



VISIONIAS

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Classroom Study Material

SOCIAL

JULY 2015 – APRIL 2016

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ADVANCED COURSE *for* GS MAINS

Targeted towards those students who are aware of the basics but want to improve their understanding of complex topics, inter-linkages among them, & analytical ability to tackle the problems posed by the Mains examination.

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A. WOMEN

A.1. WOMEN ENTRY TO RELIGIOUS PLACES ISSUE



Background

- **Shani Shignapur:** Recently a group of women called the Bhumata Rangaragini Brigade tried to break the 400 year old tradition of the Temple barring women from entering its inner sanctum.
- **Sabrimala Temple Entry Issue:**
 - Sabarimala is a Hindu pilgrimage center located in Kerala. It is the largest annual pilgrimage in the world with an estimated 50 million devotees visiting every year. Women between the ages of 10 and 50 are not allowed to enter the temple, since they are in the menstrual age group.
 - The Supreme Court has asked the temple trust if it has any constitutional reason to keep women out.
- **Hazi Ali:**
 - The Maharashtra government recently backed the entry of women into the Haji Ali Dargah, and told the Bombay High Court that equality must rule over tradition and customs.
 - It said that unless the Dargah Trust is able to prove that the ban is part of their religious practice with reference to Koran, women should be allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum.

Significance

- **Law vs Religion:**
 - The ban violates the principle of equality guaranteed by the Constitution while Customary Right allows respect of religious traditions and customs.
 - While the Constitution protects religious freedom, clause 2(b) of Article 25 allows the state to intervene in religious practice.
- **Faith vs Rationality:** Validity of a God that is easily threatened by presence of women.
- Women becoming increasingly aware of **progressive promises in Constitution** and regressive practices in reality. Entering temples is symbolic of larger discrimination against women.
- Temple entry movements have historically been used to challenge power hierarchies e.g. for Dalits.
- Regressive attitudes deep rooted in religion cannot be changed by force and have to be changed through slow grass root level work.

A.2. DEVDASI SYSTEM

Why in news?

- The apex court started hearing on the Devadasi issue when apprised of how Dalit girls were dedicated as Devadasis in Uttangi Mala Durga Temple in Davanagere district of Karnataka.
- SC directed all States and Union Territories, especially Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, to strictly enforce the Central law to check “undesired and unhealthy” practice of forcing young girls to serve as Devadasis.

Who are Devadasis?

- 'Devadasis' are women dedicated to temple services for the rest of their lives and many of them are often victims of sexual abuse.



Relevant Laws to prevent Devadasi system

- State-level legislation such as the **Karnataka Devadasis Prohibition of Dedication Act, 1982**, and **Maharashtra Devadasis Abolition Act, 2006**, had completely abolished such practices.
- **Section 372 of the IPC**, which prohibits selling minors for purposes of prostitution.
- **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**, also makes prostitution an offence in or in the vicinity of public places.

A.3. GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN TEMPLE WORSHIP

Why in news?

The Supreme Court has delivered a verdict recently, which determines who gets to enter the sanctum sanctorum of an Agama-protected Hindu temple as a priest. SC ruled that appointment of Archakas in Tamil Nadu temples as per the Agamas **is not a violation** of the right to equality.

What is the judgement?

The judgment strike down the Tamil Nadu government order of May 23, 2006, which allowed any qualified and trained Hindu to be appointed as priest in Hindu temples in the State.

Agamas

The Agamas are a collection of scriptures of several Hindu devotional schools.

Agamas in Sanskrit mean "that which has come to us".

These texts are in Sanskrit and in some south Indian languages like Tamil.

There are two kinds of Agama texts, Agama and Tantra, the former practised in Shaivite and Vaishnavite temples, and the latter in Sakthi temples

Agamas expound a variety of subjects and they are really the stylebook, on which Hindu rituals are based while some Saivite temples practise Tamil Agamas too, rituals in Vaishnavite temples are based on Vaikhanasa Agamas and the Pancharathra Agamas, or the Five Nights.

According to the Agama texts poojas can be performed only by Archakas belonging to a particular and distinct sect/denomination, failing which, there will be defilement of deity requiring purification ceremonies

A.4. UNIFORM SERVICES: WOMEN

- Punjab and Haryana HC held that women cannot be permanently barred from joining the Army Medical Corps for reason of pregnancy.
- HC concluded that forcing a choice between bearing a child and taking up employment interferes both with a woman's reproductive rights as well as her right to employment, and that such an action has "no place in modern India".

- The Directorate General, Armed Forces Medical Services, argued that they could not allow a woman to join if she was carrying a child on the date of joining duty - and she would have to undergo the entire process from scratch after she had given birth.



Similar Practices in other Forces

- Forces like the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, uniformed combatant women doctors are allowed to flexibly join service after the birth of a child.
- The guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs also provide that
 - Women should be considered fit for reporting for duty even during pregnancy for all services which do not involve physical training.
 - While in cases of services with physical training, the vacancy should be kept reserved along with protection of seniority — and that such women should be able to join service six weeks after confinement.

A.5. NAVY GRANTS PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

- Recently the Indian Navy granted permanent cadres to seven women officers and plans to introduce Permanent Commission in eight branches from 2017.
- It is subject to medical fitness and good Annual Confidential Report.
- From 2017, branches opened for women will include education, law, meteorology, air traffic control, logistics, observers, pilots on maritime reconnaissance aircraft and naval constructors.

Background

- Women until now were only allowed Permanent Commission in select streams of the Army and Air Force.
- Navy until now permitted only Short Service Commission for 14 years, which means they were denied pension.
- The Indian Air Force last year announced induction of women in the fighter stream, being the first Indian armed force to allow women in the combat role. This however is only on an experimental basis.

A.6. WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES

Women in Combat Roles

- Reversing its earlier position of not allowing women in combat roles in armed forces, the Ministry of Defence has approved the induction of women into the Fighter (Combat) stream of the IAF.
- The decision was taken after IAF made a formal request to this effect to the Ministry and it is expected that **by June 2017 the first batch** of women fighter pilots would be serving the Air Force.
- The present progressive decision goes against the recommendations on the Induction of women in combat duties based on the studies carried out by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) in 2006 and High Level Tri-Services Committee in 2011.

Present status of women in Armed Forces



- The Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the IAF allow women in various courses but till recently restricted their entry into combat roles.
- With this decision, women have become eligible for induction in all branches and streams of the IAF.
- After the IAF, the Indian Navy has also taken a decision to allow women in various flying streams but for now they will be shore-based till necessary infrastructural needs are addressed.
- In September 2015, Delhi High Court had granted Permanent Commission for women and had pulled up the Navy and the Defence Ministry for "sexist bias" to block women's progress.

A.7. GENDER INEQUALITY - TERRITORIAL ARMY

Recently the Delhi High Court issued notices to the Defence Ministry and the Territorial Army on a petition challenging a provision in the law governing the Territorial Army that prohibits recruitment of gainfully employed women.

Concerns:

- Not allowing women to join amounts to **"institutional discrimination,"** which violates fundamental freedoms and human rights.
- Discrimination on grounds of gender went **against the spirit of the Constitution.**
- At present, TA recruits only males (gainfully employed).
- The country ranks 127th on **gender inequality index** and 114th on gender gap in the world.

Territorial Army

- The Territorial Army is the country's **second line of defence**, after the regular army. It comprises volunteers who receive military training for mobilization in emergency situations.
- The Territorial Army is not an occupation or a source of employment. Gainful employment or self-employment in a civil profession was a pre-requisite for joining the Territorial Army.
- It also helps in maintenance of essential services in situations where life is affected or the security of the country is threatened.
- Under the provisions of the **Territorial Army Act** women are not eligible to join the organization.

A.8. SEX DETERMINATION OF FOETUS

Why in News?

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development recently suggested that child sex determination during pregnancy be made compulsory and the gender of the child be registered right from that moment. In this way the birth can be tracked.
- This **twin strategy** of tracking sex-determined foetuses and requiring institutional deliveries is expected to ensure that female babies are not aborted, or killed at birth.

Present Scenario

- Currently India's strategy to combat declining sex ratios hinges on the **PCPNDT Act** (the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994)
- PCPNDT Act **prohibits ultrasonography** for the purpose of determining the sex of the foetus.
- India is among the countries with the worst child sex ratio in the world. The 2011 Census showed that the child sex ratio has dipped from 927 girls in 2001 to 919 girls in 2011.



A.9. SURROGACY

Why in News?

- The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Central Railway (CR) to grant three months' maternity leave to its employee who became a mother by using a surrogate.
- The court ruled that a mother enjoys the same benefits of maternity leave as any other working woman under the Child Adoption Leave and Rules.
- While challenging the CR for disallowing her leave, the woman's lawyers argued that if the maternity leave was refused, it would certainly violate the right of a child to develop a bond with the mother.

Surrogacy in India: Current scenario

- Commercial surrogacy has been legal in India since 2002.
- At global level, India is a sought after destination in surrogacy-related fertility tourism, also referred as "reproductive tourism".
- Surrogacy in India is relatively low cost and the legal environment is favorable.
- At present the Surrogacy Contract between the parties and the Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) Clinics guidelines are the guiding force.
- In 2008, the Supreme Court of India in the Manji's case (Japanese Baby) had held that commercial surrogacy is permitted in India with a direction to the Legislature to pass an appropriate Law governing Surrogacy.
- Giving due regard to the apex court directions, the Legislature has enacted ART BILL, 2008 which is still pending.
- Exploitation of the women and commodification of children through surrogacy are major worrying factor, which the law has to address.

Law Commission Report on Surrogacy

- The Law Commission of India has submitted the Report on "NEED FOR LEGISLATION TO REGULATE ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY CLINICS AS WELL AS RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES TO A SURROGACY."
- The Commission has strongly recommended **against Commercial Surrogacy**.
- One of the intended parents should be a donor as well, because the bond of love and affection with a child primarily emanates from biological relationship.
- Legislation itself should recognize a surrogate child to be the legitimate child of the commissioning parent(s) without there being any need for adoption or even declaration of guardian.
- Right to privacy of donor as well as surrogate mother should be protected.
- Sex-selective surrogacy should be prohibited.
- Cases of abortions should be governed by the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971 only.

A.10. DAUGHTER AS INHERITOR

The Delhi High Court in a recent judgement announced that the **eldest daughter can be the karta of the Hindu Undivided Family property.**



Background

- Karta under the Hindu Succession Act is the coparceners or eldest of those entitled to inherit the property of a Hindu Undivided family (HUF).
- The Karta has the right to manage the property and business of the HUF even without the consent of the rest of the family.
- The Hindu Undivided family is different from 'joint family' as it's purely for revenue assessment of ancestral property.
- It is one where property hasn't been partitioned between sons and daughters and does not include in-laws.
- The HUF applies to all Hindus and all persons who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew. It thus includes Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains also.
- After the 2005 amendment to Hindu Succession Act, all members born into the family including daughters have equal rights to property.
- Recent judgement announced that elder daughters can be karta while the other side's argument was that daughters can only have a share in the property and not any right to manage it.
- Court also extended role of karta to married daughters.
- The Hindu Undivided Family does not make distinction between married and unmarried women and gives equal rights of inheritance to Hindu males and females.
- The challenge is that very few women actually practice in the management of business and property.

A.11. WOMEN RIGHT TO ANCESTRAL PROPERTY

- The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, **originally did not give daughters inheritance rights** in ancestral property.
- They could only ask for a right to sustenance from a joint Hindu family. But this **disparity was removed by an amendment** to the Act on September 9, 2005.

WHY IN NEWS?

The Supreme Court has said that the 2005 amendment in Hindu law will not give property rights to a daughter if the father died before the amendment came into force.

- This ruling clarifies applicability of the amendment for the right of women seeking equal share in ancestral property.

Overall, limitations on women's right to inheritance are:

- Cannot ask for a share if the property if the property has been alienated or partitioned before the bill was introduced.
- The amended provisions cannot have retrospective effect despite it being a social legislation. It is imperative for the father to have been alive when the amendment came into force.



A.12. DOWRY DEATHS

Why in news?

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data released recently, the highest number of dowry deaths **during the last three years** have been reported from the state of **Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar**.

Dowry Prohibition Act 1961

- The implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 is the responsibility of the respective State Government in the country.
- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 lays down a built-in implementation mechanism in the form of Dowry Prohibition Officers to ensure effective and efficacious enforcement of the law.
- The Ministry (Ministry of Women and Child Development) reviews with the States time to time for effective implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- Section 304 B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) - deals with dowry death related cases. A person convicted under this section can be punished with imprisonment of 7 years to life term.

A.13. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Why in news?

Recently Ministry of statistics and program implementation (MoSPI) has released a report titled '**Women and Men in India 2015**' which says that **domestic violence shares highest share in crime against women**.

Domestic Violence Act

- It was brought into force by the government from 26 October 2006.
- The Act provides for the first time in Indian law a definition of "domestic violence", with this definition being broad and including not only physical violence, but also other forms of violence such as emotional/verbal, sexual, and economic abuse.
- It is a civil law meant primarily for protection orders and not meant to penalize criminally.
- The act does not extend to Jammu and Kashmir, which has its own laws, and which enacted in 2010 the Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2010.

A.14. CYBERCRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Why in news?

Online harassment of women - Cybercrimes against women are increasing and recently government has taken several steps to prevent cybercrimes.

What is cybercrime?

- Cybercrime is a criminal activity that **involves a computer and a network**.
- Offences committed against people with a criminal motive to cause physical or mental harm, or loss to the victim directly or indirectly, **using modern telecommunication** networks such as Internet and mobile phones.
- In such crimes computer can be used in order to commit the crime and in some cases, the computer may have been the target of the crime.
- Cybercrimes **threaten a nation's security and financial health**.

Recently the Government has taken following steps for prevention of Cyber Crimes:

- Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.
- Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram etc. for training of Law Enforcement and Judiciary in these States.
- Programmes on Cyber Crime investigation - Various Law schools are engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cybercrimes for judicial officers.
- Training is imparted to Police Officers and Judicial officers in the Training Labs established by the Government.
- The Scheme for Universalisation of Women Helpline has been approved to provide 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response to all women affected by violence.

Cybercrimes which specially target women:

- Harassment via e-mails
- Cyber-stalking
- Cyber pornography
- Defamation
- Morphing
- Email spoofing



A.15. PAM RAJPUT COMMITTEE

The High Level Committee on Status of Women was set up in 2013 to do a comprehensive study on the status of women since 1989, and to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of *economic, legal, political, education, health and socio-cultural needs* of women. **The first such committee was set up 42 years ago in 1971 on the request of the UN.**

Reports of the Committee

- It wants the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to be repealed, gay sex decriminalized, and at least 50 % reservation for women at all levels of legislature, right up to the Parliament.
- To deal with **violence against women**, the committee called for several legislative interventions.
- Calling for **50 % reservation of seats for women** in the local bodies, state legislative assemblies, Parliament, cabinet and all decision-making bodies of the government, the committee noted: *“Gender parity in governance and political participation is a pre-requisite to the realization of gender equality.”*
- It also recommended that all elected representatives - MPs, MLAs and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies - should be accountable for the sex ratio in their respective constituency, inviting rewards and recognition for progress, and prosecution for negligence, inaction, and complicity.

A.16. TRIPLE TALAQ

Why in news?

- Supreme Court issued a notice to the centre to respond to the petition against the Triple Talaq provisions in the Muslim personal Law.

- The petition was filed by a Muslim women in the SC on Triple Talaq and others provisions in Muslim Personal Law for grant of divorce.
- Significance of the above petition lies in the need for the realization for a **Universal Civil Code (Article 44)**.



A.17. WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA CAMPAIGN

Why in News?

- Niti Aayog in collaboration with the UN in India and MyGov launched the “Women Transforming India” Initiative on **March 8th**, 2015 on the occasion of **International Women’s Day**.

What is it?

- It is designed like a contest seeking entries of women breaking new ground, empowering themselves or others and challenging stereotypes.
- It will encourage women’s leadership particularly in economic, socio-cultural and environmental fronts.
- The winning entries will get a certificate of appreciation from Niti Aayog and UN in India. Also a chance to directly interact with policy makers in the government.
- India supported the need for a stand-alone goal on gender (under SDGs) and that women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs.
- Niti Aayog has been given the role of monitoring and coordinating all efforts across the Centre and states on the SDGs.

A.18. MAHILA E-HAAT

- The Ministry of women and Child Development (WCD) launched Mahila e-Haat-Digital marketing portal for women entrepreneurs to strengthen women empowerment.

What is Mahila E-Haat?

- 'Mahila E-Haat' is an online platform, where women entrepreneurs can sell their products directly.
- The portal has been set up with an investment of under Rs.10 lakh from the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh-an autonomous body under the WCD ministry for the socio-economic empowerment of women.
- The only eligibility criteria to register is that the sellers—any women or women members of a self-help group-have to be above 18 years of age to eliminate the problem of child labour.

A.19. SDG AND WOMEN

Sustainable Development Goals

- The Sustainable Development Goals are the set of 17 goals and 169 targets adopted by member countries of United Nations at the UN Sustainable Development Summit. The goals are to be achieved by all member countries within next fifteen years i.e. by year 2030.
- These goals intend to achieve sustainable development and are more comprehensive than earlier Millennium Development Goals.

SDGs related to Women:

Target 2: Zero Hunger



- Address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

Target 3: Good Health and Well Being

- Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education
- Integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

Target 4: Quality Education

- Equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- Build and upgrade education facilities that are gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

Target 5: Gender Equality

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- Equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Target 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Target 8: Decent work and Economic growth

- Full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.
- Equal pay for work of equal value
- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, in particular women migrants

Target 10: Reduce inequalities

- Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 11: Sustainable cities and Communities:

- Special attention to the needs women in building sustainable transport systems
- Universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces

Target 13: Climate Action

- Raise capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management focusing on women

Target 16: Peace Justice and Strong institutions

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children



A.20. INDIA'S FIRST GENDER PARK

The park is an initiative of the Social Justice Department of the Kerala government to bring together the state, academia and civil society on a common platform to address the gender issues.

Objectives of the Institution

- To generate a space for **women development activities**, emphasizing entrepreneurship in service and cultural activities.
- To undertake **research and documentation of the history** of the role of women in every field of society of Kerala.
- To strengthen women development activities undertaken by various departments/agencies/civil society movements.
- To create an environment to **share global knowledge and experiences** in reducing gender inequalities
- It would **cover issues pertaining to all three genders** in accordance with the 2015 gender and transgender policies of the state government.

"You are as strong as your foundation"

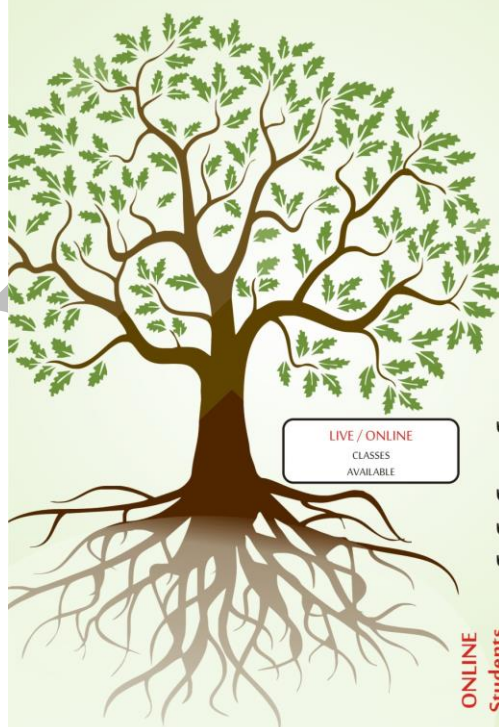
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- ↳ **NOTE** - Students can watch LIVE video classes on their ONLINE PLATFORM at their homes. The students can ask their doubts and subject queries during the class through LIVE Chat Option. They can also note down their doubts & questions and convey to our classroom mentor at Delhi center and we will respond to the queries through phone/mail.
- ↳ Post processed videos are uploaded on student's online platform within 24-48 hours of the live class.
- ↳ The uploaded Class videos can be viewed any number of times




B. CHILD

B.1. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

New initiative to spread awareness about Scheme:

- The initiative has been launched to generate awareness among 100 million mobile users in India about the scheme.
- The private company Celltick uses its patented Live Screen platform to send interactive message on mobile phones.
- The mobile user can interact with messages on the homescreen of their device
- It will enable ease of use in accessing information about scheme
- The technology enables to reach users based on their location as well as their language of preference.

BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> PM Modi launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samridhi Yojna today> Scheme targets to improve child sex ratio from 918 girls to every 1,000 boys			
ACTION PLAN			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Promote early registration of pregnancy and institutional delivery> Ensure panchayats display gudda-guddi board with number of newborn boys and girls every month> Hold panchayats responsible for child marriage> Create parliamentary forum of MPs representing 100 districts	<p>PM Modi and HRD minister Smriti Irani present Sukanya Samridhi account passbook to a girl during the scheme launch in Panipat</p> <th colspan="2">SUKANYA SAMRIDHI ACCOUNT</th>	SUKANYA SAMRIDHI ACCOUNT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Account opened in girl child's name any time before she attains the age of 10> Minimum deposit required Rs 1,000; any amount in multiple of Rs 100s can be deposited subsequently, up to a maximum Rs 1.5 lakh in a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Govt will provide rate of interest of 9.1% for the savings account; no income tax will be charged> 50% money can be withdrawn by the girl child after 18 years> Account will remain operative till girl is 21 years		

B.2. NEED FOR SPECIAL LAW FOR CHILD RAPE (FAILURE OF POSCO)

Why in News?

- In 2015 Madras HC suggested the centre for considering castrating child sexual abusers while dismissing a petition filed by a UK national seeking to quash sex abuse proceeding against him
- Consequently SC in 2016 while hearing a petition filed by the Supreme Court women lawyers association advised Parliament to consider a law for harsher punishment for such crimes.

About POSCO

- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 which came into effect from 14th November, 2012 is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

B.3. BAN ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Why in news?

- The **Supreme Court** on Friday asked the central government to inform the court on **how it plans to ban child pornography** on the Internet.
- The question came during the hearing of a public interest litigation filed to ban pornography websites in the country.

- The Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology (IT) Act prohibit the production or transmission of so-called “obscene material” even though there is no law explicitly prohibiting pornography.
- Publishing or transmitting obscene material electronically can carry a three years sentence, if an offender is convicted under the IT Act.



B.4. SDG AND CHILD

Sustainable Development Goals

- The Sustainable Development Goals are the set of 17 goals and 169 targets adopted by member countries of United Nations at the UN Sustainable Development Summit.
- The goals are to be achieved by all member countries within next fifteen years *i.e.* by year 2030.
- These goals intend to achieve sustainable development and are more comprehensive than earlier Millennium Development Goals.

SDGs related to Children

Target 2: Zero Hunger

- End hunger and ensure access by infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- End all forms of malnutrition, stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age
- Address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls

Target 3: Good Health and Well being

- End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age,
- Reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

Target 4: Quality Education

- Complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- Access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive
- Provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- Equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the children in vulnerable situations



Target 5: Gender Equality

- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Target 8: Decent work and Economic growth

- Prohibit and eliminate of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers,
- End child labour in all its forms by 2025

Target 11: Sustainable cities and Communities:

- Special attention to the needs children in building sustainable transport systems
- Universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces

Target 16: Peace Justice and Strong institutions

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

B.5. BALAMURTHAM PROGRAMME

- Balamrutham is the weaning food introduced under ICDS to provide improved supplementary nutrition to children between 7 months to 3 years.
- It is fortified and thus provides 50% of iron, calcium, vitamins and other RDA that children require per day.
- The Balamrutham Programme was started by the Andhra Pradesh Government in 2013.
- Under this programme children enrolled with Anganwadis were given Balamrutham of 2.5kg per child to provide quality diet to infants.

Other Government Nutrition Initiatives in India

- National programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Programme, the NRHM or Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram.
- National Nutrition Mission.
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
- Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation
- Universal supplementation of iron and vitamin A.

B.6. KILKARI PROJECT

Why in news

Kilkari, a mobile voice message service will be launched by Central Government soon.

Salient Features of the Scheme

- This service will deliver weekly messages to families about pregnancy, family planning, nutrition, childbirth and maternal and child care.
- The database for the Kilkari programme will be taken from **the successful Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)** to monitor pregnant women and babies.
- Every woman registered with MCTS will receive weekly messages relevant to the stage of pregnancy and age of the infant.

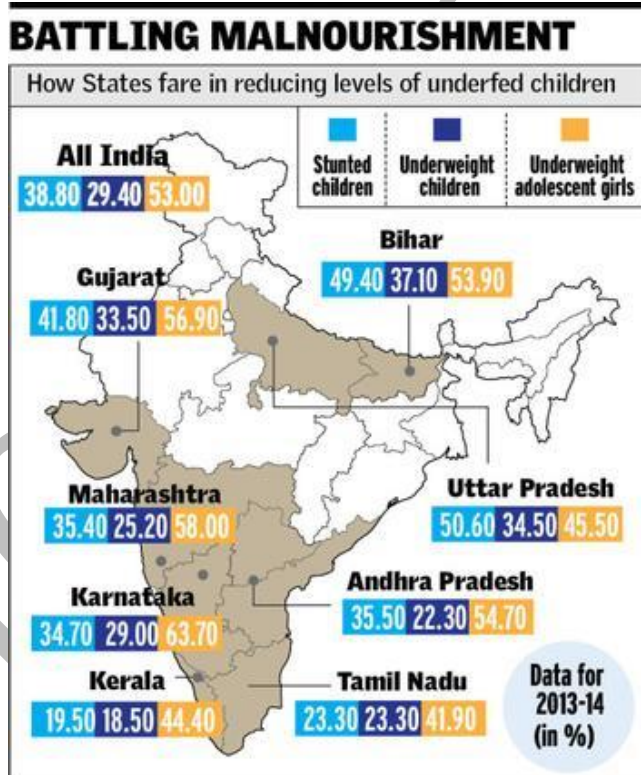


- The messages will be delivered in languages chosen by the user. In phase one, scheme will be launched in Hindi, Odiya and hopefully Santhaali and Chhotanagpuri.
- In phase two, it will be various dialects of Rajasthan, and then we will extend to other languages.
- **The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** has provided the mobile phone application for Kilkari and mobile academy.
- In Bihar, same scheme has been already launched as a paid service.

B.7. UNICEF RAPID SURVEY ON CHILDREN (2013 - 14)

Important Findings

- No State reported an increase in the proportion of children underweight or stunted, a significant reversal from past trends.
- All States have performed poorly in reducing the number of underweight adolescent girls.
- At the national level, stunting is higher in rural areas (41.7 per cent) than in urban areas (32.1 per cent), as is the case for underweight children.
- Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Tripura are the only States which have reduced the proportion of underweight adolescent girls



- Kerala remains the best performing State in the number of child stunting cases
- Manipur and Mizoram have the lowest numbers of underweight children.
- Uttar Pradesh still has the highest levels of child stunting, with over 50 per cent of the children under the age of five underdeveloped
- Jharkhand has the highest number of underweight children under the age of five
- Among the developed States, Gujarat is the only one to perform worse than the national average in reducing the numbers of child stunting cases and underweight children.

However, The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has raised concerns on the sampling design and methodology adopted for UNICEF's Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC).



C. OLD AGE/DISABLED

C.1. UNIVERSAL ID FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Why in News?

- Centre recently announced universal ID for person with disabilities. This will be under the charge of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

What is it?

- The ID cards will have a unique number through which all their details can be assessed and eliminate the hassle of carrying certificates for different purposes.
- It will include details like personal, bank, disability certificate, education, employment and income status of every person.
- It will be valid throughout the country and will allow the persons with disability to avail benefits of schemes and reservations.

C.2. DISABILITY IN INDIA

Why in News?

- Prime Minister has made a suggestion of changing the nomenclature of disabled from “viklang” to “divyang”.
- Several disabled people’s organizations have opposed the use of the term “divyang”.

Definition of Disability in India

- Persons with Disability Act, 1995 defines Disability under seven categories: blindness, low vision, leprosy-cured, hearing impairment, loco motor disability, mental retardation and mental illness. 2001 Census says 2.21% are disabled in India.

C.3. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGEING

- The Union Health Ministry recently approved two National Centre for Ageing to come up in India.

What are the National Centres for Ageing?

- Highly specialized centers of excellence for geriatric care or care of the elderly.
- They will develop manuals for home care and provide training to the specialists and formulate protocols in areas of elderly care.
- The Centres will be set up under the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly.
- They will be set up during the twelfth five year plan period at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and the other at the Madras Medical College in Chennai

What is Geriatric Care?

Also known as Ageing Life Care, is the process of planning and coordinating care of the elderly and others with physical or mental impairments to meet their long term care needs, improve their quality of life and maintain their independence for as long as possible.

Objectives

- To provide specialized health care to the elderly as they are highly prone to diseases.
- To fill the gap caused by no specialization in geriatric medicine in India.
- Training of health professionals in the area.
- Research Activities in geriatric care.
- 200 bedded in patient facility for the elderly.



C.4. AGEING INDIA

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Statistics recently released a report called “Elderly In India 2016”

Age Dependency Ratio: Ratio of older dependents (people above 64) to the working age population (those between 15 and 64).

Highlights of the Report

- The number of Indians above the age of 60 increased 35 percent from 2001 to 2011.
- The state with the maximum percentage of elderly is Kerala with 12.6% of the population. Other states with high ageing population are Goa, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Himachal.
- 71 percent elderly reside in villages while 29 percent reside in cities.
- The state with the lowest percentage of elderly is Arunachal Pradesh where only 4.6 percent of the population is above sixty.
- India’s age dependency ratio is also increasing from 10.9% in 2001 to 14.2% in 2011.
- The proportion of literates among elderly increased from 27% in 1991 to 47% in 2011.

C.5. ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN (SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAAN)

Why in news?

- On International day of persons with disability (3rd December), government launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- The campaign targets three separate verticals for achieving universal accessibility namely the built up environment, transportation eco-system and information & communication eco-system.
- Theme of the international day of Persons with disabilities 2015 was - Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations intended to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

The convention came into force in May 2008.

As of May 2016, it has 160 signatories and 164 parties, including 163 states and European Union.



Aims and Objectives of the program

- It is aimed at making transport, government buildings, tourist spots, airports, railway stations and internet technology friendly for differently-abled people.
- The campaign has ambitious targets with defined timelines and will use IT and social media for spreading awareness about the campaign and seeking commitment of various stakeholders.
- At least 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals will be made fully accessible for persons with disabilities by July 2018.
- All the international airports in the country and railway stations of A1, A & B categories will be made fully accessible by July 2016.
- At least 10% of government owned public transport carriers in the country will be converted into fully accessible carriers for these persons by March 2018.
- It will also be ensured that at least 50% of all public documents issued by the Central Government and the State Governments meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities by March 2018.

National laws and International conventions

- India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, as per the act the States are required to provide for:
 - Ramps in public buildings
 - Provision of toilets for wheelchair users
 - Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators or lifts
 - Ramps in hospitals, primary health centres and other rehabilitation centres.

Initiatives & Few proposed measures

- Government will create 'Accessible police stations', 'Accessible hospitals' and 'Accessible tourism' respectively across the country
- For enhancing accessibility of Television programmes – incorporation of features like captioning, text to speech and audio description
- A web portal and mobile application for creating a crowd sourcing platform to get information about inaccessible areas
- An Accessibility Index is also underway to measure the level of disabled friendliness of a system
- Replacement of the term 'Viklang' (disabled) used for the differently-abled with 'divyang' (divine body) is proposed.
- Separate institute for deaf and dumb persons and development of new brail language.

C.6. ANUBHAV

- The Department of Pension & Pensioner's welfare has launched online software - 'Anubhav'.
- It will showcase the outstanding work by retiring employee and sharing experience of working with the Government.
- It will also provide facility to upload recorded voice message by the retiring employee.
- Over a period of time, this will create a wealth of institutional memory with replicable ideas and suggestions.



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D. SC/ST/OBC

D.1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CASTE CENSUS



- The Ministry of Rural Development Government of India carried out the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, in June 2011 through a comprehensive door to door enumeration across the country.
- The SECC, 2011 was conducted through a comprehensive programme involving the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India and the State Governments.
- The SECC covered 24.39 crore households nationally, out of which 6.48 crore households were automatically excluded. Thus, only 17.91 crore rural households were surveyed.
- SECC provided for automatic exclusion on the basis of 14 parameters, automatic inclusion on the basis of 5 parameters and grading of deprivation on the basis of seven criteria.

The SECC, 2011 has the following three objectives:

- To enable households to be ranked based on their Socio-Economic status. State Governments can then prepare a list of families living below the poverty line
- To make available authentic information that will enable caste-wise population enumeration of the country
- To make available authentic information regarding the socio economic condition, and education status of various castes and sections of the population.

- Those that were **automatically included** were households without shelter, destitute living on alms, manual scavengers, primitive tribal groups and legally released bonded labourers. This figure has been pegged at less than 1 %.
- The **automatically excluded category** included households with any of the following: motorised vehicles, mechanised agricultural equipment, Kisan credit card with credit limit of Rs 50,000 and above. They also included households with any member as a government employee, with non-agricultural enterprises registered with the government, any family member earning more than Rs 10,000 a month, those paying income/professional tax, living in houses with three or more rooms with all having pucca walls and roof, owning a refrigerator, landline phone, possessing irrigated land, etc.

7 deprivation indicators

- Households with only one room, kucha walls and kucha roof
- 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
- SC/ST household
- Households with no literate adult above 25 years
- Landless households deriving a major part of their income from manual casual labour

D.2. FOREST RIGHTS ACT IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES



Why in News?

- Reports of alleged violation of the Forest Rights Act by the Odisha Mining Corporation in tribal areas of Odisha have brought the Act under the spotlight.

What is the Forest Right Act?

- Schedule Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers Act or Recognition of Forest Rights Act came into force in 2006. The Nodal Ministry for the Act is Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The Acts seeks to recognize the rights and occupation of traditional forest dwellers and Schedule Tribes in such forests.
- It provides for diversion of forest land only with the recommendation of the gram sabhas.
- Also includes right of self-cultivation for livelihood, rights over minor forest produce, community rights such as nistar etc.

D.3. NATIONAL TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Government has decided to set up a National Tribal Advisory Council for effecting monitoring and implementation of various tribal welfare schemes.
- The council will be chaired by the Prime Minister and will meet once or twice in a year.
- It is being established for effective real-time monitoring and implementation of various tribal development programmes and schemes in the country.

Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)

- As per the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, there shall be TAC in each State having Scheduled Areas therein and , if the President should directs, also in any State having Scheduled Tribes but non-Scheduled Areas Therein.

Composition of TAC

- As per provisions of Fifth Schedule, the members of TAC should be not more than 20 of whom, as nearly as may be, three-fourths shall be the representatives of the STs in the Legislative Assemle in the State.

Role of TAC

- To advise on such matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes in the State as may be referred to them by the Governor.

Details of TAC constituted by the States

- Tribes Advisory Council has been constituted in the nine Scheduled Area State of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana and two non-Scheduled Areas States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The directions of the Hon'ble President has also been conveyed to the non-Scheduled Area State of Uttarakhand for constitution of TAC in the State.



D.4. NEW MANUAL SCAVENGING LAW

- The latest Socio-Economic Caste Census data released on July reveals that **1, 80, 657 households and 7.84 people** are still engaged in this degrading work for a livelihood.
- **Maharashtra**, with 63,713, tops the list with the largest number of manual scavenger households, followed by MP, UP, Tripura and Karnataka, as per Census data.

Features of The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013

1. It also seeks to expand the definition of manual scavengers.
2. Every unsanitary latrine is to be demolished or converted into sanitary latrines within 9 months of coming of the law.
3. Falls under residual powers under the Union list (Entry 97).
4. National Commission for Safai karmachari is the implementing authority.
5. Rehabilitation of estimated 2 lakh manual scavengers with one-time cash assistance, Rs 3,000 per month during training for other livelihood options, concessional loans for at least one member of the family and financial assistance for building a house.
6. It also fixes the responsibility on local governments for ensuring sanitary community toilets.
7. It seeks to more strict punishment for employing manual scavengers with a fine of Rs 50,000 or/and imprisonment up to a year. While the practice of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks will attract a fine of Rs 2 lakh and up to 2 years of imprisonment.

D.5. RULES FOR AMENDED SC/ST ACT

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recently notified the rules for the implementation of the amended SC/ ST Act of 1989.

Background

- The Centre had amended the SC/ ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989, in December, 2015.
- The **objective** of the amendment was to speed up process of dispensation of justice to SC/ ST and to liberalize and expedite access to relief for victims of atrocities, ensuring special sensitivity in cases of offenses against women.

CLAMPING DOWN ON VIOLENCE		
Bill seeks to strengthen Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989		
CRITERIA FOR PUNISHMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegally occupying land belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forcing members of SC or ST communities to vote or not vote for a candidate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neglect of duties by a non-SC/ST public servant in cases relating to SCs or STs
IMPORTANT CLAUSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special courts at the district level with exclusive public prosecutors for each court to ensure speedy trial Mere acknowledgement of SC/ST status of a victim is sufficient to establish guilt Special courts for atrocities against women presided over by a woman judge 	CAUSE FOR CONCERN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases registered under Prevention of Atrocities Act in conjunction with the IPC have increased 	<p>2010 38,449</p> <hr/> <p>2013 46,114</p>



Important Provisions

- Amended provision increases relief package from 75000 to 7,50,000 and 85000 to 8,50,000 depending on the nature of offence.
- Also provides for admissible relief to SC/ST women for offences of grievous nature, on conclusion of trial, even though they may not have ended in conviction.
- Regular reviews of the scheme in assessing justice at the state, district and sub-divisional level committees in their meetings.
- Completing investigation and filing a charge sheet within sixty days.
- Provision of relief within seven days to victims, their family members and dependents.
- Also for the first time provision of relief for rape and gang rape.
- No medical examination will be needed to seek relief for non-invasive offenses such as sexual harassment, gestures or acts intended to insult the modesty of women.
- Adds newer offences to the list of atrocities including denying access to irrigation facilities, forest rights etc.

D.6. 'BULTOO RADIO' EXPERIMENT

- “Bultoo radio” is the use of Bluetooth technology by the tribals to share information and improve governance in maoist affected regions of Chattisgarh. Here the tribals transfer audio and video files using Bluetooth technology in their mobile phones. This technology has played a key role in the governance also.
- The complaints of local people are recorded verbally on mobile phones in their local language. All the messages are then collected into a single phone via bluetooth and then taken to gram panchayat office.
- These messages are then transferred to a central computer connected via the Internet, where get translated into Hindi and English. The messages are then delivered to appropriate authorities and the issues of tribals are addressed.

D.7. RESERVATION IN INDIA

Why in News?

- Gujjars in Rajasthan, the Kapus in Andhra Pradesh, Patels in Gujarat and Jats in Haryana are protesting to include them in OBC category so that they can enjoy the benefits of quota system.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 15(3)** - State can make special provision for women and children
- **Article 15(4)** - State can make special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 16(4)** - State can make provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens.
- **Article 46** - To promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections of society.

Important Supreme Court Judgments

- **Mandal Case:** Under this, Supreme Court restricted total reserved quota up to 50 percent and excluded advanced section in other backward castes from benefits of reservation
- **Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy in his 1985 judgment:** efficiency cannot be used as a camouflage to let the upper classes take advantage of the backward classes in its name and to monopolise the services, particularly the higher posts and the professional institutions”.
- **Jat Reservation:** The Supreme Court ruled that “caste” and “historical injustice” cannot blind a state in according backward status to a community and that new emerging groups such as transgenders must be identified for quota benefits.



Need of Reservation in India

- Social empowerment of disadvantaged section of society
- Reduce discrimination by providing educational and employment opportunities

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E. EDUCATION

E.1. POOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RTE ACT



Why in News?

- The report 'State of the Nation: RTE Section 12 (1) (c)' highlights the status of implementation of the Section 12 (1)(c) of RTE Act.
- The report is a collaborative effort of the RTE resource centre at IIM Ahmedabad, Central Square Foundation, Accountability Initiative (Centre for policy research) and Vidhi Centre for legal Policy.

What is Section 12 (1)(c) of RTE Act?

- RTE Section 12(1)(c) mandates private unaided schools (except minority and residential schools) to keep 25 percent of the seats (at entry level) reserved for children belonging to economically weaker sections.
- This was aimed to increase educational opportunities and to create inclusive schooling system.

E.2. MID-DAY MEAL RULES, 2015 NOTIFIED

The following are the **silent provision** of the rules:

- Every child within the age group of six to fourteen years studying in classes I to VIII who enroll and attend the school, shall be provided hot cooked meal having nutritional standards of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary free of charge every day except on school holidays.
- The School Management Committee mandated under Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 shall also monitor implementation of the Mid-day meal Scheme and shall oversee quality of meals provided to the children, cleanliness of the place of cooking and maintenance of hygiene in implementation of mid-day meal scheme.
- The Headmaster or Headmistress of the school shall be empowered to utilize any fund available in school for the purpose of continuation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the school in case of temporary unavailability of food grains, cooking cost etc.
- Hot cooked meal provided to children shall be evaluated and certified by the Government Food Research Laboratory or any laboratory accredited or recognized by law, so as to ensure that the meal meets with the nutritional standards and quality.
- The Food and Drugs Administration Department of the State may collect samples to ensure the nutritive value and quality of the meals.
- If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains, cooking cost, fuel or absence of cook-cum-helper or any other reason, the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.

E.3. KERALA BECOMES THE FIRST TO ACHIEVE 100% LITERACY

- Kerala became the first state in the country to achieve 100 percent primary education.
- This has been achieved through the primary education equivalency drive of **the state literacy mission - Athulyam**.



More about Athulyam

- It was launched in March 2013 and was carried out in two phases.
- It had identified people who had not completed their primary education.
- The programme was meant to provide primary school education to people aged between 15 and 50.
- After this these people were given five-month training, enabling them to attend the fourth equivalency examination.
- Two Lakh people were enrolled under this programme.

E.4. FRAMEWORK FOR RANKING INDIAN INSTITUTES

The Union Ministry of HRD launched National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for educational institutions.

What is NIRF?

- This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.
- Although the Ranking Frameworks are similar, the exact methodologies are domain specific. Ranking methods have been worked out for engineering and management institutions, while those for other domains will be announced soon.
- The framework follows an Indian approach which considers India-centric parameters like diversity and inclusiveness apart from excellence in teaching learning and research.
- The parameters are under the five broad headings:



1. **Teaching learning and resources**- these parameters are related to the core activities of any place of learning. These lay emphasis on measuring numbers and quality of faculty, library and lab resources and general facilities for development of young persons.

2. **Research, consulting and collaborative performance-** These parameters attempt to measure the quantity and quality of research output as seen through international data bases, IPR generation and interface with industry and fellow professionals.
3. **Graduation outcomes-** is parameter forms the ultimate test of the effectiveness of the core teaching/learning activity, and measures the student graduation rate and their success in finding appropriate placement in industry and Government or taking up higher studies.
4. **Outreach and Inclusivity-** the Ranking framework lays special emphasis on representation of women and socially challenged persons in student and/or faculty populations, and also on outreach activities of the institution.
5. **Perception-** The ranking methodology gives a significant importance to the perception of the institutes by its stakeholders. This will be accomplished through Stakeholder Surveys.



Importance of NIRF

- It would enable parents, students, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to rank institutions on the basis of a set of objective parameters and a transparent process.
- It will facilitate a level playing field in ranking for institutions
- The institutions which have been working in languages other than English and excelled relatively in the recent past will be greatly benefited.
- It will give Indian institutions a competitive platform free of any international bias.
- To promote social inclusion in the institutes.

E.5. ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

- Atal Innovation Mission is an innovation promotion platform which is under NITI Ayog.
- It has initial corpus of 150 cr for Research and development.
- It will involve industry, academics, entrepreneurs, researchers and other players.
- National Innovation Mission is to make traditional knowledge base of India more enriched and promote innovation.

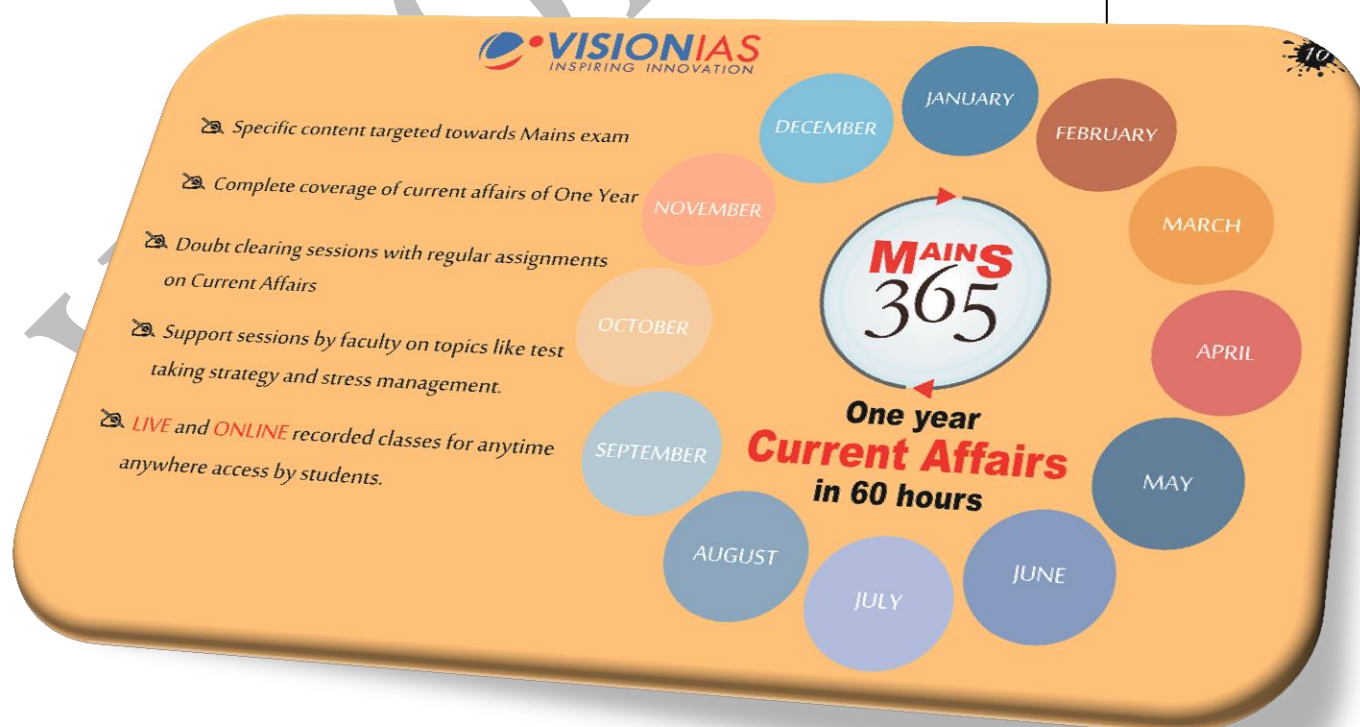
E.6. RASHTRIYA AVISHKAR ABHIYAN

- Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan is a unique concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development that aims to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children.
- Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, government schools will be mentored by Institutes like IITs/ IIMs/ IISERs and other Central Universities and reputed organisations through innovative programmes, student exchanges, demonstrations, student visits, etc. to develop a natural sense of passion towards learning of Science and Maths.

E.7. GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORKS (GIAN)



- **Aim:** to **boost the quality** of the country's higher education through international collaboration.
- GIAN is envisaged to catalyze higher education institutions in the country, and will initially include all IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, IISc Bangalore, IISERs, NITs and IIITs and subsequently cover good State Universities.
- Faculty from 38 countries like Russia, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, the Netherlands, Malaysia and South Korea are scheduled to deliver courses and do research in Indian institutions.
- The courses are free for students from the host institution, charged at nominal rates for others and webcast live as well.
- These lectures would also be made available later to the students across the country through the SWAYAM, the MOOCs platform and the National Digital Library.
- A web portal (gian.iitkgp.ac.in) has been designed by IIT Kharagpur to allow electronic registration and online assessment.
- IIT Kharagpur is the nodal institution and national coordinator for this flagship programme.



F. HEALTH

F.1. NATIONAL DEWORMING INITIATIVE



The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched the **National Deworming initiative**.

Objective

- Aims to protect more than **24 crore children in the ages of 1-19 years from intestinal worms**. After getting the 'Polio-free' status, India now wants to target intestinal parasitic worms among the children to achieve status of being 'Worm-free'.
- In the first phase about 14 crore children across eleven States/UT of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura will be covered; while nearly 10 crore will be targeted in the second phase.
- **Albendazole tablets** will be given to all targeted children; half tablet to 1-2 years children and one full tablet for 2-19 years.
- Initiative will be coupled with improved sanitation, hygiene, and availability of safe drinking water for reducing worm load.
- The deworming initiative would **help to achieve the aim of 'Swachh Bharat'**.

What is deworming?

- It is administering an **anthelmintic drug** to a human or animal to rid them of parasites, such as roundworm, hookworms, flukes and tapeworm.
- Mass deworming campaigns of school children have been used both as a preventive as well as a treatment method for helminthiasis, which includes soil-transmitted helminthiasis in children.

F.2. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ELIMINATION OF MALARIA

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030**, which outlines India's strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030.

Objectives

- **Eliminate malaria** from all low (Category 1) and moderate (Category 2) endemic states/UTs (26) by 2022
- Reduce incidence of malaria to less than 1 case per 1000 population in all States/UTs and the districts and malaria elimination in 31 states/UTs by 2024
- Interrupt indigenous transmission of malaria in all States/ UTs (Category 3) by 2027
- Prevent re-establishment of local transmission of malaria in areas where it has been eliminated and to maintain malaria-free status of the country by 2030

Strategic Approaches

- Programme phasing considering the varying malaria endemicity in the country



- Classification of States/UTs based on API as primary criterion (Category 0: Prevention of re- introduction phase; Category 1: Elimination phase; Category 2: Pre-elimination phase; Category 3: Intensified control phase)
- District as the unit of planning and implementation
- Focus on high endemic areas; and special strategy for **P. vivax elimination**

F.3. TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Why in news?

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Agreement for collaborative activities to be signed in the area of Traditional Medicine between Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India and the World Health Organization, Geneva.

How would it help?

- The long-term collaboration with WHO would help in improving **International acceptability and branding of AYUSH system**.
- It will facilitate **awareness generation** regarding AYUSH systems of Medicine by means of education
- It will help in **skill development and capacity building** through workshops and exchange programs between AYUSH and WHO.
- It will **facilitate advocacy and dissemination of information on AYUSH systems** amongst the Member States.
- It will lead to collaboration with third Parties for creating synergies in implementation of **WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023** particularly in the context of AYUSH systems.

F.4. INTEGRATION OF HOMOEOPATHY/YOGA WITH NPCDCS

- Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched the pilot project 'Integration of Homoeopathy/Yoga with National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS) in Krishna District' at Gudivada near Amaravathi, Andhra Pradesh.
- The program aims to aid in reduction of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) burden by providing primary prevention of common NCDs through an integrated approach of
 - ✓ health education (promotion of healthier life styles including yoga),
 - ✓ timely screening of population for early detection/diagnosis of NCDs and
 - ✓ Early management of NCDs through homoeopathic treatment alone or as add on to standard care.

F.5. NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

Why in News?

- The first set of the Fourth National Family Health Survey Report was released in early 2016. It covers data for only 13 states.

What is the National Family Health Survey?

- It is a large scale household sample survey conducted in a representative sample of households in India under the stewardship of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is the main source of detailed health statistics in India.
- The first round of NFHS Survey took place in 1992-93. Three surveys have been conducted so far, third being in 2005-06.
- The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, is the nodal agency for the survey.



Highlights of the Fourth Survey

- **States Covered:** The 13 states covered are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal plus Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry.
- **Infant Mortality**
 - Infant Mortality has reduced in all the states and Union Territories covered. All states have below 51 deaths per thousand births.
 - But it varies from 10 in Andaman to 51 in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Sex Ratio and Female Literacy**
 - Nine out of eleven states showed a declining sex ratio. These states are Goa, Meghalaya, UK, Tripura, TN, Sikkim, MP, Karnataka, Haryana, Bihar, and WB.
 - Only Uttarakhand saw its sex ratio rise. Meghalaya saw it stabilize.
 - Women's literacy has risen in all these eleven states. It has increased by 12.5% in all these states since the last survey.
 - Goa tops the list in women's literacy rate with 89% literacy rate.
- **Fertility Rate**
 - Women are having fewer children - FR varies from 1.2 in Sikkim to 3.4 in Bihar.
 - All First Phase States/UTs except Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya have either achieved or maintained replacement level of fertility
- **Institutional Deliveries**
 - Children delivered in a medical institution under supervision increased by 32%.
 - In Bihar, it rose to three-fold, Haryana and MP also showed substantial increase.
- **Immunisation**
 - Full immunization coverage among children age 12-23 months varies widely
 - 6 out of 10 children have received full immunization in 12 of the 15 States/UTs.
 - Coverage of full immunization among children has increased substantially in the States of Bihar, MP, Goa, Sikkim, West Bengal and Meghalaya.
- **Nutrition**
 - Fewer children under five years of age are now found to be stunted, showing intake of improved nutrition.
 - But in Bihar, MP and Meghalaya more than 40% of children are stunted.
 - Anaemia has also declined, but still remains widespread. More than half of children are anaemic in ten of the 15 States/UTs.
 - Each state with the exception of Puducherry showed a sharp rise in obesity levels in both men and women.

- **Water and Sanitation**
 - Indian families in the First Phase households are now more inclined to use improved water and sanitation facilities.
 - Over two-thirds of households in every State/Union Territory have access to an improved source of drinking water.
 - More than 50% of households have access to improved sanitation facilities in all First Phase States/UTs except Bihar and MP.
- **Stress:** Since the last survey the number of people suffering from hypertension is more in rural India than in Urban India.
- **Child Marriages**
 - Child marriages saw a reduction since the last survey in the eleven states.
 - It has reduced by 13.17 % for females and 6.7% for males.
- **Awareness of HIV**
 - Awareness about HIV/AIDS among women has been reducing substantially.
 - The percentage of women with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS in MP declined from 20.3% to 18.1%.
 - Similarly, in Bihar, it decreased from 11.7% to 10.1%.
- **Women's Empowerment**
 - Marked increase in the percentage of women in the age group of 15-49 years having a savings account that they use themselves.
 - Goa at 82.8% has the maximum number of women who manage their own finances. But Tamil Nadu has shown a 83% increase from previous survey.
 - Bihar tops the list of women owning property with women owning up to 58% property while West Bengal has the least number of women owning property.



F.6. HIV-AIDS

Recently on the occasion of World AIDS day (1st December) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare announced major policy decisions in the fight against HIV-AIDS and reaffirmed India's commitment in ending epidemic by 2030.

The theme of World AIDS day 2015 is- 'on the fast track to end AIDS'.

F.7. SUNRISE PROJECT

- **Injecting drug users (IDUs)** continue to be the prime factor for the spread of HIV-AIDS in north-eastern region even as the government has increased medical facilities for testing and treatment.
- **Five-Year SUNRISE Project** has been launched aiming at upscaling of HIV interventions in the north-east region with special focus on IDUs in 20 priority districts.
- The Center for Disease Control, a US government body is supporting this programme, which will adopt innovative strategies like increasing availability of safe needle, syringes in remote areas, community based testing for HIV and pilot studies on 'take home' policy for opioid substitution drugs.
- Budget for the National AIDS Control Programme has been increased by 15 percent during the current Financial Year.
- The government has also decided to make it a Central Sector Scheme in which all the funds would be provided by the Center.

F.8. END OF EBOLA EPIDEMIC



Background

- The Ebola virus causes viral hemorrhagic fever.
- **Symptoms:** Early symptoms include sudden onset of fever, weakness, muscle pain, headaches and a sore throat.
- It kills between 25 and 90 percent of those infected, with an average of about 50.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- The worst affected countries were Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.
- Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia had very weak health systems and lacked human and infrastructural resources.

What is the current status of the disease in Africa?

- Liberia was declared free of the disease by WHO in May, 2015 and then again in January 2016 as new cases emerged two times after that.
- November 2015, Sierra Leone and Guinea were declared free of Ebola virus by WHO.

How does WHO declare a country to be free of the virus?

- Declared free after the last confirmed case has tested negative twice on the blood samples a country has to go through an incubation period of 42 days.
- But thereafter the countries are placed on a 90 days heightened surveillance.

F.9. DIABETES

Why in News?

This year the theme of the World Health Day observed on April 7th was “Beat Diabetes”.

Why Diabetes?

- WHO report and Lancet study shows fourfold increase in diabetes cases from 1980 to 2014 and half of them live in India, China, Brazil, Indonesia and USA.
- In India cases increased from 11.9 million in 1980 to 64.5 million in 2014.
- By 2030, India is expected to be the diabetes capital of the world.

Background

- Diabetes is a non-communicable disease associated with high blood sugar levels either due to inadequate insulin production or body not responding to insulin or both.
- **Types:** Type 1: little or no insulin production; Type 2: body shows insulin resistance; Gestational: associated with females during pregnancy; and pre-Diabetes: blood sugar not high to be Type 2
- **Causes:** Rapid urbanization, sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy diet. Obesity is chief risk factor.
- **Symptoms:** common are increased urination, thirst and hunger.
- **Effects:** Can lead to complications like blindness, kidney failure or loss of limbs, risk of heart attack, pregnancy complications etc.

F.10. GLOBAL REPORT ON URBAN HEALTH

Why in News?

“Global Report on Urban Health: Equitable, Healthier cities for Sustainable Development” was recently released by the WHO and the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat).

Findings of the Report

- It provides evidence that in cities, progress in health depends not only on the strength of health systems, but also on shaping healthier urban environments.
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) present not only a threat to human health but also have significant economic implications.
- Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular, diabetes and cancer can cost Indian economy 6.2 trillion during 2012-2030 period.
- Increasing urbanization and the associated lifestyle can fuel the increase of NCDs in cities.
- Inadequate planning for urbanization is creating a social and environmental unsustainability.
- In India and China, cardiovascular and mental health diseases present the greatest economic threats followed by diabetes and cancer.

F.11. POOR HEALTH COVER: HEALTH IN INDIA REPORT BY NSSO

In News

- National Sample Survey Office released a report titled ‘Health in India’.
- This report draws data from the 71st round of the NSS conducted from January to June 2014.

Findings of the Report

- Over 80 per cent of India’s population is not covered under any health insurance scheme.
- Poor Performance of RSBY – Only 12% of urban and 13% of rural population had access to insurance cover.
- Medicines contributes hugely to out of pocket expenditure - Out of all health expenditure, 72% in rural and 68% in urban areas was for buying medicines for non-hospitalized treatment
- Private Doctors are the most significant source of treatment - 72 per cent of the treatment provided in rural areas and 79 per cent in urban areas was availed in the private sector.
- Higher Expenditure incurred by people in private sector hospitals – On an average rural population spent Rs.5,636 for hospitalized treatment in a public sector hospital and Rs.21,726 at a private sector hospital.

Reason for poor health coverage

- Financial constraint - Biggest hurdle in both rural and urban areas.
- Non-availability of health facilities - This is a big factor in rural areas due to lower density of private hospitals and poor conditions of govt. hospitals.
- Rising cost of medicines and cuts in budgetary allocation to government hospitals has led higher expenditure on medicines.



- The government's allocation to healthcare as a percentage of GDP has fallen to 1.05% in 2015-16 from 1.47% in 1986-87.
- Poor financial inclusion and financial literacy has led to low coverage of insurance.



F.12. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: LANCET REPORT

Why in news?

- According to a report published by Lancet on healthcare **India is the poorest performer in the BRICS nations.**

7 key challenges faced by the Indian Healthcare system – As per the lancet report

- A weak primary health care sector
- Unequally distributed skilled human resources
- Large unregulated private sector.
- Low public spending on health.
- Fragmented health information systems.
- Irrational use and spiralling cost of drugs.
- Weak governance and accountability

F.13. MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Policy in India:

- The Union Health minister on 10th October 2014 launched **India's first-ever National Mental Health Policy** to provide universal psychiatric care to the population.
- The vision of the policy is to promote mental health, prevent mental illness, enable recovery from mental illness, promote de-stigmatization and desegregation and ensure socio-economic inclusion of person affected by mental illness by providing accessible, affordable and quality health and social care to all such persons through their life-span within a rights-based framework.

World Mental Health Day 2015

- World Mental Health Day (10 October) is a day for **global mental health education, awareness** and **advocacy**. It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the *World Federation for Mental Health*.
- The theme for this year's World Mental Health Day, is **"Dignity in mental health"**.
- This year, WHO will be raising awareness of what can be done to ensure that people with mental health conditions can continue to live with dignity, through human rights oriented policy and law, training of health professionals, respect for informed consent to treatment, inclusion in decision-making processes, and public information campaigns.

Objectives:

- To provide universal access to mental health care.
- To increase access to and utilization of comprehensive mental health services (including prevention services, treatment and care and support services) by persons with mental health problems.
- To increase access to mental health care especially to vulnerable groups including homeless persons, persons in remote areas, educationally, socially and deprived sections.

- To reduce prevalence and impact of risk factors associated with mental health problems.
- To reduce risk and incidence of suicide and attempted suicide.
- To ensure respect for rights and protection from harms of persons with mental health problems.
- To reduce stigma associated with the mental health problems.
- To enhance availability and equitable distribution of skilled human resources for mental health.

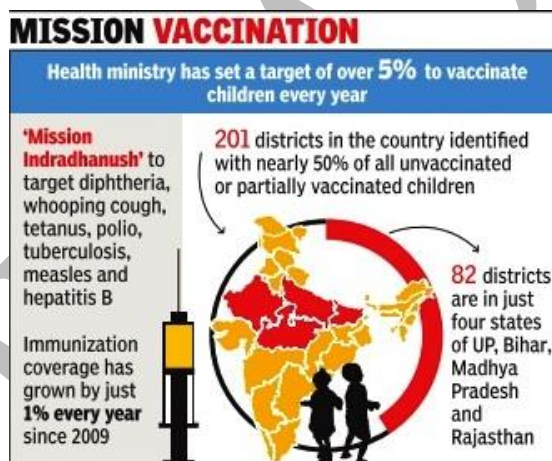


F.14. MISSION INDRADHANUSH PHASE-2

The Union Health Ministry has launched the second phase of Mission Indradhanush. In this phase, 352 districts have been selected including 279 mid priority districts, 33 from the North East states and 40 districts from phase one where large number of missed out children were detected.

Mission Indradhanush:

- It aims to achieve more than 90% full immunization in the country by 2020
- The vaccines covered under the mission are
 - Diphtheria
 - Pertussis (Whooping cough)
 - Polio
 - Tuberculosis
 - Hepatitis B
 - Measles
 - Tetanus
- In addition to these, vaccines for Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus Influenza are also provided in selected districts



Achievements of Mission Indradhanush - Phase 1:

- About 2 crore vaccines were administered to the children and pregnant women.
- About 75.5 lakh children were vaccinated and about 20 lakh children were fully vaccinated.
- More than 20 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated with tetanus toxoid vaccine
- To combat the problem of diarrhoea, zinc tablets and ORS packets were freely distributed to all the children

F.15. PM SWASTHYA SURAKSHA YOJANA

Three more AIIMS-like institutions to be set up

- The Union Cabinet approved setting up of three more AIIMS-like institutions at Nagpur in Maharashtra, at Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh and at Kalyani in West Bengal.
- It will take the number of AIIMS-like institutions to eleven
- These institutions are set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY)

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY) - Salient Features

- It aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of **affordable healthcare** facilities in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular
- The scheme was approved in March 2006.
- The first phase in the PMSSY **has two components** - setting up of six institutions in the line of AIIMS; and upgradation of 13 existing Government medical college institutions.
- In the **second phase of PMSSY**, the Government has approved the setting up of two more AIIMS-like institutions, and upgradation of six medical college institutions
- In the **third phase of PMSSY**, it is proposed to upgrade more medical college institutions
- It is hoped that consequent to the successful implementation of PMSSY, better and affordable healthcare facilities will be easily accessible to one and all in the country.



F.16. RASHTRIYA SWASTHYA BIMA YOJANA (RSBY)

An evaluation of the **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** has concluded that the scheme had little or no impact on **medical impoverishment** in India.

Findings of report:

- Despite high enrollment in RSBY, the proportion of **out-of-pocket expenses** have steadily increased. Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, hospitalization expenses have increased at high rate.
- There is a serious concern of rampant systemic leakage of resources.
- The report pointed out that a “major design flaw in RSBY and other such state health insurance programmes is their narrow focus on **secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation**.”
- The study concluded that RSBY was being used mostly by those who already had better access (to healthcare services) and the most marginalized sections were being excluded further.

F.17. RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI

- Set up in 1997, it provides financial assistance to patients living below poverty line and are suffering from major life threatening diseases related to heart, liver, kidney and cancer cases, etc.
- It enables to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals / institutes or other Government hospitals.
- In cases for financial assistance beyond prescribed limit, it is required to be approved by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Why in News?

The Union Government has enhanced the limit of financial assistance under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. It will ease access to financial assistance in cases where emergency surgery is to be conducted.

F.18. STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANTIBIOTICS REPORT, 2015



- The report is published by *Centre for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy*: Washington, D.C. It focused on the greater risk posed by the growing antibiotic resistance all over the world.
- The report indicates that around the world **there has been an overall decline in the total stock of antibiotic effectiveness**: resistance to all first-line and last-resort antibiotics is rising.
- The patterns of which bacteria are resistant t
- Specific antibiotics differ regionally and by country, mirroring patterns of infectious disease and antibiotic use.

What are Antibiotics?

- Antibiotics or antibacterial are a type of antimicrobial used in the treatment and prevention of bacterial infection.
- Since their introduction into medicine in the 1940s, antibiotics have been central to modern healthcare. Their role has expanded from treating serious infections to preventing infections in surgical patients, protecting cancer patients and people with compromised immune systems.

How Antibiotic resistance is developed?

- Antibiotic resistance is a direct result of antibiotic use. The greater the volume of antibiotics used, the greater the chances that antibiotic-resistant populations of bacteria will prevail in the contest for survival of the fittest at the bacterial level. For instance: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and related bacteria have become resistant to newer third-generation cephalosporins, indicating that they are difficult-to-treat.
- Due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics, the bacteria is generating resistance against most available antibiotics and consequently once-treatable infections are becoming difficult to cure, raising costs to healthcare facilities, and patient mortality is rising, with costs to both individuals and society.

F.19. INDIA AND MDG

- India has made remarkable progress in achieving the MDG health-related targets. The country has been able to substantially reduce its under-five mortality rate from 126 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 53 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013.
- Mart initiatives, such as the Call to Action, India's Newborn Action Plan and the Integrated Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea, have paid tremendous health dividends.
- But there is still a long way to go.
- Of the nearly six million children under the age of five who die from preventable causes every year around the world, 21 per cent are from India. Many of these children die because of malnutrition and infectious diseases.

What are MDGs?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs: 2000-2015) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions-

income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights-the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security.



F.20. PRIME MINISTER'S JAN AUSHADHI YOJNA

Why in news?

In the Union Budget the government announced that it will open 3,000 *Jan Aushadhi* stores across the country in 2016-17. Also the scheme, which was started in 2008, renamed as Prime Minister's *Jan Aushadhi Yojana*.

What is it?

Jan Aushadhi' is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.

Jan Aushadhi stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

Generic Medicine

Generic medicines are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value. The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent.

F.21. IAP HEALTHPHONE PROGRAMME

- It has been launched by the *Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)* in partnership with the *Ministry of Women and Child Development, UNICEF* and supported by *Vodafone India*.
- The programme is the **world's largest digital mass education programme** for addressing the malnutrition in women and children.

- The IAP HealthPhone is a **public-partnership initiative** that leverages the **increasing penetration of mobile phones in the country to educate over 6 million girls and women between 13 and 35 years of age and their families on better health and nutrition practices by 2018.**
- The programme will achieve its objectives by widely promoting and distributing four re-edited videos from the **Poshan (nutritional videos) series**, jointly produced by MoWCD and UNICEF in 18 Indian languages.
- As next step, IAP HealthPhone partners will also equip ASHAs and ANMs with a **HealthPhone microSD card**, containing a library of videos, to enable them to share health and nutrition knowledge with women, families and the communities they serve.



VISION IAS

G. MISCELLANEOUS



G.1. SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (SBA)

- Launched on 2 October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi.
- Massive mission that seek to create a Clean India by 2019, 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi.
- Covers 4041 statutory towns and rural India

Objectives of Swachh Bharat Abhiyana

- Elimination of open defecation.
- Conversion of unsanitary toilets to pour flush toilets (a type of pit latrine, usually connected to two pits)
- Eradication of manual scavenging.
- 100% collection and processing/ disposal/reuse/recycling of municipal solid waste
- A behavioral change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices.
- Generation of awareness among citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health.
- Supporting urban local bodies in designing, executing and operating waste disposal systems.
- Facilitating private-sector participation in capital expenditure and operation and maintenance costs for sanitary facilities.

Earlier Campaigns aimed at Cleanliness

- **Central Rural Sanitation Programme** : Started in 1986 to provide sanitation facilities in rural areas and also to provide privacy and dignity to women.
- **Total Sanitation Campaign**: Launched in 1999 ,in this program, the concept of sanitation was expanded to include personal hygiene, home sanitation, safe water, garbage disposal, excreta disposal and waste water disposal.
- **Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan**: Encouraged by the success of NGP, the TSC was renamed as "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan" (NBA) in 2012. On 2 October 2014 the campaign was relaunched as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin).

Program Components:

1. Swachh Bharat Mission for Urban Areas
2. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)
3. Rashtriya Swachhta Kosh

Few initiatives for Swachh Bharat:

Cities to be rated for sanitation

- The Ministry of Urban Development has commissioned a survey of sanitation scenario to rate 75 major cities and state capitals.
- The survey parameters have been aligned with the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission with more focus on solid waste management.
- It is considered that poor Solid Waste Management is adversely impacting cleanliness in urban areas

The survey:

- The proposed survey and subsequent ratings to be completed in January next year
- The initiative is aimed at fostering a spirit of competition among the major cities and state capitals to ensure sanitation in urban areas.
- The parameters include
 - The Solid waste management is being given 60% weightage

- The availability and use of household individual toilets and public and community toilets
- City level sanitation plans and
- Information, Education and Behaviour Change Communication (IEBC) activities.



New Tariff Policy to support Mission:

- The New Tariff Policy the Government will make it compulsory for the power plants located within the radius of 100 kms of the city to **use processed waste water and release clean water for drinking purpose** in the vicinity.
- It will make compulsory for the local power distribution companies to **buy electricity generated from the waste**.
- These measures will give a push to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

G.2. SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Why in News?

- To assess the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Ministry of Urban Development has decided to study and rank **75 cities** under the mission “Swachh Survekshan”.
- The task of executing the mission has been entrusted with the Quality Council of India.
- It will cover all state capitals and 53 other cities.



Parameters for evaluation

Work will be evaluated under **six measurable aspects** of sanitation and hygiene.

- Strategy for Open Defecation Free town (ODF) and Integrated Solid Waste Management (SWM).
- Information, Education and Behaviour Change Communication (IEBC) activity.
- Sweeping, door to door collection and transportation (of solid waste).
- Processing and disposal of solid waste.
- Provision of public & community toilet seats.
- Construction of household individual toilets.

Calculation of Ranking

- Out of the total marks of 2,000 for assessing the performance of efforts of 75 cities
 - 60 per cent were assigned for solid waste management related parameters.
 - 30 per cent for construction of toilets.
 - 5 per cent each for city level sanitation strategy and behaviour change communication.
- Based on above **Mysuru** has emerged as the country’s cleanest city followed by Chandigarh and Tiruchi.

- Of the cities surveyed, 32 have improved ranks since the last survey including 17 from the North India.



Quality Council of India

- Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 by Government of India jointly with Indian Industry as an autonomous body.
- The objective was to establish and operate the **National Accreditation Structure** for conformity assessment bodies and providing accreditation in the field of education, health and quality promotion.
- It also promotes the adoption of quality standards relating to Quality Management Systems (ISO 14001 Series), Food Safety Management Systems (ISO 22000 Series) and Product Certification and Inspection.
- It has been assigned the task of monitoring and administering the **National Quality Campaign** a plan scheme of the department, and also to oversee function of the National Information and Enquiry Services.

G.3. NAI MANZIL SCHEME

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** launched a new Central Sector Scheme – Nai Manzil.
- The aim of the scheme would be employment generation of the youths and also extending loans for opening enterprises.
- The scheme will address educational and livelihood needs of minority communities in general and Muslims in particular as it lags behind other minority communities in terms of educational attainments
- The target group of scheme will be **all out of school / dropped out** students and those studying in Madrasas. It is so because they will not be getting formal Class XII and Class X Certificates rendering them largely unemployed in organised sector.
- The scheme is intended to cover people in between 17 to 35 age group from all minority communities as well as Madrasa students.
- The scheme would provide '**bridge courses**' to the trainees and get them Certificates for Class XII and X through '**distance medium educational system**' and at the same time also provides them **trade basis skill training** in 4 courses - Manufacturing, Engineering, Services, Soft skills.
- This scheme will provide avenues for continuing higher education and also open up employment opportunities in the organised sector.

G.4. PROTECTING GOOD SAMARITANS

Why in news?

- Supreme Court recently passed an order making the Good Samaritans guidelines mandatory for all states and union territories.

What is it?

- The initiative was taken on a PIL filed by the NGO, SaveLIFE in 2012.
- The Centre had issued the guidelines to protect **Good Samaritan** i.e. a person who's a bystander or passer-by and chooses to help an accident victim or person in distress on the road.



- The SC made these guidelines binding until the government issues legislation.
- Guidelines say **there should be no criminal or civil liability** against those who help the accident victims.
- They should be **treated respectfully** and without discrimination on the grounds of gender, religion, nationality, caste or any other.
- **No compulsion to disclose identity** of good Samaritans and no harassment by police or in court.

G.5. RACIAL INTOLERANCE

Why in news?

A Tanzanian girl and her friends were attacked and their car was torched by an angry mob in the southern Indian city of Bangalore on 31 January. The group of students were driving by an accident site where a Sudanese student's car ran over a local woman killing her.

Government Initiatives

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to amend the Indian Penal Code to make “racial discrimination” a **non-bailable criminal offence**. It is in the process of finalising a comprehensive Bill for insertion of new **Sections 153C and 509A** in the IPC.
- Under the amended law, any word, sign or gesture *insulting the race of a person* will be punishable with a three-year prison term. Any word, gesture, written statement or activity aimed at *discriminating against the race of a person* or promoting violence against a particular race will invite a prison term of five years.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO IPC	
SECTION 153 C	PUNISHMENT
1 Making a discriminatory sign against individuals on the basis of race	NON-BAILABLE OFFENCE PUNISHABLE WITH IMPRISONMENT UP TO FIVE YEARS WITH FINE
2 Making a discriminatory remark against individuals on the basis of race	
3 Writing something discriminatory against individuals on the basis of race	
4 Indulging in activities intended to use force or violence against individuals on the basis of race	
SECTION 509 A	PUNISHMENT
1 Any word, gesture or act intended to insult a member of a particular race	IMPRISONMENT UP TO THREE YEARS WITH FINE

G.6. FIRST PROJECT UNDER HOUSING FOR ALL MISSION

- The central government has granted approval to **Chhattisgarh** for taking up affordable housing projects in urban areas under **Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY)**
- The state government proposed to build affordable houses in 11 cities and towns in the state. The beneficiaries belong to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).
- The 35% of the houses proposed to be built shall be reserved for EWS.

G.7. NATION AND NATIONALISM

Why in News?

- The recent JNU controversy has brought the debate on Nationalism to the forefront.
- The row revolves around “anti-India” sloganeering by some JNU students in an event organised to commemorate the hanging of Afzal Guru, a convicted terrorist, within the campus.

Difference between Nation and Nationalism?

- The concept of “Nation-state” and “Nationalism” are relatively modern phenomena that can be traced back to the **Treaty of Westphalia of the 17th century Europe**.
- History shows Nation-state is not a natural entity but is an artificial construction to recognize sovereignty of nation-states.
- While nation is a mental construct reflected in a sense of belonging, **state is a political construct** with four elements; territory, population, government and sovereignty.
- There can be one nation and two states like Korea, or one state and two nations like Sri Lanka, one state and one nation like Japan or one state and many nations like India.

G.8. TRANSGENDER POLICY

Why in news?

Kerala has become the first state to have a policy for transgenders.

Kerala's Transgender Policy

- The policy envisages to end the societal stigma towards the sexual minority group and ensure them non-discriminatory treatment.
- The policy aims to enforce the constitutional rights of transgenders (TGs), taking into account the Supreme Court judgement (2014) and the findings of the recent Kerala State TG Survey.
- The policy covers all the categories of TGs, including male to female TGs and intersex people.
- It emphasises the right of the minority group to self-identify themselves as man, woman or TG as stated in the Supreme Court judgement.
- It also ensures them equal access to social and economic opportunities, resources and services, right to equal treatment under the law, right to live life without violence and equitable right in all decision making bodies.

It is the first such policy of its kind in the country and comes a year and a half after the Supreme Court ruled in April 2014 that the 'third gender' should be legally recognised; that TGs have the right to decide their self-identified gender; and that TGs should be treated as socially and educationally backward classes and reservations extended to them in education and jobs

While Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal have Transgender Welfare Boards, **Kerala's policy goes beyond welfare and favours a rights-based approach**

The policy was preceded by an **extensive survey of over 4,000 TGs in Kerala**

It proposes criminal and disciplinary action against the police in cases of violation of TGs' human rights at a time when Section 377, the draconian law that has been used to harass TGs and homosexuals, is still in place

It seeks to make laws against gender-based violence TG-friendly. In April this year, the Rajya Sabha passed the Right of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014, but is yet to be approved by the Lok Sabha



- It also recommends the setting up of a TG Justice Board with state Minister for Social Justice as its chairperson.



G.9. REVAMP OF REHABILITATION SCHEME

- To liberate children, transgender and others trapped in human trafficking, beggary or any such forms of forced labour, the Union government has proposed a **major revamp of the rehabilitation scheme** for rescued bonded workers, raising aid from the present Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 3 lakh.
- Also, the government has finalized a proposal to institute a three-tier rehabilitation funding scheme.
- Under this scheme rescued transgender or disabled person will get Rs. 3 lakh, women or children Rs. 2 lakh and adult men Rs. 1 lakh.
- To ensure a sustainable flow of money, a significant chunk of the rehabilitation sum will be credited to the bank accounts of the rescued persons in the form of fixed monthly deposits.
- Under the new system, the Collector will be able to keep a tab on the rescued workers as he or she will have to sign the money deposit slip every month.

Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976

At present, executive magistrates are empowered to conduct a summary trial of offences to release bonded labourers and issue release certificates under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

The penalties under the Act include imprisonment for a term of up to 3 years and a fine of up to Rs. 2,000.

G.10. SOCIAL INNOVATION

It refers to ***“new Solutions to social challenges that have the intent and effect of equality, justice and empowerment”***

Examples of Social Innovation in India: Self-help groups, Co-operatives, Micro credit societies, Distance learning, community courts - new ideas that work to meet pressing unmet needs and improve peoples' lives.

Vice President inaugurated the 3rd national seminar on Social Innovation in Pune.

Importance

- Provides a unique opportunity to step back from a narrow way of thinking about social enterprises, business engagement, and philanthropy and to recognize instead the interconnectedness of various factors and stakeholders.
- Helps in changing social power structure
- Important for sustainable economic growth by helping in developing alternative models of economic growth that enhance rather than damage human relationships and well-being.
- Opens up new markets that require social solutions.
- Integrates marginalized populations into the formal economy and involves citizens in public decision-making.
- Finally, it not only contributes to the mobilization of people in the innovation process but also provides the impetus for economic growth and social equality.

G.11. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2015



- The latest Human Development Report, 2015 was released in December 2015 by UNDP.

What is Human Development Report?

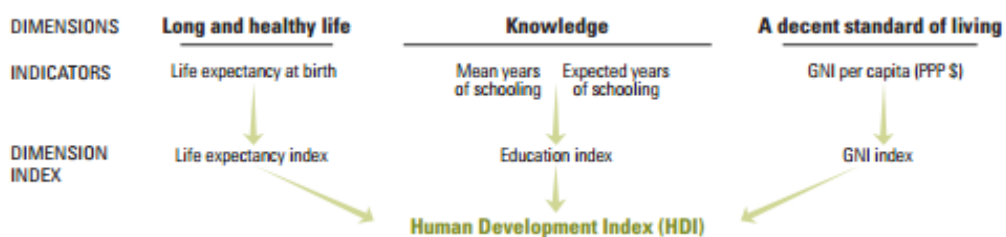
- An annual milestone published by the UNDP which includes discussions of major development issues, trends and policies in the world.
- Also provides an annual ranking of countries based on the Human Development Index.

Background

- Human Development Report was first launched in the year 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- This approach was developed by economist Mahbub Ul Haq and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen.
- HDR was a result of change in thinking from monetary indicators of national progress (like GDP) to broader indicators of human progress like health and education.

Three dimensions of Human Development

- First is **Standard of Living** which is calculated through the Gross National Income Per Capita.
- Second is **Health** which is calculated through Life Expectancy at Birth.
- Third is **Education** which is calculated through mean years of education among the adult population and expected years of schooling for children.



- HDR also includes four other indices,
 - Inequality Adjusted HDI:** It calculates the HDI after taking account of the inequality prevalent in the country.
 - Gender Development Index:** It compares female and male HDI values.
 - Gender Inequality Index:** Presents a composite measure of gender inequality using three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market.
 - Multidimensional Poverty Index:** Measures non income dimensions of poverty.

Highlights of the 2015 Human Development Report

- The report studies 188 countries and territories of the world.
- Explores “WORK” as the one fundamental factor which increases or decreases human capability.
- It differentiates between “work” and “job”. While work is not necessarily always rewarded, a job is work done for a predetermined payment. Difference in their monetary evaluation causes widening inequality.
- Norway has ranked first with an HDI value of 0.944.
- Norway is followed by Australia, Switzerland and Denmark.



- United States ranks 8th while China ranks 90th.
- Pakistan and Bangladesh have a rank of 147 and 142 respectively.
- Sri Lanka ranks a very high of 73 and falls in the ambit of High HDI countries.
- India ranks lower than countries like Namibia, Tajikistan, Guatemala and even Iraq.

India

- **HDI:** India ranks 130th with an HDI value of 0.609 and falls in category of Medium Developed Countries, while the very high human development countries have an average value of 0.896
- **Health:** India's Life Expectancy at Birth is 68 years while the very high human development countries have an average of 80.5 years.
- **Education:** India's expected years of schooling are 11.7 years while the very high human development countries have an average of 16.4 years.
- India's Mean years of schooling is 5.4 years while the very high human development countries have an average of 11.8 years.
- **Progress:** From 2009 to 2014 India has risen six points in terms of HDI value.
- India's improved ranking is not through improvements in education and health **but mainly through income growth.**
- **Inequality:** When India's HDI is adjusted for inequality its value drops 28%, from 0.609 to 0.435. This trend is similar for neighbours, Pakistan and Bangladesh also.
- **Gender:** India's Gender Development Index Value is 0.795 and India ranks below Bangladesh (0.917).
- India's Gender Inequality Index value is 0.563 ranking 130 among 155 countries falling behind Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- **Multidimensional Poverty Index:** 55.3 per cent of India's population were multidimensionally poor in 2005-06, while another 18.2 per cent lived near multidimensional poverty.
- **Maternal Mortality Rate** for India is 190 (deaths per 100000 live births) while the very high human development countries have an average of 18.
- **Infant Mortality Rate** for India in 2013 is 41.4 (per 1000 live births) while the very high human development countries have an average of 5.1.

Comparability of HDR 2015 with its Earlier Versions

- The 2015 report uses 2011 published PPP data while previous reports used 2005 data making comparisons with previous rankings misleading
- This report also uses new population data released by UN Population Division. This has impacted the rankings of countries.

G.12. GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2015

Global Hunger Index

- Calculated annually by **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**, the GHI highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction and provides insights into the drivers of hunger.
- By raising awareness and understanding of regional and country differences in hunger, the GHI aims to trigger actions to reduce hunger.
- The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale. Zero is the best score (no hunger), and 100 is the worst, although neither of these extremes is reached in practice.



- To reflect the multidimensional nature of hunger, the GHI combines the following **four indicators components** in one index number:
 1. **Undernourishment:** the proportion of undernourished as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient calorie intake)(**weight = 1/3rd**);
 2. **Child wasting:** the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from wasting (that is, low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition) (**weight= 1/6th**);
 3. **Child stunting:** the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from stunting (that is, low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition)(**weight=1/6th**); and
 4. **Child mortality:** the mortality rate of children younger than the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate dietary intake and unhealthy environments) (**weight=1/3rd**).
- India ***has moved up to 55 from 63 in The Global Hunger Index***, but fighting hunger remains a challenge. Undernourishment and mortality among children remain alarmingly high.

G.13. UN REPORT ON POPULATION IN INDIA

- India is on course to be the world's most populous nation by 2022, surpassing China sooner than previously estimated, according to the UN's 2015 Revised World Population Prospect report. In its earlier version, the report said India would overtake China in population size only by 2028.
- The estimates forecast a remarkable quickening of India's population growth between 2015 and 2050, while China's is projected to remain flat and then start declining.
- ***In 2030, India would be home to 1.5 billion and a staggering 1.7 billion in 2050.***
- The country's population will rise despite a fall in its fertility rates, mainly because of its ***mostly poor but younger population in states such as Bihar and UP.***
- India is expected to remain a relatively young country in the decades going forward. Its ***median age in 2015 is 26.6 years and this would grow to 31.2 years in 2030, 37.3 years in 2050 and 47 years in 2100.***
- The population pressures mean the country has to prepare to deal with the stress and also reap what we call as India's current "demographic dividend", or a positive population scenario of more younger, employable people than old.

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CSE 2013



GAURAV AGRAWAL
AIR-1

CSE 2014



NIDHI GUPTA
AIR-3



VANDANA RAO
AIR-4



SUHARSHA BHAGAT
AIR-5

AIR-1
TINA DABI



AIR-4
ARTIKA SHUKLA



AIR-6
ASHISH TIWARI



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