advance resources, sustainable habitat, etc.

#### **Digital Gender Atlas**

- For Advancing Girl's Education in India
- To identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalized groups. Eg. scheduled castes, schedule tribes and Muslim minorities, girls with disabilities.
- Developed by MHRD + UNICEF.

#### **UDAAN- Giving Wings to Girls**

- To enhance enrolment of girls in technical education institutes.
- **Economically weaker Class XI Girls** from Government Schools or CBSE affiliated private schools.
- Launched by CBSE under guidance of Ministry of HRD.
- **Coaching:** It trains girls for entrance examinations.
- **Free resources:** Study material on pre-loaded tablet.

#### **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**

- To enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India.

- to identify development challenges and to evolve appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.
- IIT Delhi is the Coordinating Institute.
- Students from these educational institutions will **adopt villages**.

#### Paramarsh Scheme

- It is a “Quality Mandate” scheme by UGC.
- Launched by MHRD.
- **To mentor Institutions** aspiring to achieve National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accreditation.
- **Focus areas:** curricular aspects, teaching-learning, research, innovation, institutional values etc.

#### Vidwan portal

- It is the **premier database of profiles of scientists, researchers, faculty members** at leading academic institutions etc.
- **Developed by INFLIBNET:** Information and Library Network Centre.
- **Financial support from NME-ICT:** National Mission on Education

#### DIKSHA Portal

##### Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing

- National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers.
- **Teacher education:** To aid teachers to learn and train themselves.

#### Vidya-Daan

- Individuals & organizations **can contribute to e-learning** domain for grade 1 to 12.
- Eg. teaching videos, practice questions, lesson plans etc.
- **Soft skill development:** sharing life changing experiences, consultation, stress

relieving sessions, personality development sessions.

#### Vidya Daan 2.0

- **e-launched** by Ministry of Education (Erstwhile MHRD), due to **urgent need to integrate digital education** with schooling to augment learning.
- Both school and higher education
- Launched in the backdrop of COVID-19.
- **Content monitoring:** by a panel of academic experts
- **Released on DIKSHA app** for learning anytime anywhere.

#### PMRF: PM Research Fellowship Scheme

- Launched by MHRD.
- To **improve the quality of research** in various HEIs. [Ha Ha What a joke]
- To attract the best talent into research with attractive fellowships.
- **Direct admission in PhD programme in IITs/IISc:** Students from any recognised institute can apply.
- **No reservation quota.**
- In addition to direct entry, **lateral entry** is now allowed.
- NITs in top 25 **National Institutional Ranking Framework** can also grant PMRF.

#### DIKSHA

##### Digital Infrastructure Knowledge Sharing

- Launched by **MHRD**
- To provide supplementary learning **for students,**
- To serve as **National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers.**
  - To aid teachers to learn and train themselves.

### Bhasha Sangam Programme

- The **Education Ministry** initiated this as part of '**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**'.
- **Objectives:**
  - To enhance **linguistic tolerance** and respect, and promote national integration.
  - To **introduce school students** to all the **22 Indian Languages** of Schedule VIII.
- The **State/UT Department of School Education** will execute this.

### Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDiSA)

- It is one of the **largest digital literacy programmes** in the world.
- It is implemented by **IT Ministry**.
- **Aim:**
  - To **bridge the digital divide**, targeting **rural population**.
  - It will include the **marginalised sections** of society.
- News Context: Cabinet approved 6 crore rural households under PMGDSA covering people from **age group 14 to 60 years**.

## 5. HEALTH

### 5.1 International initiatives

#### World Health Organisation, 1948

- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is a **member of the UN Development Group**.
- **Member: 192, India is member.**
- **World Health Assembly (WHA)** is the legislative and supreme body of WHO.
- **Reports by WHO:**

- World Health Report
- World Health Statistics
- Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

#### • World Health Assembly (WHA):

- It is the **legislative and supreme body of WHO**.
- It **meets annually** and is attended by all WHO Member States.
- It **appoints the Director-General** every five years.
- **Functions:** To determine the policies of the Organization, supervise financial policies, review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- **International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005):**
  - An agreement between 196 countries
  - **All the WHO Member States**
  - To work together for **global health security**.

### WHO Funding

#### Funding of WHO

- Voluntary donations from member states: 35%
  - **USA contributes almost 15%** of the WHO's **total funding**, and almost 31% of the member states' donations. USA stopped
  - **India contributes 1%** of member states' donations.
- Assessed contributions: 15%
- Philanthropic organisations: 10%
- UN organisations: 8%

How does WHO prioritise spending?

- by WHO's **decision-making body**, the **World Health Assembly**.

- It is attended by **delegates from all member states**
- It focuses on a specific **health agenda prepared by the Executive Board**
- The decision on which country gets how much **depends on the situation in the countries.**

#### WHO-India Country Cooperation Strategy (CSS)

- The **WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2019– 2023**, has been **developed jointly between WHO and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- It provides a **roadmap for WHO to work with the Government of India** towards achieving its health sector goals.
- The priorities and activities are **aligned with the National Health Policy 2017.**
- In line with the newly adopted **WHO 13th General Programme of Work and its 'triple billion' targets.**

#### Triple Billion targets by WHO

It was unveiled in **WHO's 13th General Programme of Work (GPW 13).** By 2023, WHO proposes to achieve:

- 1 billion more people benefitting from **universal health coverage**
- 1 billion more people better protected from **health emergencies**
- 1 billion more people enjoying better **health and well-being.**

#### Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

- A formal declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO)

- An **extraordinary event** which carries implications for **public health beyond the affected State's national border**

Since 2009, there have been six PHEIC declarations:

- 2009: H1N1 (or swine flu) pandemic
- 2014: polio declaration
- 2014: outbreak of Ebola in Western Africa,
- 2015–16: Zika virus epidemic
- 2020: novel coronavirus outbreak.

#### Alma-Ata Declaration, 1978

- It was a **major milestone** of the twentieth century in the field of public health.
- It was the **first international declaration** underlining the **importance of primary health care.**
- It identified **primary health care** as the key to the attainment of the goal of "**Health for All**" around the globe, by the year 2000.
- It declared **health a human right for all**, and not just of a privileged few.
- It was adopted at the **International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC).**
- Almaty (formerly Alma-Ata) is in Kazakhstan.
- India was a signatory.

#### Astana Declaration, 2018

- Adopted in **Global Conference on Primary Health Care at Astana**, Kazakhstan.
- Organized by **WHO.**
- The declaration is **signed by all WHO members.**
- Countries declared their **commitment to 'Primary Care'** and re-affirmed their **commitment to Alma-Ata Declaration.**

### Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

- It is about ensuring that people have access to the health care they need without suffering financial hardship. - **World Bank**
- It is **key to achieving** the World Bank Group's (WBG) **twin goals of ending extreme poverty and increasing equity and shared prosperity.**
- **Universal Health Coverage Index:** by World Bank and WHO
- As part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, all countries have committed to try to achieve UHC by 2030.
- UN meeting on UHC Held by UNGA recently.

### SDG target 3.8

- It aims to “achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.”

### Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), 2017

- It is for **Water Supply and Sanitation** initiated by WHO and UNICEF.
- It maintains **global database**, estimates the **progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.**
- It follows the **agenda of Sustainable Goal 2030.**
- JMP released the report titled 'Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2017 and Sustainable Development Goal baselines'.
- The report **focuses on:**
  - To End open defecation.

- To Achieve universal access to basic services.

### UN-Water, 2003

- It is an **inter-agency coordination mechanism** for freshwater and sanitation related issues.
- It launched **2014-2020 Strategy** in support of the **2030 SDG Agenda.**
- **Head Quarter:** Geneva.
- **World Water Development Report (WWDR):**
  - It is published by **UN-Water Members.**
  - It is coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme.

### One Health

- It is an approach to **designing and implementing** programmes, policies, legislation and research; in which **multiple sectors communicate and work together** to achieve better public health outcomes. - **WHO**
- It includes food safety, zoonotic diseases, and antibiotic resistance.

### What ahead?

- It will be **difficult to predict**, with current tools, **where the next outbreak** will come from **or when** it will be.
- Evidence suggests that outbreaks may **become more frequent.**
- Developing reliable **early warning systems, and a 'One Health' approach** may be the guides for the road ahead.

### 5.2 Diseases

### Zoonotic pathogen and global pandemic

- From animals to human

- **Justinian Plague:** fifth century A.D.
- **Black Death:** in Europe, 13th century
- **Yellow Fever:** in South America, 16th century
- **Global influenza pandemic:** 19th century
- Modern pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, H1N1 etc.

### Why China has emerged as the epicenter of global outbreak of disease?

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Bird Flu, Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) etc.

### Reasons

- Unregulated food market.
- High density of population.
- Proximity of animals grown from **wild food market and captive animal breeding**
- **Deforestation** creating a **conveyor belt** for viruses and vectors to **move from wildlife to captive animals**
- Growing network of air travels worldwide.

### Epidemics and Pandemics

- WHO declares COVID-19 as a pandemic.

### What is an Epidemic?

- It is a **regional outbreak of an illness that spreads unexpectedly.**
- Eg. Bubonic plague, Cholera, Influenza, SARS and Smallpox.

### What is Pandemic?

- **it is an epidemic, that spreads over several countries and continents.**
- **Most people do not have immunity against it**
- A pandemic is a **larger epidemic.**
- When an **epidemic goes out of control**, it is known as a pandemic.

- **Eg. HIV or AIDS** is one of the best examples for the most destructive global pandemics in history.

### Criteria

- There is no fixed number of cases or deaths that determine when an outbreak becomes a pandemic.
- **Ebola virus**, which killed thousands in **West Africa**, is an **epidemic** as it is yet to mark its presence on other continents.
- **Other coronavirus outbreaks** such as **MERS (2012) and SARS (2002)**, which spread to 25+ countries, were **not labelled pandemics**, because they were **eventually contained**.
- **WHO's reluctance in declaring:** it would give an impression that it was unstoppable.

### Impact of the declaration

- It does not change the approach of WHO and countries.
- It can lead to **more government attention.**

### Pandemics in the past

- Spanish flu outbreak of 1918
- Cholera: declared multiple times between 1817 and 1975.
- H3N2: 1968
- H1N1: last pandemic declared (2009).

### Shadow Pandemic

- United Nations recognises domestic violence against women as a shadow pandemic.
- **National Commission for Women** has reported a large increase in distress calls from victims of domestic violence **since the pandemic broke out.**

### Vaccine Nationalism

- **A country manages to secure vaccine doses for its own citizens or residents,**

before they would be available for other countries.

- **Pre-purchase agreements** between a government and a vaccine manufacturer.
- **2009 H1N1 flu pandemic:** USA alone obtained the right to buy 600,000 doses.

#### African Swine Fever (ASF)

- ASF is a highly **contagious and fatal animal disease**.
- It infects domestic and wild pigs.
- First detected in Africa in 1920s.
- The **mortality** is almost **100%**. It has **no cure**, the only way to stop it is **culling of animals**.
- **Does not transmit to human beings**
- It has extremely high potential for transboundary spread. - FAO

#### News

- Since February, more than 15,000 pigs died due to this **highly contagious disease** in North East.
- Transmitted from China.
- **Concern:** Piggery is a major source of livelihood in northeast.

#### Sleeping sickness

- Also known as human African Trypanosomiasis
- Transmitted through **tsetse flies**.
- **Togo** become the first country in Africa to eliminate it.

#### Glanders

- It is an infectious disease, caused by **the bacterium Burkholderia mallei**.
- It primarily affects horses.
- It also affects other animals.
- **Transmitted to humans** through contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals.

#### Tick-borne virus

- A new virus, rapidly spreading in **China**.

- **SFTS disease:** Severe Fever with Thrombo-cytopenia Syndrome.
- Human to human transmission is possible.
- SFTS is listed among the **top 10 priority diseases** blue- print of WHO. [Fatality rate: 15 to 30%]
- Recent cases: a re-emergence of the disease.

#### Africa declared wild polio free

- Now only the **vaccine-derived polio virus exists in Africa**.
- A region is certified as wild polio free **after three years** of no virus detection.
- **Nigeria** is the last African country.
- Wild polio is **still present in Pakistan and Afghanistan**.

#### Fluorosis

- A disease resulting from **fluoride deposition in the hard and soft tissues** of body.
- Due to **excess intake of fluoride** through drinking water or food products.

#### Hysterectomy

- It is an **operation to remove a woman's uterus** for different **reasons, which includes:**
  - **Cancer of the uterus**, cervix, or ovaries.
  - **Endometriosis** (Tissue that normally lines inside the uterus, grows outside the uterus.)
  - Abnormal vaginal bleeding
  - Chronic pelvic pain
  - Adenomyosis (**Thickening of the Uterus**)

#### Leprocy (Hansen's Disease)

- It is a **chronic infectious disease** caused by **Mycobacterium leprae**.

- It affects the skin, peripheral nerves, eyes etc.
- It is curable and early treatment averts most disabilities.
- The exact mechanism of transmission of leprosy is not known.

#### Recent initiatives for Leprocy

- **Leprosy Case Detection Campaign:**
  - It comes under National Leprosy Elimination Programme.
  - It includes door-to-door leprosy detection campaign, by ASHA Workers.
- **Made-in-India Leprosy Vaccine.**
- **WHO's Global Strategy to end Leprosy:**
- It aims to vanish the number of children diagnosed with leprosy.
- **Few other Initiatives taken for Leprocy:**
  - 1955: National Leprosy Control Programme (NLCP) launched
  - 1983 - National Leprosy Eradication Programme launched
  - 1983 - Introduction of Multidrug therapy (MDT) in Phases
  - 2005 - Elimination of Leprosy at National Level.

#### YAWS

- It is a chronic infection that affects mainly the skin, bone and cartilage.
- It occurs mainly in warm, humid, tropical areas and affects children below 15 Years.
- It is caused by the bacterium: **Treponema Pallidum** and transmitted by skin contact.
- It occurs in overcrowded communities, with limited access to basic facilities, such as water, sanitation, health care.
- India is the 1<sup>st</sup> nation to be declared as yaws-free by WHO and UNICEF.

#### MNTE (Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus

##### Elimination):

- It affects the mother and the child both.
- **Major Causes:**
  - Unhygienic conditions during delivery.
  - Inadequate umbilical cord care.
  - A bacterium, **Clostridium Tetani**.
- **Symptoms:** Lockjaw, Muscle Spasms, Fever, sweating and High Blood Pressure.

#### Bird Flu (Avian Influenza)

- It is caused by strains of influenza virus that primarily affects birds.
- There are 3 main types of influenza: A, B, and C.
- The Bird Flu Virus is influenza A type with 8 RNA strands.
- **Influenza viruses:**
  - They are Classified by analyzing 2 proteins on the surface of the virus.
  - Hemagglutinin (H) and Neuraminidase (N).
- There are many types of Hemagglutinin and Neuraminidase proteins.
- The recent pathogenic bird flu virus has type 5 Hemagglutinin and type 1 Neuraminidase.
- That's why it is named "H5N1" influenza A virus.
- India has declared itself free from Bird Flu.

#### Tuberculosis

- It is caused by **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Bacterium**.

- It spreads through coughs, sneezes, spits, laughs or talks.
- Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB):
  - It arises when an antibiotic fails to kill all of the bacteria that it targets, with the surviving bacteria developing resistance to that Antibiotic.
- News Context:
  - The Global TB Report 2016 is released by WHO.
  - This report is being published since 1997.

### 5.3 Policies, Bills and legislation

#### National Mental Health Policy 2014

- Universal access to mental healthcare institutions.
- Strengthen leadership in the mental health care etc.

#### National Health Policy 2017

##### Key provisions

- Strengthening role of public sector
 

Increasing public health spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2025 from current 1.15%.  
States should spend 8% of more of their budget towards health by 2020
- Affordable quality healthcare for all
- Universal access to drugs and diagnostics, emergency and essential health services
- Health card for every family for PHC services
- Secondary and tertiary care services: through a combination of
  - Public hospitals and
  - Strategic purchasing from accredited non-governmental

healthcare providers in healthcare deficit areas.

- To establish public health management cadre in all states

##### Targets

- To increase life expectancy to 70 years by 2025 (currently 67.5 years)
- To reduce Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by 2025
- To reduce under five mortality to 23 by 2025
- To reduce neo-natal mortality to 16 by 2025.
- To reduce stillbirth rate to “single digit” by 2025.
- To reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019
- To reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio to 100 by 2020

##### Shifts observed in new policy

###### 1. From sick-care to wellness

- Early screening and diagnosis are made a public responsibility
- commitment to pre-emptive care: to achieve optimum levels of child and adolescent health
- Primary Health Care: at least 2/3<sup>rd</sup> health budget allocation.
- Comprehensive primary health care through the ‘Health and Wellness Centers’

###### 2. From communicable to non-communicable diseases

- To reduce premature mortality via NCDs by 25% by 2025.

###### 3. Urban Health Care

- Addressing the primary health care needs
- Special focus on poor populations
- Convergence among the wider determinants of health:

- Air pollution,
- Vector control,
- Reduction of violence
- Urban stress

#### 4. Private sector

- Collaborating with **the private sector**
- Regulating the private sector
  - **National health care standards organization (NHCOSO).**
  - **Tribunals** for grievance redressal.

#### Mental Healthcare Act, 2017

- **Rights of person with mental Illness:** every person shall have a right to access mental health care and treatment.
- **Advance Directives:** given by mentally ill person regarding his treatment; and who shall be his nominated representative.
- **Decriminalized suicide:** Such person will be treated as mentally ill. He will **not be treated as criminal offence under Section 309 of IPC.**
- A person with mental illness **shall not be subjected to electro-convulsive therapy without** the use of **muscle relaxants and anesthesia.**
- **Central and State Mental Health Authority**
- **Mental Health Review Commission:** will be a quasi-judicial body
- **Mental Health Review Board**

#### Medical Council of India

- It is a **statutory body**, established under Indian Medical Council Act 1956.
- **Functions:**
  - To regulate medical education standards, permission to start colleges, courses etc.

- To regulate standards of professional conduct of medical practitioners
- registration of doctors etc.

- **Issues:** Corruption, opaque functioning etc.

#### Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury committee (2015)

- Reconfigure the MCI's functions.
- Form a **National Medical Commission.**

#### Lodha Panel (2016) and Arvind Panagariya committee

- scrap the MCI.

#### 4. Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.

- MCI was superseded
- The powers of the MCI were **switched from the elective council body to the board of governors.**

#### National Medical Commission Act, 2019

The NMC Act, 2019 seeks to

- Repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956
- Replace Medical Council of India (MCI) with **a National Medical Commission (NMC)**
- To overhaul the **medical education system.**

#### *Key features*

#### 1. Overhauled Medical education system which ensures:

- Adequate and high-quality medical professionals
- Adoption of the latest **medical research**
- Periodic assessment of medical institutions.
- Effective grievance redressal mechanism.

#### 2. National Medical Commission (NMC)

- The Act **replaces the Medical Council of India with NMC.**
- **NMC Members:**
  - Appointed by the central government.

- **Search Committee:** It will be nominated by central government. It will recommend names.
- **33 members**
- **Chairperson** (must be a medical practitioner)
- **Functions of the NMC:** Framing policies, ensuring compliance etc.

### **3. State Medical Councils**

- to be formed by state governments.

### **4. Medical Advisory Council**

- Central government will constitute it.
- **To advise the NMC on minimum standards of medical education.**
- **Primary platform** through which the states **views and concerns before the NMC.**

### **5. Autonomous boards**

- Under the supervision of the NMC.
- President and members will be **appointed by the central government.**
- 4 boards:
  - Under-Graduate Medical Education Board
  - Post-Graduate Medical Education Board
  - Medical Assessment and Rating Board
  - Ethics and Medical Registration Board: It will also maintain national registers of licensed medical practitioners and Community Health Providers (CHPs).

### **6. Limited licensing:**

- NMC may grant a limited license to certain **mid-level practitioners**

- These practitioners may **prescribe specified medicines in primary and preventive healthcare.**

### **7. Entrance examinations**

- **Uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET):** for admission to under-graduate and post- graduate courses in all medical institutions

### **8. National Exit Test (NEXT):**

- To gain a license to practice after MBBS
- It can also serve as an entrance examination to post- graduate level.

### **9. Regulation of fees**

- NMC will frame guidelines for 50% of seats in private institutions and deemed to be universities.
- Currently, states determine fees for 85% seats.

### **Healthcare safety bill, 2019**

- Aims at **prohibiting violence** against doctors and other healthcare professionals.
- **Cognizable and a non-bailable offence**
- **Provisions of attaching properties** under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890.

### **Background**

- 75% health professionals face violence throughout their career. - Indian Medical Association
- **Currently,** such acts are dealt by **Indian Penal Code, 1860.**
- Health professionals are **protected under various state laws.**

### **Epidemic Disease (Amendment) Bill, 2020**

- This Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
- **Key features:**
  - **Protections to healthcare service personnel** who are at risk of contracting the epidemic

- It defines '**Act of Violence**' committed against a healthcare service personnel.
- Act of violence or loss to any property are **punishable, cognizable & non-bailable**.
- Expands the **powers of the central government to regulate the inspection** of everything.
- **The Epidemic diseases act, 1897:**
  - The Act came into effect **amidst the outbreak of the Bubonic plague in Bombay in 80s.**

#### 5.4 Bodies and Organizations

##### Indian Medical Central Council (PG Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2016 Amendments

- It allows the Post-Graduate (PG) students of Ayurveda to practise general surgery.
- It empowers **Central Council of Indian Medical (CCIM)** to regulates the Medical systems of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Medicine.
- Students will be trained in two streams of surgery of MS (Ayurveda):
  - **Shalya Tantra:** General Surgery
  - **Shalakya Tantra:** Disease of Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, Head and Oro-Dentistry.

##### National Health Authority (NHA)

- Apex body to implement **Ayushman Bharat**.
- It is the successor of National Health Agency.
- Governing Board chaired by the Union Health Minister.

##### Central Council of Indian Medical (CCIM), New Delhi

- It regulates the Medical systems of **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Medicine**.
- It's a **Statuary body**, set up in 1971 and comes under the **AYUSH Ministry**. It was set up under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.
- It is one of the Professional councils under **University Grants Commission (UGC)** to monitor higher education in Indian systems of medicine.

##### Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)

- It was established in **1961** by **Parliament Act** on the recommendation of **Mudaliar committee**.
- It is a **Health Intelligence Wing** under **Health Ministry**.
- **Vision:** A strong Health Management Information System in entire country.
- **Objectives:**
  - To collect and analyze Health Sector related data for policy decisions.
  - To identify and promote innovative practices for Health Sector Reforms.

##### Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO)

- It is the **national drug regulatory authority** under Health Ministry.
- It approves of **New Drugs, clinical Trials** and the **standards for Drugs**.
- It controls the **quality of imported drugs** and activities of **State Drug Control Organisations**.
- It follows the regulations of **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.
- The **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and 1945**:

- It regulates the import, manufacturing and distribution of drugs in India.
- **Objective:** To ensure selling of safe drugs and cosmetics in India.
- **Classification of drugs as:** Storage, Sale, Display and Prescription.

#### National Technical Board on Nutrition (NTBN)

- It comes under **Women and Child Ministry**.
- It makes **technical recommendations** on **policies of Nutrition**.

#### National E-Health Authority (NEHA)

- The **Health Ministry** has launched this for the **promotion of E-Health standards**.
- It will develop **Integrated Health Information System**, which includes **Telemedicine**.
- It will enforce the **laws of privacy and security of the Patient's health informations**.
- **Chairman:** An eminent person in the **field of Medicine, Public Health or Judiciary**.

#### National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

- It is an independent body of **Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry**.
- **Major functions:**
  - To fix/ revise the controlled bulk Drugs Prices.
  - To enforce prices and availability of the medicines.
  - To recover amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from the consumers.

- To Monitor the prices of Decontrolled drugs.
- **Non-Controlled Medications:**
  - It is **not addictive** and does **not impose Mental Dependency**.
  - As, Medication of Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Diabetes, Asthma inhalers, and antibiotics.
- **Controlled Medications:**
  - It can cause **physical and mental dependence**.
  - It has **Restrictions** on how they can be **Filled and Refilled**.

#### 5.5 Ministry of Health and Schemes

- Covered in separate lecture.

#### 5.6 Miscellaneous

#### Comprehensive Health Index

- NITI Aayog released the second edition.
- Title: “**Healthy States, Progressive India**”.
- It ranks states and Union territories.
- Developed by NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The **Health Index** is a **weighted composite Index** based on three domains:

- **Health Outcomes** (70%)
- **Governance and Information** (12%)
- **Key Inputs and Processes** (18%)

#### Empowered Action Group (EAG) States

- The government had constituted EAG under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** following 2001 census.
- **Aim:** to stabilise population in eight states that were lagging in containing population.

- Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

### Sample Registration survey

- It is based on a system of **dual recording of births and deaths**
- It provides annual estimates of (a) population composition, (b) fertility, (c) mortality, and (d) medical attention at the time of birth or death
- Initiated by **Office of the Registrar General.**

### RAAH app

- Helps to search for information about **mental healthcare** professionals, occupational therapists etc.
- Created by **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)**

### Stent

- It is a **tube-shaped device** which is **inserted** into a **blocked blood vessel**.
- It helps to **clear the blockage** in arteries.
- The thinner the stent, more **sophisticated** and **expensive** it is supposed to be.
- **News Context:**
  - National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped coronary **stents prices up to 40% lower.**
  - It is valid for all stents sold within India – whether domestic or imported

### National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)

- **Essential Medicines** satisfy the **priority health care** needs of the population - WHO.
- **Criteria to be included in the list:**
  - Public Health Emergency, cost effective medicine etc.
- It is reviewed by **Health Ministry.**

### Traditional medicines

#### Ayurveda: Indian traditional medicine

- Alternative medicine system
- It is a **pseudoscientific system of medicine** of the **Indian subcontinent**.
- **Classical Ayurveda texts:** Sushruta Samhita, Charak Samhita

### Yoga

- It is a group of **physical, mental, and spiritual practices** or disciplines which originated in ancient India.
- It is one of the six **Āstika (orthodox) schools of Hindu philosophical traditions**.
- It is **closely related to Hindu Samkhya philosophy**.
- Exists in **Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism**.
- Yoga is mentioned in **Rigveda** and in Upanishads.
- It is related to **Sramaṇa movements** of 5th and 6th centuries BCE.
- The **Yoga Sutras of Patanjali** date from the **2nd century BCE**.
- It was introduced by **Swami Vivekananda in the west** in the 20th century.

### Naturopathy

- It includes practices branded as "**natural**", "**non-invasive**", or **promoting "self-healing"**.
- Based on **vitalism and folk medicine**, rather than evidence-based medicine (EBM).

### Note: Vitalism philosophy

- Living organisms are fundamentally different from non-living entities.
- They contain some non-physical element or are governed by different principles.

### Unani: Yunani medicine

- It is the term for **Perso-Arabic traditional medicine**, as practiced in **Mughal India**.
- **Yūnānī** means "**Greek**": traced in Hippocrates and Galen.

### Siddha

- It is a traditional medicine originating in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Practitioners are called **siddhars** (**vaithiyars in Tamil**).

### Homoeopathy

- It believes that **a substance that causes symptoms** of a disease in healthy people would cure similar symptoms in sick people
- **similia similibus curentur, or "like cures like".**
- It was created in 1796 by **Samuel Hahnemann**.
- **Homeopathic dilution:** In this process, a chosen substance is **repeatedly and thoroughly diluted**.

### Sowa-Rigpa

- Traditional Tibetan medicine
- Incorporate techniques such as **pulse analysis and urinalysis**, and utilizes **behavior and dietary modification** etc.
- Medicines composed of **natural materials** (e.g., herbs and minerals) and **physical therapies** (e.g. acupuncture)
- it is based upon Ayurveda and **Indian Buddhist literature** eg. **Abhidharma and Vajrayana tantras**.
- **Buddhist belief:** All illness ultimately results from the three poisons: **delusion, greed and aversion.** (माया, लालच, घृणा)
- Tibetan medicine follows the **Buddha's Four Noble Truths.**

## 6. DRUG ABUSE ISSUES

**June 26:** International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

**Drug abuse:** It is the use of certain chemicals for the purpose of **creating pleasurable effects on the brain**.

- Substances of abuse include alcohol, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, and **over-the-counter drug abuse**.

**World Drug Report 2020** released by UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

- It outlined the **possible consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic** on Illegal Drug Production, Supply and Consumption.

### Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent

Two major opium producing regions of the world.

### Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

- To control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was constituted as nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency
- Responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances.

### National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025

- By Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

### Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)

- E-launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- For 272 most affected districts.
- To reach out to Children and Youth for awareness.
- Supporting Government Hospitals to open De-addiction Centers.

### International collaboration on drugs

- India is a signatory to the three UN Conventions:
  - Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
  - Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
  - Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
- BIMSTEC Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking: launched by India.

## 7. FOOD AND NUTRITION

### Initiatives taken in India for Food security:

- National Food Security Mission.
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- The Integrated Schemes on Oilseeds, Pulses, Palm oil and Maize (ISOPOM).

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- Mid-day meals at schools, Anganwadi systems.
- National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 1945

- It is a specialized oldest existing agency of the UN.
- It leads international efforts to defeat hunger, and to improve nutrition and food security.
- Its Latin motto, **fiat panis**, means "let there be bread".
- India is its member.

**Reports:** a number of major 'State of the World' reports. Eg.

- State of the food security and nutrition
- State of food and agriculture
- State of the forestry
- State of the fisheries and aquaculture
- State of the natural resources

### UN World Food Programme (WFP)

- It is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
- It is world's largest humanitarian organization promoting food security and addressing hunger.
- WFP works to help people who cannot produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its executive committee.
- It is funded by voluntary donations.
- Its headquarters is in Rome, Italy.

## International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Aim:** To address **poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.**
- It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations.**
- It is based in **Rome, Italy.**
- IFAD was established as an **international financial institution in 1977** through **UNGA Resolution 32/107**, as one of the major **outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.**
- It is a **member of the United Nations Development Group.**
- India is a member.**

## United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- It is a **United Nations agency** responsible for providing **humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.**
- It is based in **U.N. headquarters in New York.**
- It is **among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations** in the world.
- Functions:** immunizations and disease prevention, administering treatment for children and mothers with HIV, enhancing childhood and maternal nutrition, improving sanitation, promoting education, and providing emergency relief in response to disasters.

## 'Feed Our Future' campaign

- The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has launched this **cinema advertisement campaign.**
- To raise **awareness** against hunger and malnutrition in India.

## Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)

- It is a **medical intervention** to cure **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** among children (**6 months- 6 years**).
- It is **readymade packed paste** of high **energy supplements** (peanuts, oils, dried milk etc.).
- It is **implemented** under **Scaling Up Nutrition movement (SUN)** and ICDS in India.
- SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Movement, 2009:**
  - It is a **collective effort to improve maternal and child nutrition.**
  - It unites people from UN, civil society, donors, researchers etc.

## Global Hunger Index

- High-income countries are not included** in the GHI.
- Released by **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**

### Indicators of Hunger

- Undernourishment** (1/3<sup>rd</sup> weightage)
- Child mortality** (1/3<sup>rd</sup> weightage)
- Under nutrition** (1/3<sup>rd</sup> weightage)
  - Child wasting** (1/6<sup>th</sup> weightage): It means **low weight** for respective height. It reflects **acute undernutrition.**
  - Child stunting** (1/6<sup>th</sup> weightage): It means **low height** for respective age. It reflects **chronic undernutrition.**

### Key Findings

- Global Hunger is moving from Serious to Moderate:** decline of 30% since 2000.
- Highest in South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara:** serious levels of hunger.

- Inequality within countries.
- Climate change as a threat.

### **India and Hunger**

- India has slipped from 95th rank in 2010 to **102nd in 2019** on the Global Hunger Index (GHI).
- India has demonstrated improvement in under 5 mortality rates.
- **Child wasting rate:** 20%, the highest.
- **child stunting rate:** 38%
- **10% children** (less than 2 years) are fed a **minimum acceptable diet**.
- Despite the “Clean India” campaign, **open defecation is still practiced**.
  - Hence, children’s ability to absorb nutrients is compromised.

### **Bio-fortification**

- It improves **nutritional quality of food crops**.
- It includes **Agronomic Practices, Conventional Plant Breeding, Modern Biotechnology**.
- It **increases Nutrient Levels** in crops during plant growth.

### **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2019**

- Released by UN FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

### **Key Findings**

- Women have a higher chance of suffering from food insecurity. The largest gender gap being in Latin America.
- After decades of declining, **hunger is again on the rise**.
- In Asia, despite great progress in the last five years, **Southern Asia is the highest**

**sub region with almost 15% of undernourishment.**

- In high-income countries, too, significant population lack regular access to food and nutritious.
- Globally, **child stunting is decreasing**.
- Globally, child wasting is 7.5% (50 million).
- **Overweight and obesity** are on the rise in almost all countries.

### **Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey**

- It was conducted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF** (2016-2018).
- It is the **first study** undertaken to **measure malnutrition**.
- The **first-ever comprehensive** National Nutrition Survey was conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the UNICEF to measure malnutrition.
- The survey recorded **micronutrient deficiencies and non-communicable diseases**.

### **Food Fortification**

- It is the **addition of vitamins and minerals to Staple Food**.
- It includes **Mixing of Iron, Iodine, Zinc, Vitamin A, D to Rice, Milk to improve nutrition**.
- These nutrients may or may **not** have been originally present in the food before processing.
- It helps **overcome micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) deficiency**.
- It does not change food patterns, habits nor individual compliance.

## Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- It is an **autonomous statutory body**, established under the **FSS Act, 2006**.
- Works under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- Headquarters: Delhi.

### 7 Key Processes

- To set standards of food products
- To develop safe food practices
- License food businesses
- To ensure compliance through inspections
- Test food for standards
- Capacity building and training
- Citizens Outreach

## FSSAI Initiative

### BHOG: Blissful Hygienic Offering to God

- To encourage **Places of Worship (POW) to adopt food safety and hygiene**.
- To convey food safety messages through such places.

### Eat Right Movement

- To combat negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases
- To improve public health in India

### Hygiene Rating Scheme

- An online rating process.
- **Informed choices** to consumers about the places of dining out.

## FSSAI-CHIFSS

- to promote science-based food safety.
- launched by FSSAI and CHIFSS (CII-HUL Initiative on Food Safety Sciences).

## Heart Attack Rewind

- To support **FSSAI's global target of eliminating transfat** by 2022.
- First mass media campaign of its kind.

## Eat Right India Movement

- New logo and tagline '**Sahi Bhojan, Behtar Jeevan'**.
- It was launched in 2018 by FSSAI
- **Aim:**
  - and promoting healthier food options.
  - To combat **negative nutritional trends** to fight lifestyle diseases.
  - To improve **public health**

It brings together three ongoing initiatives of FSSAI:

- **Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF Initiative):** focused on social and behavioural change.
- **Eat Healthy Campaign:** focused on daily intake of salt, sugar, fat, phasing-out trans-fats.
- **Food fortification:** focused on promoting **key vitamins and minerals**, and **five staple foods** (wheat, rice, oil, milk and salt)

It brings together the **both the demand and supply- side**.

- **Demand side:** empowering citizens to make the right food choices.
- **Supply side:** nudges food businesses

## NetSCoFAN

- Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
- Created by FSSAI.
- It is a **network of research & academic institutions** working for food & nutrition.

- **Work areas:** biological, chemical, nutrition & labelling, food of animal origin, food of plant origin, water & beverages, food testing, and safer & sustainable packaging.

**Note:** Some chemicals that migrate from plastic materials to food are **barium, cobalt, copper, iron, lithium, manganese and zinc.**

### New Food Packaging Norms

- Recently, the **FSSAI** has updated the food packaging norms, under the **Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011.**
- Came into force in July **2019.**

#### Key features

- All food businesses shall comply with the new norms. Previously, it was voluntary.
- **Indian Standards (IS)**
  - **Schedules I:** for paper and paperboard materials.
  - **Schedules II:** metal and metal alloys.
  - **Schedules III:** plastic materials.
  - **Schedules IV: Indian Standards for printing inks for food packages:** a list of suggested packaging materials for different food categories.
- **Banned items to wrap food:** newspapers, recycled papers, cardboards, plastic sheets etc.
  - It takes into account the **carcinogenic effect of newsprint ink.**
- **Tin containers once used, shall not be re-used.**
- **Migration limit of contaminates to food**
  - Overall migration limit of 60 mg/kg
  - Specific migration limits defined for certain contaminates

### National Family Health Survey-5

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released data based on Phase I of the **National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5).**
- **Key Finding of NFHS-5 (22 states/Union territories):**
  - Anaemia in childhood increased in 18 States/Union Territories.
  - Severe acute malnutrition increased in 16 States/UTs.
  - Increase in % of children under five who are underweight in 16 States/UTs.
  - Increase in childhood stunting (low height for age) in 13 States/UTs.
  - Increase in overweight/obesity prevalence among children & adults.
- **Malnutrition:** Deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy & nutrients.
- **Undernutrition:** It includes **stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age), insufficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals).**
- **Overnutrition:** This includes **overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases as, heart disease, stroke, diabetes.**

### Global Nutrition Targets, 2012

Six global targets by **World Health Assembly (WHA)**, that by **2025** aim to:

- 40% reduction under-5 **stunted children** (low height for age)
- Less than 5% childhood **wasting** (low weight for height).
- 50% reduction of **anaemia** in women of reproductive age.
- 30% reduction in **low birth weight**.
- No increase in childhood **overweight**.
- **Exclusive breastfeeding** in first 6 months up to 50%.

### Global Nutrition Report, (GNR) 2020

- To assess the **progress of 2025 Global Nutrition Targets**.
- It aims to **end malnutrition in all its forms**.
- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative
- India is likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025.

### Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAF)

- An **international alliance** to address root causes of **extreme hunger**.
- Founded at **World Humanitarian Summit, 2016**.
- Founded by **European Union, FAO** and World Food Programme (WFP)
- Released **Global Report on Food Crises, 2020**.

### State Food Safety Index

- Released by FSSAI
- **On World Food Safety Day (June 7)**.

### State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020

- SOFI, 2020: released by FAO.
- **Other bodies:** International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, World Food Programme and WHO.

- It presents the **global estimates of the extent of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**.

### Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020

- It is published by **Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe**.
- GHI is based on **4 component indicators**:
  - **Undernourishment:** Insufficient Caloric Intake.
  - **Child Wasting:** Low Weight Children under the age of 5.
  - **Child Stunting:** Low Height Children under the age of 5.
  - **Child mortality.**
  -
- **India's Hunger Dilemma:**
  - **14% of India's population** does **not get enough calories**
  - India has **ranked 94 out of 107 countries**.
- **World Wide Hunger Dilemma:**
  - It is at **moderate level**.
  - **South Saharan Africa** and **South Asia** have the **highest hunger & undernutrition levels**.
  - 3 countries have **alarming levels of hunger**: **Chad, Timor-Leste & Madagascar**.

### Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

- It is the **most extreme and visible form of undernutrition**. Eg. **Kwashiorkor**.
- The **Health Ministry has proposed the guidelines for SAM and been approved by National Technical Board on Nutrition (NTBN)**.
- **Major Guidelines:**

- Define the **role of Anganwadi Workers and Auxillary Nurse Midwives.**
- **Anganwadi workers** have to provide modified morning snacks, hot cooked meals and take-home ration for SAM children.
- Local **Self-Help Groups, village committees** to be engaged for the preparation of these meals.
- To identify severely wasted children, segregating those with Oedema (Fluid or Water Retention) or medical complications.
- To send SAM Children to health facility or nutrition rehabilitation centres.

### Zero Hunger Programme

- It is initiated by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- Respective state governments will also be involved in the programme.
- **Objectives:**
  - To focus on agriculture, health and to develop an integrated approach to deal with Hunger and Malnutrition.
  - To organise farming systems for nutrition.
  - To identify the nutritional levels in each district and to make policies for this.
  - To make India malnutrition free by 2022 and to attain Zero Hunger.

- It was started from Gorakhpur, Koraput, Thane.

### National Nutrition Strategy

- It aims to reducing all forms of malnutrition by the end of 2030.
- It is a framework which covers different approaches to improve health services, food, drinking water and Nutrition etc.
- **Decentralised Approach:**
  - It aims to strengthen the ownership urban local bodies over nutrition initiatives.
- **Governance reforms:**
  - The implementation of NHM and Swachh Bharat in States and Districts.
  - Focus on vulnerable communities with highest levels of child malnutrition.
- **Nutrition Social Audits:**
  - To track the children and their Health progress.
- **National Nutrition Surveillance System:**
  - Undernourished endemic zones of the country will be identified.
  - It would include high risk and vulnerable districts.
  - Severe under Nutrition children will be included in the routine disease reporting system.
- **Institutional Arrangements:**
  - National Nutrition Mission Steering Group (NNMSG).
  - Empowered Programme Committee (EPC).

### National Nutrition Mission.

- It will be executed by **Child Ministry, Health Ministry and Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry.**
- **Objectives:**
  - To reduce stunting, under-nutrition, and low birth weight by 2% and Anaemia by 3% annually.
  - To focus mainly on children upto 6 years, Pregnant Women and Adolescent girls.
  - Mapping of various schemes contributing under malnutrition.
  - Measurement of height of children at Anganwadi Centres.
  - Social Audits to track the health progress of the children.
  - Setting-up Nutrition Resource Centres.

### 8. INDEX AND REPORTS

#### Human Capital Index (HCI) 2020

- It is released by **World Bank.**
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Index was published in **2018** with 157 countries.
- HCI 2020 released with 174 countries, with **Singapore Rank 1 & India ranks 116.**
- This Index measures, which countries are best in mobilizing the economic and professional potential of its citizens.
- It also measures how much capital each country loses because lack of education and health.

#### HCI consists of 3 Components:

- **Survival:** Since birth to school age.
- **School measuring** is done on 2 basis:
  - Number of years of school, as in; **enrollment rates.**

- The **quality of education** based on Universal elementary education.
- **Health:** measured on 2 basis.
  - **Adult survival rates:** 15 to 60 years of age (Not exactly Life Expectancy).
  - the **rate of stunting** under age 5.
- **Human Capital:** Skills, knowledge, experience possessed by an individual or population, viewed in terms of their value or cost to an organization or country.

#### Human Development Report (HDR)

- The first edition was released in 1990 by UNDP.

**The Human Development Report Office, under UNDP,** releases **five composite indices** each year

- Human Development Index (HDI)
- Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- Gender Development Index (GDI)
- Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Note: **Global Gender Gap Report** is released by the **World Economic Forum.**

#### Human Development Index (HDI)

- It is released as part of Human Development Report.

#### Three parameters

- Life expectancy
- Education
- Per capita income

#### Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- It is released by:
  - UNDP.
  - OPHI (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative).
- It looks **beyond income** to understand how people **experience poverty in multiple and simultaneous ways.**

**It has 3 key dimensions**, and 10 indicators:

- **Health:** Nutrition, and Child mortality
- **Education:** Years of schooling, and School attendance
- **Standard of living:** Cooking Fuel, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Electricity, Housing, and Assets.

#### Global Social Mobility Index

- **Released by:** World Economic Forum (WEF)
- **5 key dimensions:**
  - **Health, Education** (access, quality and equity, **lifelong learning**)
  - **Technology, protection & Institutions** (social protection, inclusive institutions).
  - **Work** (opportunities, wages, conditions)

#### Global Livability Index

- It is released by **Economist's Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
- It considers 5 categories:
  - stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.

#### SDG India Index 2019

- It is released **by NITI Aayog**.
- **It is developed by:**
  - NITI Aayog, UN.
  - Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
  - Global Green Growth Institute
- It **documents the progress** made by India's States and UT **towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets**.

- **Classification of states/ UTs** (Scale: 0–100)
  - Aspirant: 0 – 49, Performer: 50 – 64, Front Runner: 65 – 99 and Achiever: 100.

#### Key findings

- All the States/UTs are either in **Performer or Front Runner** category.
- The maximum gains are in
  - Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation)
  - Goal 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) and
  - Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy).
- **Nutrition and gender equality continue to be problem areas** for India.

#### World Migration Report 2020

- It is released by **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**.
- It presents data and information on human migration and emerging migration issues.
- **International Organization for migration, 1951:**
  - It was **established** as Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to help resettle people **displaced by World War II**.
  - It is an **intergovernmental organization** for migration.
  - It includes internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers.
- In 2016, it became a **related organization of the UN**.

- India is a member.

#### Global Peace Index (GPI)

- It is released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**.
- It is a **measure relative position of nations' and regions' peacefulness or Global Peacefulness**.
- It uses **23 indicators under 3 domains**:
  - The level of Societal Safety and Security
  - The extent of on-going Domestic and International conflicts
  - The degree of Militarisation.

#### Global Liveability Index (GLI)

- It is released by **The Economist Intelligence Unit**.
- It **ranks global cities** according to their **living conditions**.
- It uses **New York** as a **baseline to measure each city**.
- It is **based on 30 indicators** covering **5 broad categories**, such as:
  - Stability, Healthcare, Culture and Environment, Education, Infrastructure.

#### Global Wage Report (GWR)

- It is released by **International Labor Organization (ILO)** annually.
- It focuses on aspects of **Labour, Wages** and its impact on **equitable growth and social justice**.
- It also started including '**Gender Pay Gap**' from 2018.

#### The Global Slavery Index

- It is released by the **Walk Free Foundation**.
- It provides **country ranking based on 3 key indicators**:
  - Number of people in Modern Slavery.
  - Government's response to Modern Slavery.
  - The factors that make people Vulnerable.

#### Global Gender Gap Report

- It is released by **World Economic Forum** since 2006.
- It shows **Gender-Based Disparities** and **Tracking the progress overtime**.
- It measures **4 Dimensions**:
  - Economic Participation and Opportunity.
  - Educational Attainment.
  - Health and Survival.
  - Political Empowerment.

#### Social Progress Index (SPI): State of India

- It is released by **Social Progress Imperative and Institute of Competitiveness**.
- It measures the progress of a society across different states, beyond the traditional economic measurement tools.
- SPI measures **3 broad criteria of social progress**:
  - The capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens.

- Allow citizens and communities to enhance and **sustain the quality of their lives.**
- Create the conditions for all **individuals to reach their full potential.**
- To **create data advocacy tool**, in order to achieve the **SDG.**

### India Youth Development Index

- It is made by **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD).**
- **Objective:** Tracking the trends in Youth Development across the States.
- **According to the Report:**
  - 'Youth' means stage between adolescence and adulthood (15 to 29 years)
  - It is accepted by Commonwealth and National Youth Policy 2014.
- The dimensions of the reports are:
  - Education, Health Political Participation, Civic Participation, Work, Social Inclusion.

### Global Youth Index

- It is developed by the **Commonwealth Secretariat.**
- It uses a **comprehensive measure across 5 domains:**
  - Education, Health, Employment, Civic and Political Participation.
- **Objects:**
  - To **informs policy makers** about young people's needs and opportunities.
  - To indicate areas of where attention and investment is needed.

### India Innovation Index

- It is released by **NITI Aayog.**
- It **evaluates the innovative environment of states and UT.**
- It has **2 parameters: Enablers (Innovative Capacities) and Performance.**
- **Enablers:** Human Capital, Investment, Knowledge Workers, Business Environment, Safety and Legal Environment.
- **Performance:** Knowledge Output, Knowledge Diffusion.

### Global Gender Gap Report

- It is released by **World Economic Forum** since 2006.
- It measures **gender equality.**

The report examines 4 overall areas of inequality:

- **Economic participation and opportunity:**
  - outcomes on salaries, participation levels and access to high-skilled employment.
- **Educational attainment:**
  - Outcomes on access to basic and higher-level education.
- **Political empowerment:**
  - Outcomes on representation in decision-making structures
- **Health and survival:** Life expectancy and Sex ratio.

### 9. MISCELLANEOUS

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- They were adopted by UN in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet etc. by 2030.

### UN-Habitat

- It is the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
- It is the UN programme for **human settlements and sustainable urban development**.
- It was **established in 1978** as an outcome of the **Habitat I**
- UN-Habitat headquarters: at the UN Office at **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- It is a **member of the United Nations Development Group**.

### Habitat I

- First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development.
- Held in **Vancouver, Canada, in 1976**.

### Habitat Agenda

- Adopted by the **Habitat II** (United Nations Conference on Human Settlements).
- Held in **Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996**.

### Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC- 2011)

- It was conducted **both in urban and rural areas**.
- Conducting organisations**
  - Ministry of Rural Development
  - Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
  - Office of the Registrar General
  - Census Commissioner
  - State Governments.
- SECC is now being used **in many schemes to identify Beneficiaries**.

- Eg. MGNREGA, PM Awas Yojana-Gramin, Ayushman Bharat, NRLM etc.

SECC provided for **automatic exclusion, automatic inclusion and grading of deprivation**.

- 7 indicators of deprivation**

- Households with only one room, kucha walls and kucha roof
- SC/ST household
- No adult member** between the ages of 16 and 59
- Female headed households** with no adult male member between 16 and 59
- Households with **disabled member** and no able-bodied adult member
- Households with **no literate adult** above 25 years
- Landless households** deriving a major part of income from **manual casual labour**

- Automatically included:** households without shelter, destitute living on alms, manual scavengers, primitive tribal groups and legally released bonded labourers.

- Automatically excluded:** motorised vehicles, mechanised agricultural equipment, Kisan credit card with credit limit of at least Rs 50,000, households with a government employee, people having non-agricultural enterprises, any family member earning more than Rs 10,000 a month, taxpayers, owning a refrigerator, landline phone, possessing irrigated land, etc.

### Nirmal Coast (Tat तट) Abhiyaan

- By Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- in collaboration with the National Green Corps (NGC- Eco-club).

## Objectives

- To make coastal areas across country clean.
- A mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in identified beaches.
- To save marine creatures and coastal ecosystems from plastic waste, industrial effluents and other harmful substances.
  - The identified beaches are in 10 coastal

## National Green Corps (NGC)

- It is a Programme of MoEFCC, operated through Eco-clubs set up in schools.
- Building cadres of young children working towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Initiative for creating environmental awareness among children.

## Swachh Survekshan

- It is a ranking exercise to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness, and active implementation of Swachh Bharat mission.

## Implementing bodies

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in urban areas
- Ministry of Jal Shakti in rural areas.
- Quality Council of India (QCI): carrying out assessment.

## Objectives

- To encourage large scale citizen participation
- To create awareness
- To foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities.

## 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. ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI.
- Aim: to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.
- Governing Council: equal representations of government, industry and consumers.
- Chairman: appointed by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the industry.
- Nodal department: Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

## Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2019

- By the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It aimed to rank all districts of India on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.

## Population Research Centres (PRCs)

- Established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- PRCs are autonomous bodies, and administratively under the control of their host University/Institutions.
- 100% central assistance in the form of grant-in-aid.

## New Food Packaging Norms

- Recently, the FSSAI has updated the food packaging norms.

- Released under the **Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011.**
- All food businesses shall comply with these.
  - Previously, compliance was voluntary.
- Considers the **carcinogenic effect of newsprint ink and dyes.**
- **Banned items to wrap food directly:** newspapers, recycled papers, cardboards, plastic sheets, recycled plastic.
- Any material which comes in **direct contact with food** shall be of **food grade quality.**
- **Tin containers once used,** shall **not be re-used.**
- **Defined Indian Standards (IS)** in various Schedules
  - Schedule I: for paper and paperboard materials
  - Schedule II: metal and metal alloys
  - Schedule III: plastic materials.
  - **Schedule IV:** list of packaging materials for **different food categories.**
- Both **general and specific migration limits** are defined for packaging materials.
  - **Migration limit** is the amount of substances or chemicals transferred from the packaging material to food.
  - **Overall migration limit:** 60 mg/kg
  - **Specific migration limits:** for certain contaminates in plastic packaging materials. Eg. for plastic materials.

**Note:** chemicals which migrate from plastic packaging to food articles: **barium, cobalt, iron, copper, lithium, manganese and zinc.**

#### National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)

- By Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **It contains details of people convicted of sexual offences:** from 2005 onwards.
- Maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), under **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **Accessible only to Law Enforcement Agencies:** for investigation and monitoring cases of sexual offences and employee verification.
- **No compromise on privacy.**
- Keeps track of **released convicts** moved from one place to another.

#### Online portal for reporting cyber crime

- cybercrime.gov.in
- to receive **complaints from citizens on objectionable online content** related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, and sexually explicit material.

#### Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [PHASE II]

- **SBM – Gramin:** Launched by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- To improve the general **quality of life by promoting cleanliness**, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.
- **Toilet access:** ensuring that **no one is left behind.**
- To adopt **sustainable sanitation practices.**

- To develop community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific solid waste management.
- **ODF Plus:** It includes ODF sustainability, and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
- To ensure effective SLWM in every Gram Panchayat.
- **Funding:** by converging different financing verticals.
- **Fund sharing** between Centre and States:
  - 90:10 for North-Eastern, and Himalayan States, J&K
  - 60:40 for other States
  - 100:0 for other Union Territories.
- **Funding norms for SLWM:** changed to per capita basis in place of number of households.
- **Community Managed Sanitary Complex** at village level: Financial assistance to Gram Panchayats is increased.
- Incentive of **Rs.12,000/- for Individual Household Toilet** to the newly emerging eligible households.
- New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP) scheme
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Scheme for GOBAR-Dhan projects.

#### **Swachh Manch web portal**

- Launched under the SBM.
- **Volunteering opportunities:** to bring together every stakeholder under a common platform.
- **pictorial evidence upload:** citizens, participating organizations.
- To integrate the existing Swachhata App: to act as a citizens' grievance redressal platform.

#### **Swachh Survekshan**

- It is a ranking exercise to assess **rural and urban areas** for their levels of cleanliness, and active implementation of Swachh Bharat mission.

#### **Implementing bodies**

- **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** in urban areas
- **Ministry of Jal Shakti** in rural areas.
- **Quality Council of India (QCI):** carrying out assessment.

#### **Objectives**

- To encourage large scale citizen participation
- To create awareness
- To foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities.
- **2020 Report:** rankings based on the population categorization of cities, instead of releasing overall rankings.

#### **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK)**

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Journey of country from Satyagraha to Swachchagrah.

World's largest behaviour change campaign.

#### **Lancet Study on Population Trends**

- Global population is projected to peak at 10 billion in 2064.
- Decline to 8.8 billion by 2100.

#### **PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi scheme**

- Launched by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**
- **SIDBI:** Implementation Agency.
  - SIDBI will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions.
  - through **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust** for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

### Atal Bimbit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- Launched by the **Employee's State Insurance (ESI)**.
- To financially support those who lost their jobs for whatever reasons due to changing employment pattern.
- Eligibility criteria is relaxed.

### PM Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)

- A central sector scheme; by the **Ministry of MSME**.
- It is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme**: It promotes self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises.
- **Subsidy up to 35%** is provided for loans up to ₹25 lakhs in manufacturing and ₹10 lakhs in the service sector.

### Implementation:

- **At State Level-** State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVICs), District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at National Level.

### Chunauti

- Next Generation Start-up Challenge Contest.
- Launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- To boost startups and software products with **special focus on Tier-II towns**.

### Great Andamanese tribes

- They speak **Jeru dialect**.
- **5 PVTGS of Andamans:** Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.
- Population: 51. COVID-19 positive: 10

### Digital Quality of Life Index

Released by **Surfshark**, a virtual private network (VPN) provider based in the British Virgin Islands.  
Parameters

- Internet affordability and quality
- Electronic infrastructure
- security and government

### SKOCH Gold Award

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has received it.
- For the “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes project.
- **SKOCH Awards: highest civilian honour** in the country conferred by an independent organisation.

### Smart India Hackathon 2020

- To provide **students** with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems people face in daily lives.
- Organised by: MHRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems and i4c.

### MyGov

- mygov.in is the GoI's citizen engagement and crowdsourcing platform.

### Namath Basai

- Kerala's programme for teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.

### Millennium Alliance

- It is an innovation-driven and impact-focused initiative.
- To identify, test and scale **Indian innovations** that address global development solutions.
- **Public-Private Partnership:** Department of Science and Technology, FICCI, USAID, UK.

### AWARDS

#### National Florence Nightingale Award

- These were instituted in 1973 by the Government for the meritorious services rendered by nurses.
- **Florence Nightingale**

- Also called as **Lady with the Lamp.**
- She was a British nurse and social reformer
- She was the **foundational philosopher of modern nursing.**
- 2020 is her 200th birth anniversary.
- 2019 awards: **by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** to Indian Nursing Council.
- WHO has announced 2020 as the **year of the nurse and mid-wife.**

#### **Vayoshreshtha Samman**

- A Scheme of **National Awards** instituted by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- **Awarded to institutions and citizens involved in rendering distinguished service** for the cause of elderly persons.
- Presented on **1<sup>st</sup> October** every year.
  - On this day, **in 1999, UNGA adopted a resolution on Older Persons.**
  - 1999 is the International Year of Older Persons.

#### **Nari Shakti Puraskar**

- Related ministry: Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Awarded to **individuals, groups, institutions, or NGOs** in recognition of their exceptional and outstanding work in socio-economic empowerment of women.
- Conferred every year, by the President of India on 8th March, the **International Women's Day.**

#### **SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Investor Map (SDGIM) For India**

- It is prepared by **UNDP & 'Invest India'.**

- It identifies 18 Investment Opportunity Areas (**IOAs**) & 8 White Spaces (**Areas of Potential**).
- **SDG Financing:** Channelizing global financial flows to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

#### **Invest India**

- It is the National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency of India.
- It is set up as a non-profit venture.
- It works under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI).