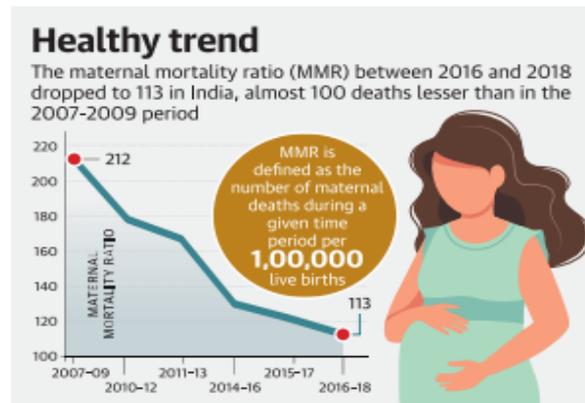


India registers a steep decline in maternal mortality ratio

Why in the news?

- The **Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System** has recently released **special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18**.



Key findings of the bulletin

- The **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India** declined to **113 in 2016-18** from **122 in 2015-17** and **130 in 2014-2016**.
- The **MMR of various States** according to the bulletin includes **Assam (215)**, **Bihar (149)**, **Madhya Pradesh (173)**, **Chhattisgarh (159)**, **Odisha (150)**, **Rajasthan (164)**, **Uttar Pradesh (197)** and **Uttarakhand (99)**.
- The southern States registered a lower MMR – **Andhra Pradesh (65)**, **Telangana (63)**, **Karnataka (92)**, **Kerala (43)** and **Tamil Nadu (60)**.

Related Term

Maternal mortality

- Maternal mortality in a region is a **measure of the reproductive health of women** in the area.
- As per the **World Health Organization**, **maternal death** is the **death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy**, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.

Maternal Mortality Ratio

- It is one of the **key indicators of maternal mortality**.
- It is defined as the **number of maternal deaths per 1, 00,000 live births**.
- The **target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** set by the **United Nations** aims to **reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1, 00,000 live**.

Topic- GS Paper 2–Social Issues

Source- The Hindu

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

Why in the news?

- **Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** have recently launched the **Implementation Guidelines for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)**.



About the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

- Union Cabinet has approved this fund which is the **first type of Scheme for the private sector under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan stimulus package** for ensuring growth in several sectors.
- It is the **interest subvention scheme** for **private investors** will ensure the **availability of capital** to meet **upfront investment** required for these projects and also **help enhance overall returns/ payback** for investors.

Eligible Beneficiaries

- The **eligible beneficiaries** under the Scheme would be **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies** and **individual entrepreneurs** with a **minimum 10% margin money contribution** by them.
- The **balance 90%** would be the **loan component** to be made **available by scheduled banks**.
- Government of India will **provide 3% interest subvention** to **eligible beneficiaries**.
- There will be **two years moratorium period** for the **principal loan amount** and **six years repayment period** after that.

Other Fund

- **Government of India** would also set up a **Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs. 750 crore** to be **managed by NABARD**.
- **Credit guarantee** would be provided to those **sanctioned projects** which are covered under **MSME defined ceilings**. **Guarantee Coverage** would be **upto 25% of Credit facility** of the borrower.
- The **beneficiaries intending to invest** for **establishing dairy and meat processing** and **value addition infrastructure** or **strengthening of the existing infrastructure** can apply for a loan in the **scheduled bank** through **“Udyami Mitra” portal** of **SIDBI**.

Note:

- **India is producing milk of 188 million tonnes**, and by **2024** the **milk production** is expected to rise to **330 million tons**.

Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source-AIR

PRASHAD scheme

Why in the news?

- **Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism** has recently inaugurated the project **“Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath, Gujarat”**.
- The project **“Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath, Gujarat”** sanctioned under the **PRASHAD scheme in March 2017**.
- High-quality, world-class facilities for parking, tourism amenities centre and Solid waste management have been developed under the project.

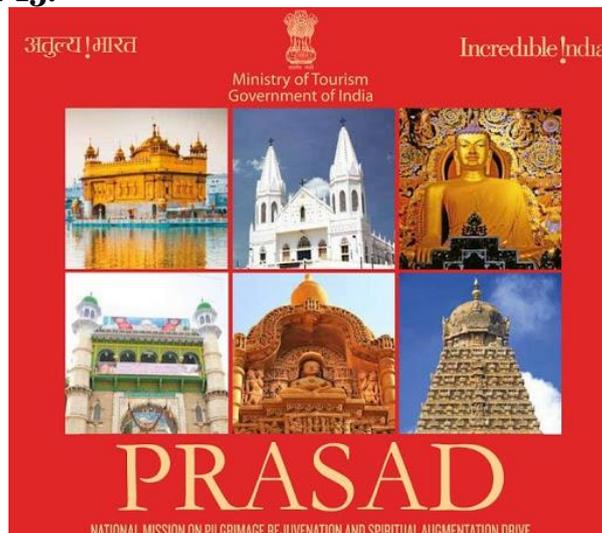
About PRASHAD scheme



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- The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.



Objective

- The objective of the integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
- The scheme aimed at infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last-mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities like Information/ Interpretation Centers, ATM/ Money exchange etc.

Funding

- Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments for promoting tourism at identified destinations.
- For components within public funding under this scheme, the Central Government will provide 100% fund.
- For improved sustainability of the project, it also seeks to involve Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as well.

About Somnath temple

- The Somnath temple located in Prabhas Patan near Junagadh in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat.
- It is believed to be the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- In 1024, during the reign of Bhima I, the prominent Turkic Muslim ruler Mahmud of Ghazni raided Gujarat, plundering the Somnath temple and breaking its jyotirlinga.
- The present temple was reconstructed in Chaulukya style of Hindu temple architecture and completed in May 1951.

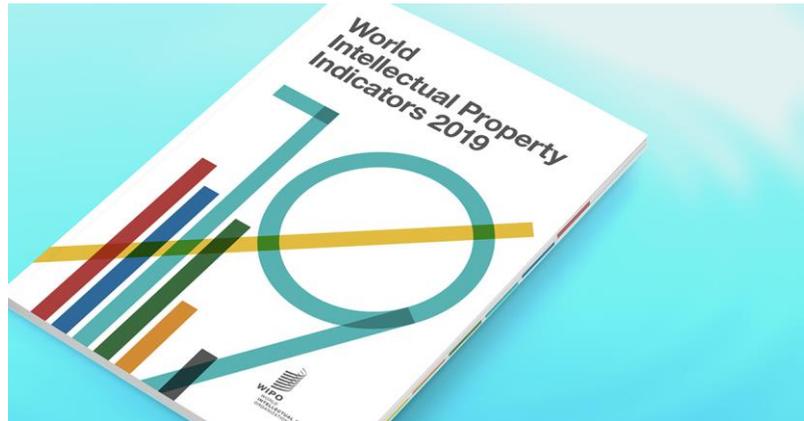
Topic- GS Paper 1–Art and Culture

Source- PIB

World Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report

Why in the news?

- As per World Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report, India has emerged as the top tenth nation in the ranking of the total (resident and abroad) Intellectual Property (IP) filing activity.



Findings of the report

- The government pushes to schemes like "Make in India", "Skill India" and now "Atma-nirbhar Bharat", IP Filing and grant activity are likely to increase.
- Industry 4.0 is witnessing new inventions and breakthroughs as it faces challenges in providing the right environment to stimulate innovation, especially in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
- IP-intensive industries have been identified as an important and integral part of a country's economy and account for more jobs and a larger share of its GDP.

Related Information

- The National IPR Policy, launched in May 2016, to promote strong IP regime in the country, encourages innovation to achieve country's industrial and economic development goals.
- Its clarion call is "Creative India; Innovative India".
- It encompasses and brings to a single platform all IPRs, taking into account all inter-linkages and thus aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies.
- It sets in place an institutional mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review.
- It aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario.

Nodal agency

- Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, has been appointed as the nodal department to coordinate, guide and oversee the implementation and future development of IPRs in India. India's IPR regime is in compliance with the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

India and IPR

- India is a member of the World Trade Organisation and committed to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).
- India is also a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization, a body responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world.
- India is also a member of the following important WIPO-administered International Treaties and Conventions relating to IPRs.
 1. Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
 2. Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for Patent Procedure
 3. Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization

4. Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
5. Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Economics

Source- DD News

Government opens up NDRF for individual donations

Why in the news?

- The **Central govt.** has recently **applied a remaining provision in the Disaster Management Act, 2005** to allow **any person or institution to contribute to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for disaster management.**
- It will lay out the **modalities for receipt of contributions/ grants from any person or institution for disaster management** in the NDRF as per **Section 46(1) (b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.**



- The section pertaining to NDRF says **“any grants that may be made by any person or institution for disaster management.”**

Background

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** had invoked the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** for the first time in March this year in the wake of COVID-19.
- The **COVID-19 pandemic** was notified as a **“disaster,”** paving the way for the **States to utilise the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for treatment of patients** and other logistics.
- These include **quarantine centres, setting up laboratories, among other things.**
- The other notified disasters under the act are cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.

Supplementing State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

- As per **Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act**, the “NDRF supplements the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF.”
- The States also have to **submit utilisation certificates**, pending which no future allocation is made.
- The fund is the primary available with **State governments to meet the expenses of relief operations** of an immediate nature, for a range of specified disasters.

Contribution by the central government

- The **Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation** for general category States and Union Territories, whereas **90% for special category**

States (northeast States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir).

Related Information

PM-CARES Fund

- Recently the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** has clarified that the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (**PM-CARES Fund**) is **not a public authority under the ambit of the Right to Act (RTI), 2005.**

About PM-CARES Fund

- It was set up as a **public charitable trust** with the trust deed registered on **March 27, 2020.**
- It can avail donations from the **foreign contribution and donations to fund can also avail a 100% tax exemption.**
- **PM-CARES are different** from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (**PMNRF**).

Composition:

- Prime Minister as chairperson
- Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister
- **Three trustees nominated** by the Prime Minister "who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy".

Topic- GS Paper 3- Disaster Management

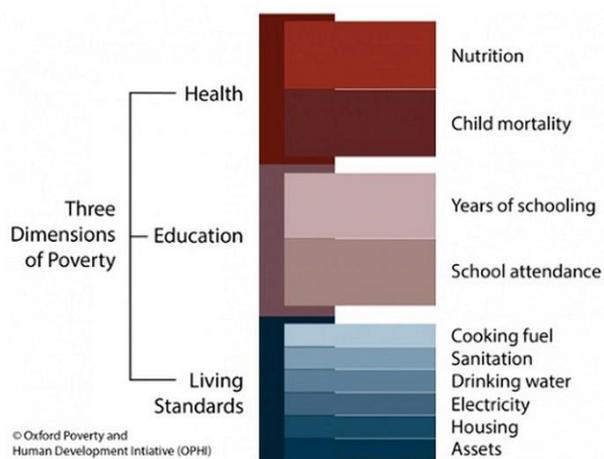
Source- Indian Express

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2020

Why in the news?

- Recently the **2020 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** was recently released by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative** and the **United Nations Development Programme.**

What does the global MPI measure?



Findings of the report

- Around **1.3 billion people** are **still living in multidimensional poverty.**
- **Children show higher rates of multidimensional poverty.** Half of **multidimensionally poor people (644 million)** are **children under age 18.** One in **three children is poor** compared with **one in six adults.**

- Four countries—**Armenia** (2010–2015/2016), **India** (2005/2006–2015/2016), **Nicaragua** (2001–2011/2012) and **North Macedonia** (2005/2006–2011) halved their **global MPIT value** and did so in **5.5–10.5 years**.
- About **84 % of multidimensionally poor people** live in **Sub-Saharan Africa** (558 million) and **South Asia** (530 million).
- The countries with the **fastest reduction in MPI value in absolute terms** were **Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Liberia**, followed by **Timor-Leste, Guinea and Rwanda**.

About the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

- It is a measure of **acute multidimensional poverty** and measures the acute **deprivations in health, education, and living standards** that a person may face simultaneously.
- The global MPI is **composed of three dimensions** (health, education, and living standards) and ten indicators.
- A person is **identified as multidimensionally poor** if they are deprived in at least one-third of the **weighted indicators**.
- The year **2020** marks the **tenth anniversary** since the **global MPI** was first launched in **partnership with the UNDP's Human Development Report Office (HDRO)**.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Poverty and Index

Source- The Hindu

[KURMA app](#)

Why in the news?

- The **Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister** hailed the **KURMA mobile application** as a **unique tool for tracking and reporting Indian turtles**.

About the KURMA app

- This application **KURMA** was **launched on 23rd May this year** on **World Turtle Day**.
- The **mobile application** has been developed by the **Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN)** in collaboration with the **Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India**.
- It provides users with the **database to identify a species** and also provides the location of the **nearest rescue centre for turtles** across the country.
- It is also a **citizen science initiative** that aims at **conservation of turtles and tortoises**.



Related Information

About Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network

- It was formed to launch **the citizen-science initiative** aims at **conservation of turtles and tortoises**.
- It provides a **platform to exchange vital information on turtles**, aids **enforcement agencies, forest departments**, etc.
- It will also help in **observing 2020 as the YEAR OF THE TURTLE**.

About Turtle Survival- Alliance

- The **Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)** was formed in **2001 as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) partnership** for **sustainable captive management** of freshwater turtles and tortoises.
- It had initially **designated a Task Force of the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group**.
- The **TSA arose in response to the rampant and unsustainable harvest of Asian turtle populations to supply Chinese markets**, a situation known as the Asian Turtle Crisis.
- It has now **recognized as a global force for turtle conservation**, capable of **taking swift and decisive action on behalf of critically endangered turtles and tortoises**.

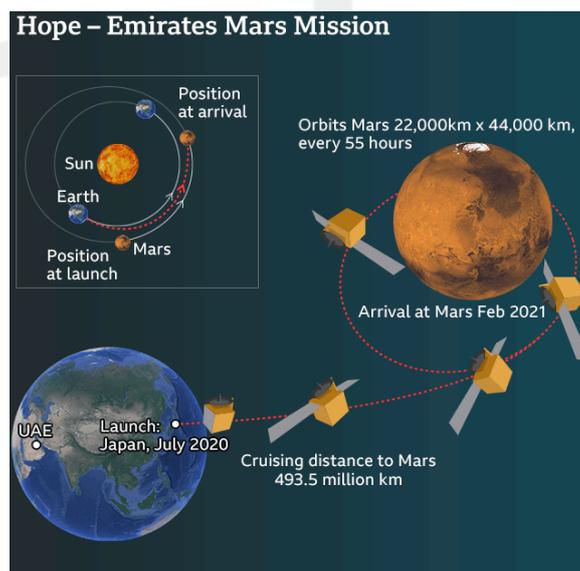
Topic- GS Paper 3–Environment

Source- The Hindu

Emirates Mars Mission

Why in the news?

- The **United Arab Emirates** has recently **launched its first mission ‘Emirates Mars Mission’** from **Japan’s Tanegashima Space Center**.



About the Emirates Mars Mission

- The **HOPE Spacecraft or Emirates Mars Mission** is the **first interplanetary mission for the Arab World**.

The aims of the mission are:

- To study the **loss mechanisms of Mars’ atmosphere** to space by **tracking the behaviour and escape of hydrogen and oxygen**.
- To search for the **connection between current Martian weather and the ancient climate of Mars**.
- **Create a global picture** of how the **Martian atmosphere varies** throughout the day and year.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Science and Technology

Source- Indian Express

Consumer Protection Act, 2019



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Why in the news?

- The newly enacted Consumer Protection Act comes to force July 20, replacing more than three decades old Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

About the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is a law to protect the interests of the consumers.
- This Act was inevitable to resolve a large number of pending consumer complaints in consumer courts across the country.
- It has ways and means to solve the consumer grievances speedily.



What is the aim of the Consumer Protection Act?

- The aim of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to save the rights of the consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' disputes.

Key Features of the 2019 Act

- The 2019 Act replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- It enforced consumer rights and provided a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defect in goods and deficiency in services.

Definition of Consumer under the Act

- A consumer is defined as a person who buys any goods or avails a service for consideration.
- It does not include a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purpose.
- It covers transactions through all modes including offline, and online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.

The Act includes

- The new Act sets up a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote protect and enforce consumer rights as a class.
 - The CCPA will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints/prosecution, etc.
- Rules for the prevention of unfair trade practice by e-commerce platforms will also be covered under this Act.
- Under the Act, every e-commerce entity is required to provide information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism, etc.

About CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA)

- It helps to provide relief to a class of consumers
- The authority has empowered to –
- Conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute Complaints / Prosecution
- Order recall of unsafe goods and services

- **Order discontinuance of unfair trade practices** and misleading advertisements
- **Impose penalties on Manufacturers/Endorsers/Publishers of Misleading Advertisements**

Simplified Dispute Resolution Process

- Deemed **admissibility after 21 days of filing**
- **Empowerment of Consumer Commissions** to enforce their orders
- **State Commission & District Commission** can now review their orders
- Appeals only on **the question of law after the second stage.**
- Ease of approaching Consumer Commissions
 - a. Filing from a place of residence/work
 - b. E-filing
 - c. Videoconferencing for hearing

Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- The Hindu

Passage Exercise (PASSEX)

Why in the news?

- Recently **Indian Naval ships** conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the **U.S. Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group** near the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** as it is **transiting the Indian Ocean.**



- The **exercise comes amid a high alert** by the Navy in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** due to the **stand-off with China along the border in Ladakh.**
- The **Indian Navy had conducted similar PASSEXs** with the **Japanese Navy and the French Navy in the recent past.**

Topic- GS Paper 3–Defence

Source- The Hindu

G20 Action Plan to Fight COVID19

Why in the news?

- Recently, the **Union Finance Minister** has said that the **G20 Action Plan** is an **expression of collective commitment** to fight COVID-19 pandemic and it should remain relevant and effective as the crisis evolves.



Significance of the G20 Action Plan

- It covers the **healthcare, economic and fiscal responses** that **G20 members** have agreed to undertake.
- It includes measures to ensure a **return to a strong and sustainable global economy**, the **provision of support** to countries in need.
- It aims to **protect lives, safeguard people's jobs and incomes**, restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger, minimize disruptions to global supply chains, provide help to all countries in need of assistance and coordinate on public health and financial measures.
- It is also **launched to provide, support to minimize the economic and social damage**, restore global growth, maintain market stability and strengthen resilience by supporting jobs and household incomes.

Related Information

About G20

- It is an **international forum** that brings together the **world's leading industrialized and emerging economies**.

Members

- Members include **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, Russia, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China and Indonesia and EU**.
- The members are divided into five groups, consisting of a maximum of four states for choosing the President:

a. **Group 1:** Australia, Canada, United States, Saudi Arabia.

b. **Group 2:** India, Russia, South Africa, Turkey.

c. **Group 3:** Argentina, Brazil, Mexico.

d. **Group 4:** France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.

e. **Group 5:** China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea.

- Spain is a permanent guest and always participates in the G20 summits.
- The President is chosen by a rotation system amongst the member countries.

Recent developments

- In 2019, the **14th edition of G-20 meeting** was held in **Osaka, Japan**.
- It aims to **legitimize the informal plurilateral** (two or more countries) negotiations on digital trade that were never approved at the **World Trade Organization**.
- In this, the **"Osaka Track" on the "digital economy"** was initiated and sought the participation of G-20 countries.
- The **Osaka Track** is a process for promoting "international policy discussions, among other things, international rule-making on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the WTO."
- **India, South Africa, and Indonesia** have boycotted the **"Osaka Track" on the "digital economy"**.

- The **Osaka declaration** welcomed the **UNSC Resolution 2462**, which calls upon countries to **prevent and counter the financing of terrorism**, especially in its new forms.

Note:

- For the first time, India will host the annual **G20 summit in 2022**.

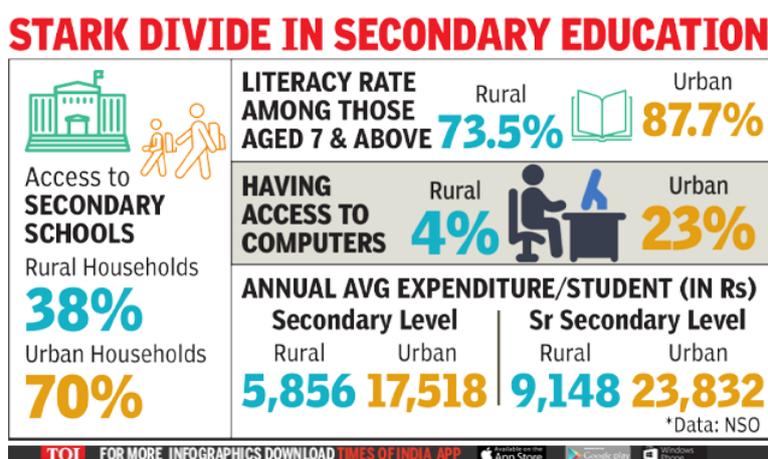
Topic- GS Paper 2–International Organization

Source- The Hindu

NSO Report on “Household Social Consumption: Education”

Why in the news?

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released a report on **“Household Social Consumption: Education”** in which it surveyed **1.13 lakh households** spread across over **8,000 villages** and **6,000 urban blocks** between **July 2017 and June 2018**.
- The study **involved 1.52 lakh students** across different levels of study.



Highlights of the Report

- ✓ **On accessibility**
 - According to the **report around 92.7% of the rural households** have a **primary school within 1 km** as compared to **87.2% in urban areas**.
 - The situation gets skewed as only **38% of the rural household** has access to secondary school as compared to **70% in the urban areas on similar parameters**.
- ✓ **Literacy Rate**
 - The **all India literacy rate** among persons aged 7 years and above is **77.7%**.
 - However, for the same age group, the **rural literacy is 73.5%** and in the **urban areas it is 87.7%**.
- ✓ **Internet Access**
 - The **digital divide between rural and urban households** is stark with just **4% of the rural population** having access to computers.
 - The report highlighted that while **15% surveyed population** in the **rural cluster has internet access**, **42% of the surveyed students** in the urban areas have access to the internet.
 - Only **24% of the persons between ages 15-29 years** in rural areas are able to operate a computer as compared to **56% of their urban counterparts**.
 - Annual average expenditure per student at secondary and senior secondary level in a **rural household stands at Rs 5,856 and Rs 9,148 respectively**.
 - An **urban household** for the same classes spends **Rs 17,518 and Rs 23,832 respectively**.

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- At school level while the **majority of the urban households** had shown a **preference for private schools**, it's the **opposite for rural households**.
- The **report highlights that 76.1% of the rural children** are attending **primary and middle school run by the government**, while only **38% of the urban children** are attending government schools.
- However, for graduate and above studies, **49.7% rural students are attending classes** in government institutions as **compared to 41% of the urban counterparts** in government institutions.

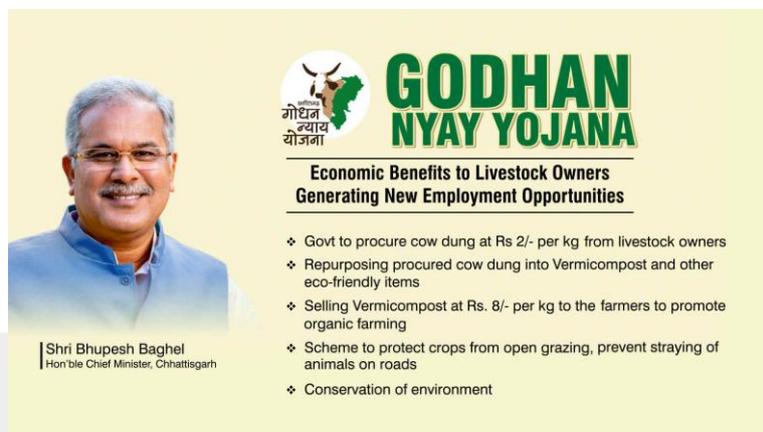
Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- TOI

Godhan Nyay Yojana

Why in the news?

- Recently **Godhan Nyay Yojana Yojana**, a **first of its kind scheme**, has been launched in **Chhattisgarh** on the occasion of **festival of Hareli**.



The poster features a portrait of Shri Bhupesh Baghel, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh, on the left. To the right is the Godhan Nyay Yojana logo, which includes a cow icon and the text 'गोधन न्याय योजना' and 'GODHAN NYAY YOJANA'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Economic Benefits to Livestock Owners' and 'Generating New Employment Opportunities'. A list of benefits follows:

- ❖ Govt to procure cow dung at Rs 2/- per kg from livestock owners
- ❖ Repurposing procured cow dung into Vermicompost and other eco-friendly items
- ❖ Selling Vermicompost at Rs. 8/- per kg to the farmers to promote organic farming
- ❖ Scheme to protect crops from open grazing, prevent straying of animals on roads
- ❖ Conservation of environment

More about the scheme

- Under the scheme, **government will procure cow dung at Rs 2 per kilogram** from livestock owners and use it to **prepare organic fertilizers**.
- The aim of this scheme to give a **boost to rural economy** and to **create employment opportunities in the rural areas**.
- The **procured cow dung** will be utilized for the **production of vermicompost fertilizer** which will be sold through **cooperative societies** to meet the **fertilizer requirement of the farmers**.
- The scheme will **encourage use of organic fertilizers, minimizing the use of chemical ones**.
- It is implemented through the **Suraaji Gaon Yojana** under which **construction of more than five thousand cowsheds** has been constructed.
- **Godhan Nyay Yojana** will be implemented through these cowsheds

About Hareli Festival

- It is an **agricultural festival** celebrated by the **rural farming communities in Chhattisgarh**.

Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- The Hindu

Inflammageing

Why in the news?

- Recently the some of the most severe Covid-19 cases have occurred mostly in older people; researchers are investigating whether inflammageing has a role.



What is an Inflammageing?

- It refers to the **inhibition of one's immunity** as the **body's inflammation** reaches higher levels as one ages.
- In this our **bodily defence systems** respond more slowly to **bacterial and viral infections**, leaving the elderly more vulnerable.
- It is characterized by **chronic low-grade inflammation**, which occurs without an infection.
- While **inflammation is essential to the immune response**, inflammageing is not.
- The state of elevated inflammation can **worsen many age-related diseases**, and further inhibit the response from an already **declining immune system**.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu

RAISE Program

Why in the news?

- **Union Minister for Power** has recently launched **Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)** national program.
- It is a joint initiative of **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** and **U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID)**.



About the RAISE Program

- This is a part of the **larger initiative to RAISE** developed for **healthy and energy efficient buildings**, in partnership with **US Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE** program.
- EESL's corporate office in **Scope Complex** has been taken up as a **pilot for this initiative**.
- It focuses on **improving indoor air quality (IAQ)**, thermal comfort, and **energy efficiency (EE)** in its office's air conditioning system.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Environment



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Source- Indian Express

HIV/AIDS vulnerable groups petition global fund

Why in the news?

- Recently **deprived of sources of livelihood** during the **pandemic**, **sex workers, transpersons, gay and bi-sexual men**, drug users and people **living with HIV/AIDS** have **petitioned the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM)**.
- They are protesting against being **ignored by government and multilateral agencies** in coronavirus (COVID-19) related **emergency relief efforts**.
- The petitioners include **National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) in India, All India Network of Sex Workers (AINSW), Telangana Intersex Transgender Samithi, Assam Network of Positive People (ANP+), Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT) in South Africa, Global Network of Sex Work Projects in the U.K.** as well as several community-based organizations and civil society organizations.



About Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM)

- In **2019, India** has announced a **contribution of \$22 million to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria**.
- The **Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria** was created to raise, manage, and **invest the world's money in eliminating** these three of the **deadliest infectious diseases** the world has ever known.
- India shares a **sustained partnership with the Global Fund** since its formation, both as a **recipient and as a donor**.

About Global Funds

- It is a **total investment of \$2 billion** was created in **2002 to pool the world's resources & invest them strategically in programs to end Tuberculosis (TB), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and Malaria** as epidemics.
- It is a **partnership** of governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.

About Tuberculosis (TB)

- It is caused by **bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)** that most often affect the lungs.
- It is **curable and preventable**.
- **World TB Day** is observed on **24 March to earmark the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a bacterium due to which TB is caused, by German microbiologist Dr. Robert Koch in 1882.**

Government Initiative



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- The **Universal Immunization Program (UIP)** launched by the **Government of India in 1985** includes **vaccination for 12 diseases including TB.**

About the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV-AIDS)

- It is a **type of virus called a retrovirus**, and the **combination of drugs** used to treat it is called **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).**
- The **World AIDS Day** is observed on **1st December.**

About Malaria

- It is caused by **Plasmodium parasites.**
- The **parasites are spread to people** through the **bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes**, called "**malaria vectors**",
- The **World Malaria Day** is observed on **25th April.**

Topic- GS Paper 3–Health Issues

Source- The Hindu

e-ICU

Why in the news?

- Recently in order to **strengthen the Government of India's efforts** to reduce COVID-19 mortality, **AIIMS New Delhi** has started a **video-consultation program** with **ICU doctors across the country** called **e-ICU.**



About the e-ICU

- In this the **physicians who manage COVID-19 patients** including those in the **ICUs can raise queries, present their experience** and **share knowledge with other physicians** and experts from **AIIMS New Delhi** with this **video-consultation program.**

Aim

- The program aims at **holding case-management discussions** among doctors who are at the **frontline in treating COVID-19 patients** in hospitals and COVID facilities around the country.

Objective

- The **primary objective of these discussions** is to reduce mortality from COVID-19 by learning from **shared experience and strengthening best practices** among hospitals with **1000 beds including isolation beds, oxygen supported and ICU beds.**

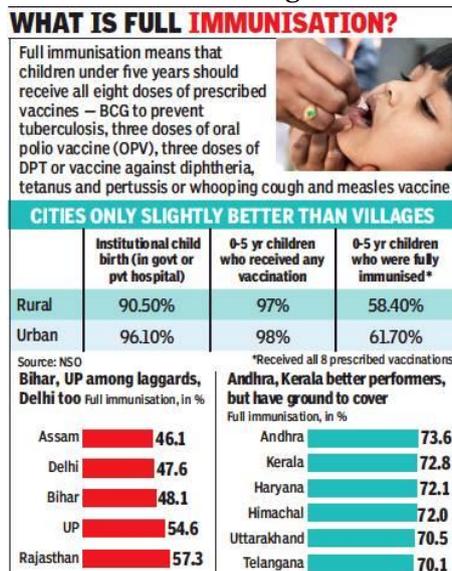
Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- AIR

NSO Report on Immunization among Children

Why in the news?

- According to survey conducted by **National Statistical Office (NSO)** during **July 2017-June 2018**, on immunization among Children.



Highlights of the report

- According to the report **around 60% of children less than five years of age** were fully immunized which includes **about 59% of boys and 60% of girls** across the country.
- They had been fully immunised with all eight prescribed vaccinations – **BCG, OPV-1, 2, 3, DPT- 1, 2, 3** and measles.
- In rural India, **about 58% (57% boys and 60% girls) children under five years** and about **62% (62% boys and 61% girls) children in urban India** had been fully immunised.
- The survey shows majority of the children received vaccination from government hospitals or clinics.
- About **95% of children in rural India** and **86% of children in urban India** had received some vaccination from government hospitals including primary and **community health centres or even Anganwadi centres**.
- Private sector catered to **about 5% of children in rural India**, though the percentage was slightly **higher at 14% of children in urban India** who received any vaccination.

Related Information

About Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

- The **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)** has been launched by the **Government of India in 2017**.
- The aim of Intensified Mission Indradhanush, to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive will focus on **improving immunization coverage** in select districts and cities to ensure **full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018**.
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush** would be closely monitored at the **district, state and central level at regular intervals**.

- Further, it would be reviewed by the **Cabinet Secretary at the National level** and will continue to be monitored at the **highest level under a special initiative ‘Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)’**.

Topic- GS Paper 3–Health Issue

Source- TOI

China repeats claim on Bhutan’s territories

Why in the news?

- Recently **China** said that it has offered Bhutan a **“package solution”** to its **boundary dispute**, reviving a reference to its **1996 proposal for a territory swap to give Bhutan the disputed areas in its north in exchange for the disputed western areas, including Doklam.**



Background

- According to written records, there has been **no mention of Eastern Bhutan, or Trashigang Dzongkhag (district), where Sakteng is based, that borders Arunachal Pradesh** as per the negotiations of boundary held between the two countries **between 1984 and 2016.**

Dividing line

A brief overview of the boundary dispute between China and Bhutan

- Bhutan and China have no formal diplomatic relations but have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016
- Talks concentrated on north and west Bhutan regions
- Eastern Bhutan not part of the talks

so far, say officials

- Sakteng sanctuary is situated close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh
- In June 2020, China attempted to stop UNDP-GEF funding for Sakteng by claiming it was disputed, but was overruled

There are three separate areas of disputed territory between Bhutan and China:

a. Eastern sector dispute over the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is in **Trashigang District, Eastern Bhutan-** close to the **border with Arunachal Pradesh.**

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- **China** recently made territorial claims over **Sakteng wildlife sanctuary** at an online meeting of the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**.
- b. Western Sector dispute over Doklam plateau**
- **Doklam plateau** is an **89 sq.km** patch of territory in **Chumbi Valley** between **Sikkim and Bhutan** which is claimed by China.
 - It is called the **Donglang region** by **China**, **Bhutan** calls it **Doklam Plateau** and **India** refers to it as **Doka La**.
- c. Middle sector dispute over Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys**
- It is a **495 sq km** in **Central Bhutan**.

Topic- GS Paper 1–World Geography

Source- Indian Express

E-commerce sites must state country of origin

Why in the news?

- Recently the **Centre told the Delhi High Court** that all e-commerce entities, including **Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal**, have to ensure the mandatory declaration of country of origin of imported products sold on their respective sites.
- The law relating to the issue was enacted under the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009** and the **Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011**.
- The enforcement of the **provisions of the Act and Rules** rests with the **State and Union Territory governments**.



About the Legal Metrology Act, 2009

- It aims to **establish and enforce standards of weights and measures**, regulate trade and commerce in weights, measures and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure, or number and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

About Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

- These rules are framed to regulate the prepackaged commodities in order to provide protection to consumers from malpractices of underweight or under-measurement.
- Under these rules, the pre-packaged commodities have to comply with certain mandatory labelling requirements.

Salient features of the amendments:



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- Goods displayed by the seller on e-commerce platform shall contain declarations required under the Rules like name & Address of the manufacturer, packer and importer, name of the commodity, net content, retail sale price, consumer care complaint, dimension etc.
- Specific mention is made in the rules that no person shall declare different MRPs (dual MRP) on an identical pre-packaged commodity, unless allowed under any law.
- This will benefit consumers at large as they are having complaints regarding dual MRP for item depending upon different types of public places like Cinema Hall, Airport, and Malls etc.

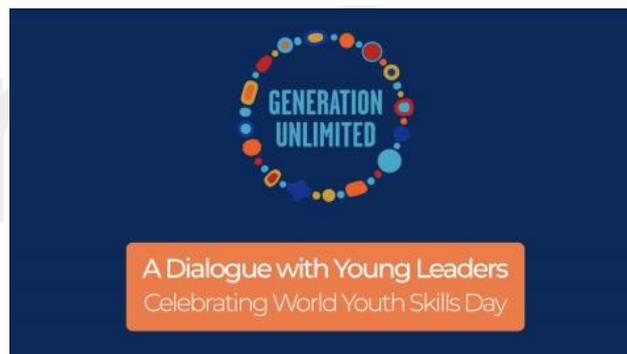
Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source-The Hindu

Generation Unlimited India (YuWaah!)

Why in the news?

- Recently **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs** has signed a Statement of **Intent for partnership with UNICEF India, YuWaah India and United Nations in India** to work together with young people for empowering them and to make them changemakers with access to aspirational socio-economic opportunities.



About Generation Unlimited India

- Generation Unlimited India (YuWaah) has been launched by **UNICEF in November 2019**.
- It is a **multi-stakeholder alliance** which aims to facilitate youth to gain relevant skills for productive lives and the future of work.
- The target **age group of YuWaah** includes **adolescent girls and boys**.
- Its key mission is to **promote among youth foundational skills**, life skills and flexible learning and identifying and scaling impactful delivery models.
- YuWaah intends to **create platforms to guide youth** to market opportunities (career guidance, mentorship, internships, apprenticeships) and **facilitate integration of career guidance** in school education.

Topic- GS Paper 2–Governance

Source- AIR

