



**INSIGHTSIAS**  
SIMPLIFYING  
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

# Insights PT 2017 Exclusive

Social Issues

June 2016 – March 2017

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## Women

### 1. Indian Captain Radhika Menon Is First Woman To Get Bravery At Sea Award

- Captain **Radhika Menon**, first woman captain of the Indian Merchant Navy received **International Maritime Organisation Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**.
- This was awarded for her role in the dramatic rescue of seven fishermen from a sinking fishing boat in tumultuous seas in the Bay of Bengal in June 2015.
- The **annual Award was established by IMO** to provide international recognition for those who, at the risk of losing their own life, perform acts of exceptional bravery, **displaying outstanding courage in attempting to save life at sea** or in attempting to prevent or mitigate damage to the marine environment.

### 2. Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016

- Parliament has passed the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to **raise maternity leave for working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks** for two surviving children.
- India will be in third position in terms of the number of weeks allowed for maternity leave in the world after Norway (44 weeks) and Canada (50 weeks).
- The Bill seeks to **amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961**.
- **Woman who adopts a child below the age of three months and also commissioning mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave.** Commissioning mother is defined as biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo planted in any other woman.
- **Crèche facilities:**
  - Every establishment with **more than 50 employees** must provide for crèche facilities for working mothers.
  - Such mothers will be permitted to make **four visits** during working hours to look after and feed the child in the crèche.
- **Work from home:**
  - Employer may permit a woman to work from home, if the nature of work assigned permits her to do so.
- **Information about benefits:**
  - Establishment must inform a working woman of all benefits available under this law at the time of her appointment. Such information must be given in electronically or writing.
- The provisions of this law will apply **to every establishment employing ten or more persons**.
- No employer can remove any woman employee on ground of pregnancy.

### 3. Workplace gender gaps

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has placed India at 87 in 2016 Global Gender Gap Report.
- The report measured gender parity through four indices: **health, education,**

economy and politics.

**NOTES**

#### 4. Women of India Festival 2016

- **'Women of India Festival 2016' of organic products by women was recently inaugurated in New Delhi.**
- The Festival will offer on sale the biggest selection of **organic products** ranging from food, fabrics and furniture to wellness, personal care and solar products.
- It is being organised and sponsored by the **Union Ministry of Women & Child Development.**
- It celebrates and promotes **women entrepreneurs** from across India.
- The Women of India Festival is also intended to highlight the **health and environmental advantages of organic goods** and provide a platform for women engaged in this economy.

#### 5. Mahila Police Volunteer initiative

- The **Mahila Police Volunteer initiative was recently launched in Haryana** and it is the **first state to adopt this scheme.**
- Haryana has inducted the first batch of 1000 Mahila Police Volunteers. These volunteers have already been trained by the State Police Authorities on their role and responsibility.
- **About the scheme:**
  - Originally **conceived by the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development**, Mahila Police Volunteer is a **joint initiative with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.**
  - Their primary job will be to keep an eye on situations where women in the village are harassed or their rights and entitlements are denied or their development is prevented.
  - In order to provide a **link between police and community** and facilitate women in distress, **one Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) is envisaged per Gram Panchayat across the country.**
  - The Chief Secretaries/UT Administrators have been requested by the WCD Ministry to adopt the scheme in their respective States/UTs.

#### 6. Global Wage Report 2016-17

- As per the Global Wage Report 2016-17 released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, India has the worst levels of gender wage disparity with the gap exceeding 30%.
- In India, women form 60% of the lowest paid wage labour, but only 15% of the highest wage-earners.
- It means that **in India women are not only poorly represented in the top bracket of wage-earners, but also experience wide gender pay gap at the bottom.**
- **International Labour Organization (ILO):**
  - The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a **United Nations agency** dealing with labour problems, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and

work opportunities for all.

- ILO is **the only tripartite (involving three parties) U.N. agency that brings together governments, employers and workers**, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all.
- The **ILO registers complaints against entities that are violating international rules**; however, **it does not impose sanctions on governments**.
- Established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations, the ILO became the **first specialized agency of the UN** in 1946.
- In 1969, the organization received the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

## 7. Nari Shakti Puraskars

- To acknowledge **Women's achievements**, the Government of India confers **Nari Shakti Puraskars on eminent women and institutions** in recognition of their service towards the **cause of women empowerment**.
- The Nari Shakti Awards were **initiated in the year 1999**.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** announces these national level awards for eminent women, organisations and institutions.

## 8. International Women's day 2017

- International Women's Day was celebrated on **March 8 across the world**. It is an annual marker that aims to bring **attention to women's accomplishments and obstacles**.
- The **first International Women's Day took place in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland**.
- The **UN celebrates the day** on the basis of different themes.
- In 2016, the theme was Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality.
- In 2017, the theme is **Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030**.
- The day has now come to be also known as the **United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace**.
- Leading up to **International Women's Day**, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has initiated a social media campaign – **#WeAreEqual** – targeted at raising awareness about gender discrimination.

## 9. Commonwealth unveils initiative to stamp out domestic violence

- The Commonwealth is launching an initiative to help member states tackle domestic violence.
- The **"Peace in the home"** programme will include toolkits to help governments across the Commonwealth involve schools, doctors and hospitals, and law enforcement agencies to work together effectively.
- The programme, which is being launched on Women's Day, will continue through till 2018.
- By 2018, there is expected to be an accord on ending domestic violence in the Commonwealth.

**NOTES**

- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005:**
  - The **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005** is enacted to **protect women from domestic violence**.
  - The Act provides for the **first time in Indian law a definition of "domestic violence"**, 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.
- **Supreme Court widens ambit of Domestic Violence Act, 2005:**
  - The Supreme Court has widened the scope of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 by **making it gender-neutral**.
  - The SC ordered **deletion of the words "adult male"** before the word 'person' in Section 2(q) of the Act making it gender-neutral.
  - The SC order paves way for **prosecution of women and even non-adults** for subjecting a woman relative to violence and harassment.
  - It also allows a woman to seek legal action against her daughter-in-law and even her minor grandchildren for domestic violence.

**10. Pulikkali Dance**

- **Women participate in the Pulikkali dance in Thrissur** for the first time as part of **Onam celebrations**.
- History was written by the four women, who had painted the stripes of the big cats over body-hugging costumes and danced along with male 'tigers' as part of the Onam celebrations.
- Pulikkali is a colourful **recreational folk art of Kerala**.

**11. 2017 Women in Politics Map report**

- In 2017 Women in Politics Map report, **India was ranked low at 148th position**.
- It was released by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women**.
- The report was launched on sidelines of **61st Commission on Status of Women**, the largest inter-governmental forum on women's rights and gender equality.

**12. Stanpan Suraksha app**

- 'Stanpan Suraksha' mobile application is to **promote breastfeeding** and keep a tab on "inappropriate" promotion of baby food items.
- Stanpan Suraksha is first-of-its-kind app developed for promoting breastfeeding and baby food promotion reporting mechanism.
- The mobile application has been developed by the **Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)**.

### 13. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW)

- The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW) is **observed every year across the world on 25 November**.
- It seeks to **raise awareness about violence against women** and girls and end the violence against women.
- 2016 Theme: **“Orange the World – raise money to end violence against women and girls”**.
- The orange colour in the theme symbolizes a **better future to women and girls** all over the globe without the pervasive human rights violation.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated this day in **December 1999**.

### 14. International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC)

- The International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) is observed every year across the world on 11 October to **recognize girls’ rights and challenges they face around the world**.
- **2016 Theme: “Girls’ Progress = Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls”**. It calls for action for increased investment in collecting and analyzing girl-relevant, girl-focused and sex-disaggregated data.
- The International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) **was instituted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in December 2011.

### 15. Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana (BKRY)

- The **Odisha Government** launched the Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana (BKRY) for the **development of girls** in three districts of the state.
- The objective of the scheme is to **improve Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** in the three districts.
- The scheme will focus on enrolment of girls in **elementary education**, create **awareness on gender discrimination** against girls and includes provision of **toilets for girls** in every school.

### 16. Sakhi-One Stop Centre

- **Nagaland Government** launched **women helpline “181”** and **“Sakhi-One Stop Centre”**, an institute that supports women affected by violence.
- The helpline and centre aim to **provide integrated assistance** including medical, legal and psychological counselling to **women affected by violence**.
- The ‘Sakhi-One Stop Centre’ is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) to be funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

### 17. National Women’s Parliament (NWP)

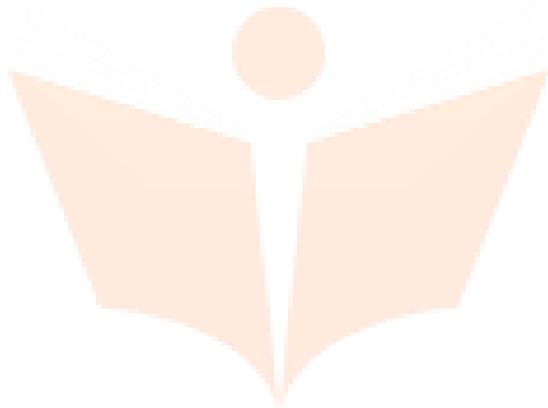
- The National Women’s Parliament (NWP), a first-of-its-kind conclave was held in **Amaravati**, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- The 3-day conference has been organised by the **Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly** with the theme of **“Empowering Women-Strengthening**

Democracy”.

NOTES

### **18. India's first Gender Park**

- **India's first Gender Park** is located at **Kozhikode district of Kerala**.
- It is also the **first of its kind** gender equality convergence centre **in Asia**.
- The park is an initiative of the **Social Justice Department of the Kerala Government** to promote research and other initiatives to enable total gender equality.
- **Other Initiatives:**
  - State Government under its Gender Policy has rolled out **'She Taxi'** that aims solely at empowering women.
  - State government had launch **'Gender Taxi'** that is owned and operated by transgenders under its Transgender Policy (first such policy in the country).
  - Earlier Kerala introduced **Pink Police Patrol** (also known as Pink Beat Patrol) team for enhancing the safety for women and children in public places.



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## Health

### NOTES

### 1. India Declared Yaws-free

- India recently received the **official citation from WHO and UNICEF for Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus and for being YAWS-free.**

- India is the first country to be officially acknowledged as being Yaws-free.**

- Yaws – key facts:**

- Yaws is a chronic disfiguring and debilitating **childhood infectious disease caused by *Treponema pallidum* subspecies pertenue.**



A chronic bacterial infection that affects the skin, bone and cartilage.

#### Extremely rare

Fewer than 5 thousand cases per year (India)

-  Treatable by a medical professional
-  Requires a medical diagnosis
-  Lab tests or imaging always required
-  Spreads by skin-to-skin contact
-  Chronic: can last for years or be lifelong

Yaws most often affects children in tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It spreads through direct contact with the skin of an infected person.

A single, berry-like sore on the skin is the first sign of yaws. Without treatment, sores begin to spread. Yaws may eventually cause disfigurement and disability.

The condition is treated with antibiotics.

#### How it spreads

By skin-to-skin contact (handshakes or hugs).

- It is one of the first diseases targeted by WHO and UNICEF for eradication nearly in the 1950s.
- The **disease affects skin, bone and cartilage.** Humans are currently believed to be the only reservoir, and transmission is from person to person.
- The disease is found primarily in poor communities **in warm, humid and tropical forest areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.**
- Peak incidence occurs in children aged 6–10 years, and **males and females are equally affected.**
- Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus:**
  - Tetanus occurring during pregnancy or within 6 weeks of the end of pregnancy is called “maternal tetanus”, while tetanus occurring within the first 28 days of life is called “neonatal tetanus”.
  - People of all ages can get tetanus but the disease is particularly common and serious in newborn babies and their mothers** when the mothers` are unprotected from tetanus by the vaccine, tetanus toxoid.
  - Neonatal tetanus can be prevented by immunizing women of reproductive age with **tetanus-toxoid-containing vaccines (TTCV),**

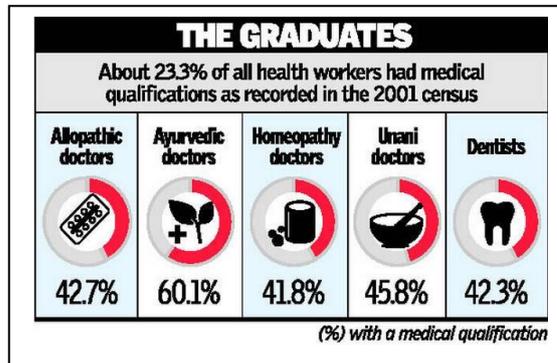
either during pregnancy or outside of pregnancy.

- Additionally, **clean practices** when a mother is delivering a child are also important to **prevent neonatal and maternal tetanus**.

## 2. WHO

### A. The Health Workforce in India Report

- The report of a study titled '**The Health Workforce in India**' conducted by the WHO based on 2001 census provided a comprehensive picture of health workers in each district.
- There is **substantial variation in the density of health workers across States** and districts.



### B. Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

- The **World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** is a treaty adopted by the 56th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland on 21 May 2003.
- It became the **first World Health Organization treaty adopted under article 19 of the WHO constitution**.
- The WHO FCTC was developed in response to the **globalization of the tobacco epidemic** and is an **evidence-based treaty** that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.
- It seeks "to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption.
- Treaty's provisions include rules that govern the production, sale, distribution, advertisement, and taxation of tobacco.

## 3. Hepatitis C

- "Hepatitis" means **inflammation of the liver**. Toxins, certain drugs, some diseases, heavy alcohol use, and bacterial and viral infections can all cause hepatitis.
- There are **5 types of hepatitis viz. A, B, C, D and E**. Each type is caused by a different **hepatitis virus**.
- **What is Hepatitis C?**
  - This is a **transmissible disease** — it spreads the same way as HIV — and if not treated can lead to *chronic conditions* of the liver such as *liver cirrhosis, cancer or failure*.
- **Spread:**
  - The hepatitis C virus is a **bloodborne virus** and the most common modes of infection are through **unsafe injection practices, inadequate sterilization of medical equipment, and the transfusion of**

### ***unscreened blood and blood products.***

- The **Punjab government** had launched a special fund “**Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund**” to provide free treatment for patients affected by Hepatitis C.
- With this initiative, Punjab became the first Indian state to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C.

#### **4. Delink drug prices from R&D costs: UN**

- A landmark report by the **United Nations High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines** has called for **delinking drug prices from research and development (R&D) costs.**
- The report calls for **human rights to be placed over intellectual property laws** and all countries must freely be able to use flexibilities granted under TRIPS to access affordable medicines.
- It recommends that countries that threaten generic drug makers like India for using their entitlements under the TRIPS agreement should be forced to face serious sanctions.

#### **5. A new handheld device to detect melamine in milk**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore have developed a **handheld melamine detector.**
- In this method, **leaf extract of a commonly seen weed parthenium** along with **silver nitrate** is used for detecting the presence of melamine in milk.
- **Why be concerned about Melamine in milk?**
  - Melamine content of more than 1 ppm in infant formula and more than 2.5 ppm in other foods should be viewed with suspicion of adulteration.
- **What is melamine?**
  - Melamine is an organic base chemical most commonly found in the form of **white crystals rich in nitrogen.**
- **What is melamine generally used for?**
  - Melamine is widely used in plastics, adhesives, countertops, dishware, and whiteboards.
- **Why is melamine added into milk?**
  - The addition of melamine **increases the nitrogen content of the milk** and therefore its apparent protein content.
  - However, addition of melamine into food is **not approved by the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius** (food standard commission), or by any national authorities.
- What are the **health effects of melamine consumptions** in humans?
  - While there are **no direct human studies**, the effect of melamine data from animal studies can be used to predict adverse health effects.
  - Melamine can form crystals that can give rise to **kidney stones.**
  - These small crystals can also block the small tubes in the kidney potentially stopping the production of urine, causing kidney failure and, in some cases, death.
  - Melamine has also been shown to have **carcinogenic effects** in animals in

certain circumstances, but there is insufficient evidence to make a judgment on carcinogenic risk in humans.

## NOTES

### 6. National Summit on Fortification of Food

- The **National Summit on Fortification of Food** to address interventions in combating micronutrient malnutrition in the country was recently inaugurated.
- **FSSAI** co-hosted the two day Summit in partnership with related central ministries / departments and development partners.
- **Food fortification or enrichment** is the process of **adding micronutrients** to food.
- **Fortification requires neither changes in existing food patterns, habits nor individual compliance.**
- It can be introduced quickly and can produce nutritional benefits for populations in a short period of time.
- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has formulated a comprehensive regulation on fortification of foods namely '**Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016**'.

### 7. Global Hunger Index

- According to the latest Global Hunger Index data, hunger levels in developing countries may have fallen 29% since 2000, but **India is still rated as a country with 'serious' hunger levels** in the 2016.
- The report is released by the **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**.
- The hunger index ranks countries based on **undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting (low weight for height) and child stunting (low height for age)**.
- 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.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest hunger levels**, followed closely by South Asia.

#### GLOBAL RANKINGS

India ranks 97th among 118 developing nations on the global hunger index.

Rank	Country	GHI score	% population undernourished	% under-five children stunted
1	Argentina	<5	0.2	8.1
29	China	7.7	8.8	6.8
72	Nepal	21.9	7.8	37.4
75	Myanmar	22	14.2	31
84	Sri Lanka	25.5	22	14.7
90	Bangladesh	27.1	16.4	36.4
97	India	28.5	15.2	38.7
107	Pakistan	33.4	22	45
118	Central African Republic	46.1	47.7	40.7

### 8. Himachal Pradesh is ODF State

- The State of **Himachal Pradesh has been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF)**. HP is the **second State in the country (after Sikkim)** to achieve the feat in **rural areas**.
- With this, Himachal Pradesh has successfully achieved **total rural sanitation coverage of 100%** in the State, with all 12 out of 12 districts in the State being

both, declared as well as verified, as ODF.

- The State of **Kerala has become the third State** to be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Gramin).
- **Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh** are the first states to have become open defecation free (ODF) in **urban areas**.

## 9. World Pneumonia Day 2016

- **World Pneumonia Day 2016** was observed on **November 12, 2016** *Theme: "Keep the Promise, Stop Pneumonia Now"*.
- **Report on Pneumonia:**
  - On this day, the **Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report** was published by the **International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC)**.
  - The report also notes that **India is among the 12 nations that have improved their Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD) score**.
- India recently announced a partial introduction of the vaccine in five states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh) from 2017.

<b>LETHAL INFECTIONS</b>			
India recorded 2,96,279 deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea this year, according to a report			
<b>5.9 million</b> Children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 2015	Of these, pneumonia alone was responsible for 16% and diarrhea 9%		
Together, the two diseases claimed the lives of nearly 1.5 million children under the age of 5 in a	single year	Treatments for either illness can cause serious financial difficulties, contributing	to the cycle of poverty
		India has a pneumonia mortality	rate of 7 and diarrhoea mortality rate of 5 per 1000 live births

## 10. International Conference on Brucellosis 2016

- International Research Conference on Brucellosis was recently inaugurated in New Delhi.
- On the sidelines, the centre also launched programme of "**Brucella Free Villages**" for implementation on pilot scale in 50 villages covering 10 states.
- The three day International Conference on Brucellosis is being organized by the **Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with Indian Council for Agriculture Research**.
- **About Brucellosis:**
  - Brucellosis is a dreadful disease caused by the genus of the **bacteria known as Brucella** infecting various species of Brucella cows, buffalos, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, dogs and other animals as well as humans. **Brucellosis is endemic in India**.
- **Spread of the disease:**
  - Human become infected by coming in contact with animals or animal product like meat and milk contaminated with these bacteria.
  - Dairy man, veterinarians, butchers and other animal handlers are exposed to high risk of brucellosis infection.
- **Symptoms:**
  - In humans brucellosis can cause range of symptoms that are similar to

the flu and may include fever, sweats, headache, back pain and physical weakness.

- Severe infections of the central nervous system or lining of the heart may also occur.

### 11. Healthy India Initiative/Swastha Bharat-ek pehal

- It is a **quarterly magazine** launched recently by the government.
- It will cater to **health related information** and will raise awareness about healthy living.
- The magazine will cover different aspect of health: women and child health, elderly health, seasonal ailments, daily nutritional needs, safe medication practices, home remedies healthy living and many more.
- The magazine will be made available at all the government facilities up to the sub-centre and will be **available free of cost**.
- The **current issue is in Hindi and English** and the next version will be available in 13 other languages.

### 12. Fixed dose combination drugs

- **Fixed-dose combination drugs, or FDCs, combine two or more drugs in a single pill** and are widely used to improve patient compliance as it is easier to get someone to take one drug than several.
- Such combination of drugs is used for treatment of wide range of ailments including **HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis etc.**
- Many of these drugs went off the market after the **health ministry banned 344 fixed-dose combination drugs** but were back on shop shelves after pharma companies obtained a judicial stay on the order.
- **Why these drugs were banned?**
  - The health ministry had banned these fixed-dose combination medicines over **fears that they cause anti-microbial resistance and might even cause organ-failure** because of high toxicity.
  - The ban was imposed based on the **recommendations of Kokate committee.**
- **Why did the court set aside the ban?**
  - The court observed that the decision was taken by the Centre without following procedure prescribed in the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act.**
  - Under Section 26A of the Drugs Act, a drug can be banned only after the licence holder of that drug is given a three-month notice.

### 13. World Malaria report

- According to the recently released **World Malaria report by the World Health Organization (WHO)**, the global fight against malaria is in “urgent need” of more funding.
- Nearly 78% of Plasmodium vivax malaria cases in 2015 occurred in just four countries: **Ethiopia, India, Indonesia and Pakistan.**
- The vast majority cases are in Africa. About 70% of deaths are in children under the age of five.
- WHO had set a goal of cutting malaria cases to “near zero” by the end of

**NOTES**

2015. It fell far short, and now is aiming to reduce malaria cases and deaths by at least 90% by 2030.

#### 14. Liquor vends on National, State highways banned

- The **Supreme Court has banned** States and Union Territories from granting licences for the **sale of liquor along National and State highways across the country.**
- **Key Facts:**
  - It would extend to stretches of such highways that fall **within limits of municipal corporations, city towns and local authorities.**
  - **Prohibited signages and advertising** of availability of liquor on highways and ordered the existing ones to be removed.
  - No shop for sale of liquor should be visible from the National and State highways.
  - Neither should they be directly accessible from the highways nor should they be situated within a distance of 500 metres from the outer edge of the highways or service lanes.
- **Other Liquor ban in India:**
  - **Bihar Government** took a decision to completely ban on all types of liquor (alcohol) throughout the state including Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).
  - **Bihar** has claimed to have formed the **world's largest human chain** to reaffirm commitment towards liquor ban.
  - Alcohol prohibition in India is in force in **Gujarat, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and parts of Manipur.**
  - Since 2014, **Kerala** has been implementing prohibition in a phased manner.
  - **Kachhabali becomes first liquor-free village in Rajasthan.**
- **Article 47 of the Constitution** is one of the Directive Principles which directs the State to bring about prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health.

#### 15. National Index for Performance on Health Outcomes

- **NITI Aayog** has launched the **National Index for Performance on Health Outcomes.**
- The index is meant to **assess the annual improvements by States**, rather than focusing on historical achievements.
- The exercise involves **technical assistance from the World Bank**, and third party organizations to validate the data submitted prior to calculation of the index.

#### 16. Vasectomy fortnight

- The government observed 'Vasectomy Fortnight' between November 21 and December 4 with the hope to **create awareness about male sterilisation** and to facilitate district administrations reach sterilisation targets through campaigns.
- At the end of the programme, it was concluded that **men were unwilling to**

share the burden of birth control compared to women.

- **Sterilisation is simpler in men than women** — recovery time and surgical risk are smaller, complications are rare and deaths rarer.
- Of the 40 lakh sterilisation procedures done in **2014-15, vasectomies accounted for minuscule 1.9%**.

### **17. Dirty Dozen Superbugs**

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has published its first ever list of **antibiotic-resistant 'priority pathogens'** -a catalogue of 12 families of bacteria that pose the greatest threat to human health.
- This is bad news for India as **most of these 12 superbugs are present in the country.**
- These include **Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas and various Enterobacteriaceae** (including Klebsiella, E coli, Serratia and Proteus).
- These bacteria have become resistant to a large number of antibiotics, including **carbapenems** and third-generation **cephalosporins** the best available antibiotics for treating multidrug-resistant bacteria.

### **18. India's plan to eliminate TB by 2025**

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, in its **national strategic plan for tuberculosis elimination (2017-2025)**, has set a highly ambitious goal of "achieving a rapid decline in burden of TB, morbidity and mortality while working towards **elimination of TB by 2025**".
- The emphasis will be on using highly sensitive diagnostic tests, undertaking **universal testing for drug-resistant TB**, reaching out to TB patients seeking care from private doctors and targeting people belonging to high-risk populations.
- For the first time, the TB control programme talks of having in place **patient-friendly systems** to provide treatment and social support.
- It seeks to **make the daily regimen universal**; currently, the thrice weekly regimen is followed by RNTCP, and the daily regimen has been introduced only in five States.
- It envisages a countrywide scale-up of **Bedaquiline and Delamanid**.

### **19. Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)**

- After running out of the **child-friendly HIV syrup, Lopinavir**, India is likely to procure the drug from a rapid supply facility routed through the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), a multilateral donor agency.
- **About Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM):**
  - Founded in 2002, the **Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.**
  - The idea was discussed at a **G8 summit** in Okinawa, Japan, in 2000 and was finally endorsed by the G8 summit in Genoa in July 2001.
  - The Global Fund raises and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to **support programs run by local experts in countries and communities most in need. It does not implement programs on the ground.**

## **20. National Family Health Survey- 4**

- All National Family Health Surveys have been conducted under the stewardship of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India, with the **International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, serving as the nodal agency.**
- ICF International (formerly Macro International), Maryland, USA, provided technical assistance for all four surveys.
- **Findings from the National Family Health Survey – 4:**
  - **Sex Ratio at Birth:** The sex ratio at birth (number of girls per 1,000 boys) for children born in the last five years showed a dip in most major states although the **overall national figure went up marginally from 914 in the last survey (NFHS 3, conducted in 2005-06) to 919.**
  - **Women Literacy:** Between NFHS 3 and NFHS 4, women's literacy has gone up from 55.1% to 68.4%.
  - **Total Fertility Rate:** Total Fertility Rate also declined to 2.2 children per woman from 2.7 in NFHS-3.
  - **Institutional Births:** It increased by 40 percentage points from 38.7 per cent in NFHS-3 to 78.9 per cent in NFHS-4.
  - **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** It declined to 41 per 1000 from 51 per 1000 live births.
  - **Child marriages:** Child marriages have gone down from 47.4% to 26.8%.
  - This is **the first time** the government has conducted a survey to **find out the incidence of diabetes and hypertension.** The overall incidence of **diabetes was 20.3 %** and that of **hypertension 22.2 %.**

## **21. Fluorosis**

- Fluoride is an important **mineral required for bone and teeth development.** Normal acceptable levels of fluoride range from 1.5 to 4 mg/day.
- Lower levels can cause **fluoride deficiency**, while higher levels can cause a condition called **Fluorosis.**
- Fluoride deficiency results in Tooth decay.
- Fluorosis is associated with:
  - **Dental Fluorosis:** There are changes in the enamel of the tooth are referred to as dental Fluorosis.
  - **Skeletal Fluorosis:** The changes in the bones are referred to as skeletal Fluorosis.
- **Causes of Fluorosis**
  - Fluorosis is usually caused by a **high level of fluoride in drinking water.**
  - The earth's crust has a high content of fluoride and so does the bore well water in endemic areas which is often used as a source of water.
  - **Regular intake of products manufactured with high-fluoride containing water** may also cause Fluorosis.
  - Vegetables and foods grown in endemic areas may also be high in fluoride content.

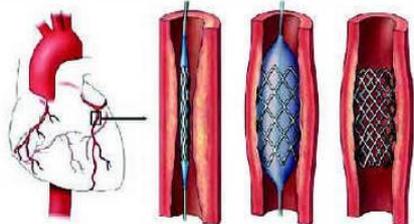
- Fluoride is also found in **toothpaste and other dental products.** These may be harmful to people already exposed to high fluoride levels.

**RELIEF FOR YOUR ARTERIES**

Price regularisation of stents likely to benefit middle class

**WHAT IS A STENT**

- A stent is a tiny expandable metal scaffold inserted in narrowed or weakened arteries
- The procedure of placing the stent in an artery is called angioplasty
- The cost of angioplasty is around Rs.200,000 to Rs. 250,000 on an average in a private hospital, depending on the complexity of the case, number of stents and types used
- A bare metal stent on an average costs about Rs.10,000 to Rs. 20,000, while a drug eluting stent (DES) ranges between Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 80,000



**DISEASE BURDEN**

- According to the sub-committee report, around 25 per cent deaths in India are attributed to cardiovascular disease (CVD). Coronary artery disease is the most common CVD accounting for 90-95 per cent of all such cases and deaths.
- In India, only about 3 out of 1,000 coronary heart disease patients are treated with angioplasty, compared to 32 in the U.S.

**WHAT DOES NLEM MEAN**

Medicines and devices listed in the NLEM (National List of Essential Medicines) must be sold at the price fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, while those in the non-scheduled list are allowed a maximum annual price hike of 10 per cent.

**NOTES**

**22. Coronary Stents**

- For providing Affordable, Quality Healthcare for All, Government of India has issued the notification for fixing the **ceiling prices of coronary stents.**
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** included Coronary Stents in the **National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015).**
- In December 2016, the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** incorporated Coronary Stents in **Schedule I of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013.**
- **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM):**
  - The NLEM is a dynamic list and reviewed every three years to include or exclude drugs as relevant to the newest medical innovations and aligned to the current market competition.
  - **NLEM 2015** contains 376 medicines.

**23. Pictorial Warning on Tobacco Products**

- By implementing **85 per cent pictorial health warnings** front and back on all tobacco packages, **India is third among countries** with the largest pictorial warning.
- India has moved to the third position out of **205 countries** from its earlier ranking of 136 in 2014.
- **Nepal now has the largest warning requirements** in the world at 90 per cent of the package front and back.

**24. Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)**

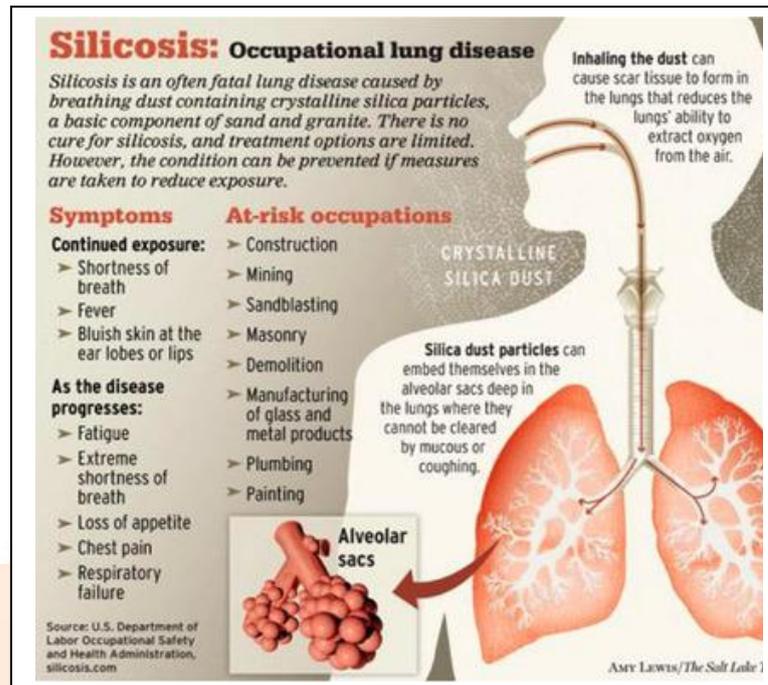
- The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) ended with **Southeast Asian countries voting for complete prohibition of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) and Electronic Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENNDS)** in the region.
- The WHO's concern stems from the fact that while public health policy has been slow to catch up **'vaping'** which has become extremely popular among smokers as a **'healthier'** option to smoking.

## NOTES

- **Vaping is a 'tobacco-free' version of the cigarette** where smokers inhale the vapour through liquid in a vaporiser.
- **Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS):**
  - Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), also called **e-cigarettes**, personal vaporizers, vaping devices, are products that produce an aerosolized mixture containing flavoured liquids and nicotine that is inhaled by the user.

## 25. Silicosis

- Labourers in state of **Rajasthan** are suffering from silicosis because of **exposure to dust particles**.
- Silicosis is a **lung disease** that is caused by **inhaling particles of silica dust**, which is the **second most common mineral found within the crust of the earth** and is a major component of sand and rocks.
- There is **no cure for silicosis**. Prevention is the best way to avoid the disease.



## 26. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

- A **Non-communicable disease (NCD)** is a medical condition or disease that is **not caused by infectious agents**.
- NCDs can refer to **chronic diseases** which last for long periods of time and progress slowly.
- They are the result of a **combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors**.
- The **main types** of NCDs are:
  - **Cardiovascular diseases** (like heart attacks and stroke)
  - **Cancers**
  - **Chronic respiratory diseases** (such as chronic obstructed pulmonary disease and asthma)
  - **Diabetes**.
- **All age groups and all regions are affected by NCDs.**
- Exposure to air pollution, and behaviours such as smoking, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity which can lead to **hypertension and obesity**, in turn leading to increased risk of many NCDs.
- **Most NCDs are considered preventable** because they are caused by

modifiable risk factors.

- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** recognizes NCDs as a major challenge for sustainable development.
- As part of the Agenda, Heads of State and Government committed to develop ambitious national responses, by 2030, to **reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment (SDG target 3.4)**.
- **WHO developed a *Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020***, which includes nine global targets that have the greatest impact on global NCD mortality.

### **27. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)**

- According to the Union Health Ministry, three-quarters of India's population has no health insurance.
- **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** is a **government-run health insurance scheme** to provide health insurance coverage to the unrecognised sector workers belonging to the **BPL category** and their family members.
- It provides for **cashless insurance** for hospitalisation in **public as well as private hospitals**.
- The scheme started enrolling on April 1, 2008 and has been implemented in 25 states of India.
- In the **starting RSBY is a project under the Ministry of Labour and Employment**. Now it is transferred to **Ministry of Health and family welfare** from April 1, 2015.
- The beneficiary has to pay Rs. 30 per annum as registration/renewal fee to get biometric-enabled smart card for identifying their eligibility.
- **Total sum insured would be Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis.**
- All pre-existing illnesses are covered. Beneficiary is also eligible to receive transportation cost within a limit of Rs. 1000 per annum.
- A beneficiary of RSBY gets **cashless benefit** in any of the empanelled hospitals. He/ she only needs to carry his/ her smart card and provide verification through his/ her finger print.
- The key feature of RSBY is that a beneficiary who has been enrolled in a particular district will be able to **use his/ her smart card in any RSBY empanelled hospital across India.**
- **Revamped RSBY:**
  - Enrolment with RSBY is **linked with opening of bank account** and issuance of Aadhaar card.
  - Expansion of beneficiary by **including workers from construction sector.**
  - **Single central smart card** is issued to **include** other welfare schemes like **Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and National Old Age Pension Scheme.**
  - RSBY will be responsible for providing **secondary health care benefits** also.

### **28. Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC)**

- The **Union Health Ministry** has recently launched the **"Leprosy Case**

**Detection Campaign (LCDC)"** to eradicate leprosy from the country.

- Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) is a unique initiative under the **National Leprosy Control Programme (NLEP)**.
- The objective of the campaign is the **early detection** of leprosy in affected persons so that they can be **saved from physical disability**
- LCDC aims to cover more than 1,600 blocks in the 149 districts across 20 states where nearly 3 lakh health teams will undertake **door-to-door visits to detect leprosy cases**.
- The leprosy has been successfully eradicated at the national level and most of the states have also eradicated it, but it exists at the districts and block level.
- In 2016 WHO launched the **Global Leprosy Strategy 2016–2020: Accelerating towards a leprosy-free world**, which aims to control leprosy and avert disabilities, especially among children.
- **Leprosy:**
  - **Leprosy**, also known as **Hansen's disease (HD)**, is a long-term infection by the bacteria **Mycobacterium leprae**.
  - It mainly affects the skin, eyes, nose and peripheral nerves.
  - Symptoms include light-coloured or red skin patches with reduced sensation, numbness and weakness in hands and feet.
  - Leprosy can be **cured with 6-12 months of multi-drug therapy**. Early treatment avoids disability.
  - It spreads by **airborne respiratory droplets** (coughs or sneezes).

### **29. "Mera Aspataal / My Hospital" initiative**

- **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** launched the "Mera Aspataal / My Hospital" initiative.
- It is an **ICT-based Patient Satisfaction System (PSS)** implementing in public and private hospitals, envisaged to **empower the patient by seeking his / her views on quality of experience in a public healthcare facility**.
- Patients' feedback is collected through web portal, mobile application, Short Message Service (SMS), Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).
- 'Mera Aspataal', together with the Kayakalp awards, as part of "Swacchata Abhiyaan" will spur the States in a spirit of friendly competition to get highest ratings for all their facilities".

### **30. National e-Health Authority (NeHA)**

- National e-Health Authority (NeHA) is a **regulatory body**, tasked with **overseeing the digitisation of health information**.
- It is responsible for development of an **Integrated Health Information System** (including Telemedicine and mHealth) in India, by collaborating with healthcare providers, consumers, healthcare technology industries, and policymakers.
- NeHA aims to promote **standardization of Electronic Health Records (EHRs)** and facilitate its exchange across facilities in a secured manner.
- NeHA would not be responsible for **centralization of the medical history of the patients**.
- **Composition:**

- The authority will have **one chairman and four full-time members**.
- The chairman will be an eminent person from the field of medicine or law.
- Three members will be from diverse fields like medicine, public health, IT standards, health economics, management etc.

### **31.E-health Kerala: Jeevan Rekha**

- Kerala Government has launched e-health program “Jeevan Rekha” to create **electronic health records** of the population.
- It is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India that aims to provide a **centralised database of healthcare information** and efficient health service delivery to the people.

### **32.Arogya Raksha scheme**

- **Andhra Pradesh** Government has launched **NTR Arogya Raksha Scheme** to provide the **medical treatment to the people below Above Poverty Line (APL)**.
- The new health scheme offers **medical insurance** to those **who were not covered under any of the existing health schemes of the state government**.
- The health scheme will provide the medical treatment to the people below Above Poverty Line (APL) at Rs.1200 premium per annum.
- Under it, **Rs.2 lakh worth medical treatment** would be provided free of cost in any 432 corporate hospitals in the state.

### **33.Swasthya Raksha Programme**

- The **Union AYUSH Ministry** has launched ‘Swasthya Raksha Programme’ to **promote health and health education in villages**.
- The programme was initiated through Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) and Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS).
- **Objectives:**
  - Organize **Swasthya Parikshan Camps, Swasthya Rakshan OPDs** and Health and Hygiene awareness programme.
  - Create awareness about cleanliness of domestic surroundings and environment.
  - Assess health status and **propagation of Ayurvedic concept of pathya-apathya** and extension of health care services.
  - Provide medical aid and incidental support in the adopted villages and colonies.

## Education

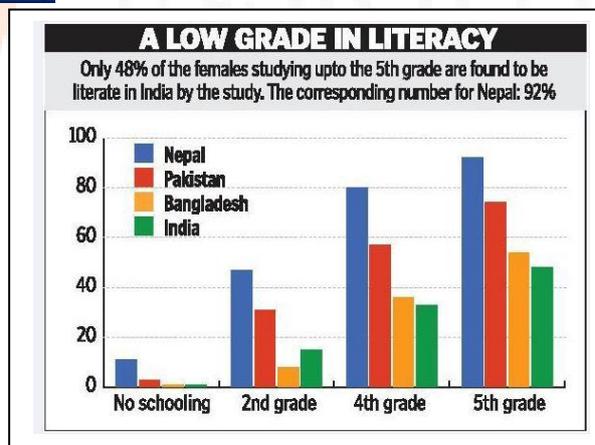
### NOTES

### 1. International Literacy day

- Celebrated on **September 8** every year. **2016 marks the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day** and **UNESCO** celebrated it under the banner “Reading the Past, Writing the Future”.
- Literacy is a part of **Sustainable Development Goal 4**, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.
- The target is that by 2030 all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.
- **Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL):**
  - **Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL)** has been launched as part of International Literacy Day.
  - This is a new and ambitious initiative to **make all major stakeholders pull together to promote literacy as a foundation for lifelong learning**.
  - It aims to mobilize investment and promote innovative initiatives, with a **focus on gender and new information and communication technologies**.

### 2. India falls short in female literacy

- Data from new **research on female literacy** show that **India’s school education system is under-performing in terms of quality when compared to its neighbours, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal**.
- The research was carried out by **New York-based International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity**.



**Opportunity.** The research studies changes in female literacy over a number of schooling years.

- For this research, the authors devised a way to measure the quality of education around the world, with a specific focus on girls, using data from nationally representative **Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)** — one of the most comparable data sources on living standards in the developing world.

### 3. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017, under which the **IIMs will be declared as Institutions of National Importance**.
- It will also **enable IIMs to grant degrees rather than diplomas** to their

students. At present IIMs are not authorised to award degrees as they registered as societies.

- **Periodic review of the performance of IIM** will be conducted by independent agencies and their results will be placed in public domain.
- The **Annual Report of the IIMs will be placed in the Parliament and CAG (Comptroller and auditor general of India) will audit their accounts.**
- **IIM at Jammu:**
  - The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment and operationalisation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Jammu.
  - The Cabinet also approved formation of an IIM Jammu Society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860.**
  - IIM Jammu will be run and managed by the Society with a Board of Governors (BOGs) to be constituted by the Government of India, which will administer the Institute and would be responsible for establishment and operationalisation of the Institute.

#### **4. Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER)**

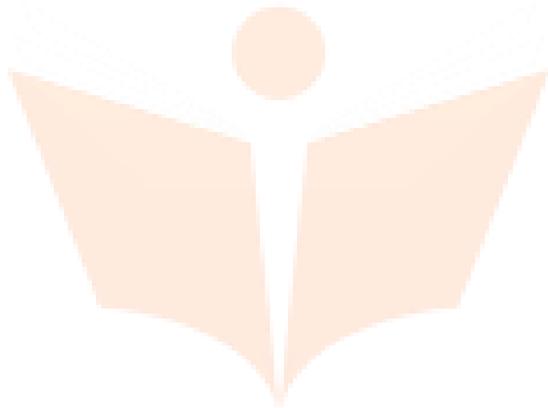
- According to Status of Education Report (**ASER) 2016, students of Himachal Pradesh stand ahead of Kerala and all other states in terms of learning outcomes.**
- The 2016 ASER was the largest annual household survey of the children in India in the field of education. It focused on status of schooling and basic learning.
- The report found that **enrolment rate** of students in the age group 6 to 14 in Himachal Pradesh was 99.8%. It secured first rank in achieving learning outcomes in basic reading and mathematics across the country.
- (**ASER), India's largest NGO-run annual survey**, has been conducted by **Pratham** since 2005 to evaluate the relevance and impact of its programmes.
- Findings are disseminated at national, state, district and village levels, and influence education policies at both state and central levels.

#### **5. Kadiyan Srihari Committee**

- The **Union HRD Ministry** has recently constituted a **sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** under **Chairmanship of Kadiyam Srihari** to look into **issues of girl's education.**
- The sub-committee would examine the reasons for low participation of girls in education, including the socio-economic factors.
- **Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE):**
  - The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), is the **highest advisory body** to the Central and State Governments in the field of education.
  - CABE is under the **Chairmanship of Union Human Resource Ministry.**
  - CABE will play a pivotal role in **reviewing educational development**, determining the changes required to improve the system and monitoring implementation.

## 6. Vidyanjali Scheme

- **Union Minister for Human Resource Development** launched '**Vidyanjali**' - a **school volunteer programme** to inculcate reading habits among children and create a reading culture at school and community level.
- The programme is designed to involve volunteers from different walks of life to **strengthen the co-scholastic activities in government schools**.
- It will not replace the regular and professionally qualified teachers in the government schools.
- Vidyanjali, which is being implemented **under the overall aegis of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**, will enhance the **community involvement** in Government run elementary schools.
- The programme will be **open for participation by all Indian citizens** including retired Professionals, retired government officials, working professionals and homemakers; and also persons from the **Indian Diaspora**.



INSIGHT  
SIMPLIFYING  
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

## Gender Issues

### **1. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016**

- The bill **defines a transgender** and makes provisions for certain **safeguards against discrimination** in employment, education, property rights and health-care services.
- As per the bill, a transgender person is one who is – neither wholly male nor female; or a combination of male and female; or neither male nor female.
- The bill **prohibits discrimination against a transgender person** with respect to education, healthcare, access to goods, services, **right to movement**, right to **reside, rent, own or occupy the properties**; opportunity to **hold public or private office**; access to government or private establishments etc.
- The bill provides that a transgender will have **right to reside and be included in his household**.
  - However, if the family is unable to care, the transgender may find place in a **rehabilitation centre** or the orders of a competent court.
- The bill provides that transgender persons can **apply to District Magistrate for certificate of identity**, which indicates gender as “transgender”.
- **Government will create schemes** that are transgender sensitive and promote their participation in cultural activities.
- The bill makes **penal provisions** for forcing the transgenders for begging, forced or bonded labour, denial of use of public place, denial of residence or household, physical, verbal, emotional or economic abuse etc.
- The government will set up a **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT)** to advise the government on formulation and monitoring of policies, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.

### **2. India’s first transgender joins Tamil Nadu police force**

- **Tamil Nadu is the first State** to open the gates for the **third gender** by **inducting them in the police department**.
- In a landmark judgment, in 2014, the **Supreme Court in the National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India & Ors. Case** has created the **"third gender" status for transgenders**.
- The apex court said that transgenders will be allowed admission in educational institutions and given employment on the basis that they belonged to the third gender category. **The third gender people will be considered as OBCs**.
- This is for the **first time that the third gender has got a formal recognition**.

### **3. Global Gender Gap Report 2016**

- India has been ranked 87th out of 144 countries on the **World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2016**.
- The report **measures progress towards parity** between men and women in four areas:
  - Economic opportunity

	2015	2016
Iceland	1	1
Finland	3	2
Norway	2	3
Sweden	4	4
Rwanda	6	5
India	108	87

India profile	'15	'16
 Economic participation & opportunity	136	139
 Educational attainment	125	113
 Health and survival	143	142
 Political empowerment	9	9

- Educational attainment
- Health and survival
- Political empowerment.
- The improvement in India's ranking is driven largely by major improvements in education.

#### **4. Sex ratio in Haryana touches 950 mark for first time**

- The sex ratio in Haryana for the **first time in the history has touched the 950 mark in March, 2017.**
- **Steps Taken:**
  - **'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'** programme.
  - Strictly implementing **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act** and **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.**
  - **Sensitisation-cum-awareness campaigns** promoting girl child.
- **Schemes Launched by Haryana Government:**
  - **Aapki Beti Humari Beti scheme:**
    - The scheme aims to combat the problem of declining child sex ratio in Haryana.
  - **'Haryana Kanya Kosh'** for the welfare and development of girl child and women in the state.
  - **Multi Sectoral Nutrition Programme** to address the maternal and child nutrition.

## Minorities

### 1. Jews In Maharashtra Get Minority Status

- Maharashtra Government has accorded minority status to Jews in the state as per the provisions of the **Maharashtra State Minorities Commission Act, 2004**.
- Earlier in 2006, the state government had declared **Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, Jains and Parsees** religious minorities.
- With this, Maharashtra becomes **second state in the country to accord minority status to Jews after West Bengal**.
- As per the 2001 population census, there are 4,650 Jews in the country of whom 2,466 are based in Maharashtra.
- India is one of the few countries in the world where Jews have never faced any harassment or persecution.

### 2. Jains have highest percentage of literates: Census 2011

- Census 2011 data on 'education level by religious community for age 7 and above' was recently released.
- **Jains have the highest percentage of literates above 7 years of age** among India's religious communities, with 86.73% of them as literate and only 13.57% as illiterate.
- The **overall literacy rates among all communities have gone up since 2001**.

Religion	2001	2011
Hindus	54.92	63.60
Muslims	48.05	57.28
Christians	69.45	74.34
Sikhs	60.56	67.51
Buddhists	62.16	71.83

### 3. Narendra Modi Scholarship for Muslim students

- The scholarship, named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was constituted by an **Aligarh-based group of Muslim intellectuals - the Forum for Muslim Studies and Analysis (FMSA)**.
- It is meant for **economically backward Muslim students**.
- The scholarship will be awarded to students of **Class 12 and those pursuing their under-graduation**.

### 4. Santhara / Sallekhana

- Santhara is a **Jain religious practice of a ritualistic fast unto death**.
- It is the **highest form of penance** under the Jain religion.
- The process does not only involve **giving up food and water** but also aspiring for **spiritual advancement of the soul by detachment from all worldly materials**.
- It is not considered as a suicide by Jain scholars.
- Historic evidence suggests sallekhana was **observed by both men and women, including queens, in Jain history**.

## 5. Hamari Dharohar

- The first meeting of the **Committee on Cultural Harmony Conclave** under the Hamari Dharohar Scheme was held recently.
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs** launched the Hamari Dharohar Scheme to **preserve the rich culture and heritage of the minority communities of India.**
- The **six minority communities** notified under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 are covered.**
- The scheme has **five objectives:**
  - To curate rich heritage of minorities under overall concept of Indian Culture.
  - Curating iconic exhibitions.
  - Preservation of literature and documents.
  - Support and promotion of calligraphy.
  - Research and Development.

## 6. Nai Manzil

- The Union Government had signed a **Financing Agreement of 50 million dollars with the World Bank** for **Nai Manzil Scheme- Education and Skills Training for Minorities.**
- The central scheme is designed to **address educational and livelihood needs of minority communities.**
- It aims to provide educational intervention by giving the bridge courses to the trainees and getting them **Certificates for Class XII and X** from distance medium educational system.
- It intends to cover people in between **17 to 35 age group** from all minority communities as well as Madrasa students.
- The scheme will provide new avenues for minorities **for continuing higher education** and also open up **employment opportunities** in the organised sector.
- It was **launched for the first time in J&K in 2016**, where girls from minority communities are being imparted three-month skill development training.

## 7. Nai Roshni

- The Nai Roshni scheme is a **leadership development programme launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.**
- The objective of the scheme is to **empower and instil confidence among minority women**, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels.
- “Nai Roshni” programme is run with the **help of NGOs, Civil societies and Government Institutions** all over the country.
- It includes various training modules like Leadership of women, Educational Programmes, Health and Hygiene, Swachh Bharat, Financial Literacy, Life Skills, Legal Rights of Women, Digital Literacy and Advocacy for Social and behavioural change.

## Old Age / Disabled

### 1. Yatri Mitra Seva

- It is an **initiative of railways** to improve the railway travel experience of **elderly, differently-abled and ailing passengers**.
- It aims to simplify access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services.
- The scheme will be operational at all major railway stations.

### 2. Vayoshreshtha Samman-2016

- They are **National Awards for Senior Citizens**.
- Vayoshreshtha Samman is a Scheme of National Awards instituted by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** (D/o Social Justice & Empowerment) initially in 2005 and was **upgraded to the status of National Awards in 2013**, for **institutions** involved in rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons and to **eminent citizens** in recognition of their service/achievements.
- The awards are presented on **1st of October every year** pursuant to the **adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons**.

### 3. More differently abled attend schools than before: Census

- Registrar General of India has released Census 2011 data on **Disabled Population** in the age-group 5-19 by their **Attendance Status in Educational Institutions** and type of Disability.
- Among the major States, Kerala had the best record with 76,394 out 104,418 such persons attending educational institutions.

### 4. National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities

- The **National Trust Act** for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities was passed in the Parliament on 30th December 1999.
- Thus-**30th December- the Foundation Day of National Trust**– is a day on which National Trust re-commits itself to the objectives for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
- The National Trust is a **Statutory Body** under **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- The National Trust has been set up to discharge two basic duties – **legal and welfare**.
  - **Legal duties** are discharged through **Local Level Committee (LLC)** set up at district level under the chairmanship of the District Collector / District Magistrate and providing legal guardianship.
  - **Welfare duty** is discharged through the **schemes and activities**.

- The schemes and activities of the National Trust inter-alia include training, awareness and capacity building programmes and shelter, care giving and empowerment.

## 5. 2016 India Social Development Report (SDR)

- The 2016 India Social Development Report (SDR) was released by **Council of Social Development**.
- Theme this year is '**Disabilities Rights Perspectives**'.
- The report drew on data from a number of sources, including the census, the National Sample Survey (NSS), data-sets of the India Human Development Survey, and the National Family Health Survey.
- **Highlights of the report:**
  - About **45% of all persons with disabilities (PWD) in India are illiterate**. While 38% of all male PWDs were illiterate, the illiteracy rate was 55% for female PWDs.
  - It estimated that of the 75 million children of primary school age **who are out of school, "one-third are children with disabilities."**
  - **Movement disability accounted for the largest number of PWDs**, followed by hearing disability and visual impairment.
  - The report noted that the **high incidence of polio** in India may be **responsible for the high proportion of movement disability**.
  - **Lack of social services and transport** were the **top obstacles** to the PWDs accessing health care facilities.
- **Council of Social Development:**
  - The Council for Social Development (CSD) is **non-governmental organisation**.
  - CSD was set up as a think tank to keep a **focus on the social aspects of development planning**.
  - The **India Social Development Report is a biennial publication** coordinated by Council for Social Development and published by Oxford University Press.

## 6. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill – 2016

- The Parliament passed **The Rights of Persons with Disability Bill, 2016** which will **replace Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**.
- The New Act will bring our law in line with the **United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, to which India is a signatory.
- **Salient features of the Bill:**
  - The **types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21** and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
  - **Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time**. Acid Attack Victims have been included.
  - **Reservation in higher education, government jobs**, reservation in allocation of land, poverty alleviation schemes etc. have been

provided for persons with benchmark disabilities.

- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the **right to free education**.
- For strengthening the Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign, stress has been given to ensure **accessibility in public buildings** (both Government and private) in a prescribed time-frame.
- Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.
- Creation of **National and State Fund** to provide financial support to the persons with disabilities.
- **Penalties** for offences committed against persons with disabilities.
- **UNCRPD:**
  - 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.
  - It is also the **only UN human rights instrument with an explicit sustainable development dimension**.
  - The Convention is monitored by the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

## 7. Saanjhi Saanjh

- It is a **National Newspaper dedicated to Senior Citizen**. The first issue of this bilingual newspaper was recently released.
- This newspaper will carry important and useful news pertaining to elderly persons besides inspirational stories. It will serve as a **bridge between old and new generations**.

## 8. Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016

- The Parliament has passed the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 that **decriminalises suicide attempt by mentally ill people** and guarantees the **right to better healthcare** for people with mental illness.
- **Important provisions:**
  - **Rights of persons with mental illness:** This provision states that every person will have the **right to access mental healthcare** from services which are provided by the government.
  - **Advance Directive:** This provision empowers a mentally-ill person to have the right to make an advance directive that explains how she/he wants to be treated for the requisite illness and who her/his nominated representative shall be.
  - **Mental Health Establishments:** This provision states that every mental health establishment has to be registered with the respective Central or State Mental Health Authority.
  - **Mental Health Review Commission and Board:** This is a **quasi-judicial** body responsible for reviewing procedure for making advance directives. It will also **advise the government** on the protection of mentally ill persons' rights.

- **Decriminalising suicide and prohibiting electro-convulsive therapy:**  
This provision effectively decriminalises suicide attempt under the Indian Penal Code by mentally ill persons by making it non-punishable.

- **Background:**

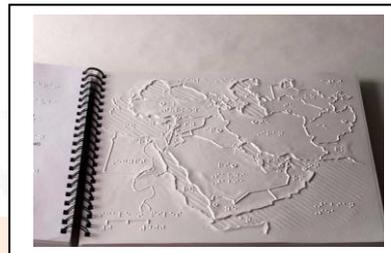
- **The Bill is the first mental health law framed as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to which India is signatory.**

## **9. India to redefine blindness to meet WHO stipulation**

- The government is set to change a four-decade-old definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria and ensure the Indian data on blindness meets the global estimates.
- As defined under the **National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB)**, a **person unable to count fingers from a distance of six metres is categorised as “blind”** in India.
- WHO’s stipulation is **three metres**.

## **10. Braille Atlas**

- The **Ministry of Science and Technology** has come up with a **comprehensive Braille atlas** to help the nearly 50 lakh visually-challenged people in the country.
- This is the **first time that a comprehensive atlas has been prepared for the visually-challenged** with attention to minute details.
- The atlas has been developed in **Hindi and English** by the **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)**, Kolkata.
- The atlas has been made using indigenously developed silk-screen painting technology.
- **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation:**
  - National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization is a specialized institution of its kind in the world. It is assigned with responsibility in the field of **thematic cartography and geographical research at national level**.
  - A **subordinate office under Department of Science & Technology**, it is the sole authority for **depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps** and atlases to cater the actual picture of the development and planning initiatives of the country.



## **11. Film Festival on Disability**

- The international **“We Care Film Festival”** on disability issues will be organised in the **Asia Pacific region and Oman** this year.
- The **Disability Rights Association of Goa** in association with **Brotherhood, New Delhi**, will take the festival to schools and colleges in Goa.
- This will be the **14th global edition** of this Film Festival.
- It aims to sensitise the students on the problems faced by the disabled.

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- **We Care Film Festival:**

- The **We Care Film Festival** is an effort by the Indian organization Brotherhood, in partnership with **UNESCO**, to raise awareness and to dispel stereotypes about disabilities.
- To create awareness about disability issues through the medium of films and promote integration of disabled in society.

## 12. Marrakesh Treaty

- On 30th September, the Marrakesh Treaty which seeks to facilitate **access to published works for visually impaired persons** has come into force.
- This treaty also known as “**books for blind treaty**” was adopted by 79 WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) members in 2013.
- **India was the first country in the world to ratify it.**
- It addresses the “**book famine**” that permit the reproduction, distribution and making available of published works in accessible formats - such as Braille.
- The treaty **allows for copyright exceptions** to help for the creation, export and import, translation of the books in any format of copyrighted books and other works for visually impaired persons.
- The Geneva based **WIPO** which **administers the Marrakesh Treaty** leads an alliance of private and public partners called as the **Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)**.
- In line with Marrakesh treaty, India launched **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)** and has set up **Sugamya Pustakalaya**, which has 2,00,000 volumes.
- **Sugamaya Pustakalaya:**
  - “Sugamaya Pustakalaya” is an **online platform** that makes accessible **content available to print-disabled people.**
  - The library houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats.
  - It has been created by **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access.

## Child Related Issues

### NOTES

### 1. Children's Peace Prize

- **Teen environmental activist Kehkashan Basu** has been awarded the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize.
- Basu is being honoured for the work done by her **child-run organisation Green Hope**, based in the United Arab Emirates, which now has more than 1,000 volunteers in 10 countries around the world.
- The International Children's Peace Prize was launched by **Kids Rights Foundation in 2005**.
- The prize is awarded annually **"to a child who fights courageously for children's rights"**.
- Past winners include Pakistani education campaigner **Malala Yousafzai** and the prize's first recipient, Nkosi Johnson, a South African boy who shone a light on the plight of children with HIV/AIDS.

### 2. Child vulnerability map

- **A district-wise map depicting problems facing children across the country** was recently released by the **ministry of women and child development** as a part of the **National Plan of Action for Children**.
- **Prepared by NGO Childline India Foundation**, the 'Child Vulnerability Map' covers 409 of total 678 districts in the country.
- It highlights vulnerabilities like **child marriage, child trafficking, missing and runaway children, child labour, children affected by civil unrest, child sexual abuse, dropouts and low literacy rate, malnutrition, foeticide, HIV and AIDS affected children**.

### 3. Mission XI Million

- With the vision of **making football the sport of choice in India**, Mission XI Million, the **biggest school sport outreach programme** was recently launched by the government.
- **A first of its kind**, the programme will **encourage children to play the game of football, gain healthy habits** and learn important life lessons in teamwork and sportsman spirit.
- The approach is to work with school principals and sports teachers and encourage and incentivize them to make children play football games on regular basis.

### 4. Online course in child protection launched

- An online course in child protection aimed at capacity enhancement of stakeholders and widening of horizons of those working in the field, with the help of information technology, was launched.
- The **Centre for Child Protection in Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice** has launched the course in **collaboration with the UNICEF**.
- The course would be offered **free of cost** to everyone interested in promotion

## NOTES

of child rights.

- **India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and the course would strengthen the country's commitment to children's welfare and protection of their rights.
- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:**
  - The Convention on the Rights of the Child is part of the **legally binding** international instruments for the **guarantee and the protection of Human Rights**.
  - Adopted in 1989, the Convention's objective is to **protect the rights of all children in the world**.
  - Currently, 196 countries are party to it, including every member of the United Nations **except the United States**.
  - Countries that have ratified the Convention are required to report to United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child periodically to be examined on their progress with regards to implementation of the Convention and the status of child rights in their country.

## 5. Rajasthan drive to end child marriages

- Under the banner of "**Sajha Abhiyan**" of the **Rajasthan government, UNFPA and UNICEF**, a **district-level Abhiyan Yatra** was flagged off for **complete elimination of child marriages in the State**.
- Child marriage in Rajasthan continues to be much higher than the national average.
- The yatra will bring the community on a united platform to work towards making the State child marriage-free.
- The legal age for marriage is 18 for women and 21 for men according to **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act**.
- An alarming 30.2% of all married women were married before the age of 18, as per Census 2011. The trend seems to be on the decline in comparison to 2001 data of 43.5%.

## 6. Child Labour (Prohibition and Amendment) Bill, 2016

- The Bill amends the **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**, which **prohibits the employment of children younger than 14 in 83 hazardous occupations** and processes.
- The amendment extends this ban on employment of children under 14 across all sectors'.
- Prohibits the employment of adolescents aged 14-18 years in hazardous occupations.
- Introduces **more stringent jail term and fines for offenders**: a jail term of six months to two years and a fine of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000.
- The bill **brings down the list of hazardous occupations** from the **earlier 83 to just three**: mining, inflammable substances, and hazardous processes under the Factories Act and the centre will decide which processes are hazardous.
- **Rehabilitation Fund** has also been created for the rehabilitation of children.

## **7. Adoption Regulations 2017**

- **Adoption Regulations, 2017** is framed by 'Central Adoption Resource Authority' (CARA) as mandated under section 68 (c) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- CARA shall be facilitating all adoptions under the JJ Act, 2015 through **Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS)**.
- All kinds of adoptions, including adoptions by relatives shall be reported to CARA.
- CARA would enable safeguards for all adopted children by maintaining their record and ensuring **post adoption follow up**.
- '**Central Adoption Resource Authority**' (CARA):
  - CARA is an autonomous body under **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
  - Functions as a **nodal body for adoption of Indian children and regulate in-country and inter-country adoption**.
  - Inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the **Hague Conventions on Inter-Country Adoptions, 1993**, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- **Central Adoption Resource Information Guidance System (CARINGS)**:
  - It is an **e-governance measure** created for the purpose of facilitating adoption of children.
  - CARINGS will contain a **centralized data bank** of adoptable children and Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs).
  - All District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) will be connected online to CARINGS.

## **8. National Action Plan for Children, 2016 (NPAC)**

- The NPAC has been developed by the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- The Action Plan has four key priority areas;
  - **Survival, health and nutrition;**
  - **Education and development;**
  - **Protection and**
  - **Participation.**
- It puts focus on new and emerging concerns for children such as children affected by natural and man-made disasters, climate change and online child abuse etc.
- It takes into account the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and provides a roadmap towards achieving them.
- The National Policy for Children (2013) provides for formation of a **National Co-ordination and Action Group (NCAG)** under the Ministry of Women and Child Development to coordinate and implement the plan.

## **9. Aarambh Initiative**

- It is the country's **first-ever hotline to curb sexual abuse of children** through the Internet and to remove child pornographic content online.
- Aarambh Initiative, a network of organisations and individuals working on

child protection in the country, has collaborated with the **U.K.-based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)**.

- The hotline will initially be in English and Hindi; it will be available in 22 regional languages.

### **10. Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)**

- It is a flagship programme of the **Department for empowerment of the youth, Ministry of youth affairs and sports**.
- The Ministry along with RYSK have two other schemes namely **National Service Scheme (NSS)** and **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)** for the development of adolescents and youth of the country.
- The Scheme beneficiaries shall be the **youth in the age-group of 15-29 years**, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014.
- The following existing Schemes/ Programmes are subsumed in the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK):
  - Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).
  - National Youth Corps (NYC).
  - National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD).
  - International Cooperation (IC).
  - Youth Hostels (YH).
  - Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisations.
  - National Discipline Scheme (NDS)
  - National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP).

**NOTES**

## Miscellaneous

### NOTES

### 1. Sports Sector Gets the Infrastructure Status

- **Sports infrastructure** will be included under the **Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Subsectors**.
- This is mainly aimed at addressing the **issue of deficit of sports infrastructure** in the country.
- The sports sector now becomes **eligible for obtaining long term financial support** from banks and other financial institutions on the same principle as is available to other infrastructure projects.
- This inclusion would **encourage private investment** in a public good which has socio-economic externalities in a country with young population.

### 2. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2016

- The **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has released draft notification of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2016.
- The objective of these rules is to **make pet shops accountable and to prevent cruelty** inflicted on animals kept in such pet shops.
- These rules have been framed in pursuance of **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960**.
- **Proposed Rules:**
  - Mandatory for all **pet shop owners to register** themselves with the **State Animal Welfare Board** of the respective State Governments/Union Territories.
  - The **rules define space requirement** for birds, cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pig, hamster, rats and mice in the pet shops.
  - It defines the basic amenities, power back-up, general care, veterinary care and other operational requirement for animals kept in pet shops.
  - It is **mandatory to maintain proper records** of sale, purchase, death of animals in pet shop, sick animals etc.
  - Every pet shop owner is required to **submit yearly report to the State Board** regarding animals, sold, traded, bartered, brokered, or any other information asked for by the State Board.
- **Non-compliance** of the proposed rules will lead to **cancellation of registration of pet shop** and pet animals so confiscated, shall be handed over to an Animal Welfare Organisation, or a rescue centre recognised by the Board.

### 3. Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)

- The government is planning to adopt the **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) instead of the poverty line-based method to identify recipients for its pro-poor schemes**.
- The SECC 2011 **ranks households based on their socio-economic status** to enable state governments to prepare a list of families living below the poverty line.
- It also makes available information regarding **education status** of various

castes and sections of the population.

- The data also provides **age-wise classification** matched with various deprivation parameters.
- **Background:**
  - The **Sumit Bose Committee** formed to study the validity and efficiency of the SECC 2011 is in favour of using the information for rural development schemes.

#### 4. Human Development Index

- The **2016 Human Development Report** has been released by the **UNDP**. HDI is also released as part of the report.
- The **Human Development Index** is based on assessing progress on **three dimensions** of human development.
  - Long and healthy life measured through **life expectancy** of the population.
  - Access to knowledge measured by **mean years of education** among the adult population, and access to learning and knowledge measured by expected **years of schooling for children** of school-entry age.
  - Standard of living measured by the **country's per-capita gross national income (GNI)**.
- **Performance of India:**
  - India slipped down one place from 130 to **131** among the 188 countries.
  - India's human development index (HDI) value of **0.624** puts it in the "**medium human development**" category, alongside countries such as Congo, Namibia and Pakistan.
  - It is **ranked third among the SAARC countries**, behind Sri Lanka (73) and the Maldives (105).
- **Global scenario:**
  - The world's top three countries in HDI are **Norway** (0.949), Australia (0.939) and Switzerland (0.939).
  - **South Asia also had the highest levels of malnutrition in the world**, at 38%, and the lowest public health expenditure as a percentage of the GDP (1.6%, 2014).
  - **Women on an average, have lower HDI than men across the world**, the report pointed out that the largest gender disparity in development was in South Asia.

#### 5. Social Security Cover

- The government has proposed a **labour code** which will provide **social security cover to the entire workforce** in the country, including self-employed and agricultural workers.
- The code is proposed by the **labour ministry**.
- **National Social Security Council:**
  - A National Social Security Council, **chaired by the Prime Minister**, has been proposed to streamline and make policy on social security schemes related to all the Ministries.

- **Other members** would include: Finance Minister, Labour Minister, Health and Family Welfare Minister along with employer and employees' representatives.
- The council will **co-ordinate between central and State governments**, monitor the implementation of social security schemes, regulate funds collected under various social security schemes, according to the proposed labour law.

## 6. Stifling Dissent: The Criminalisation of Dissent in India

- The **global human rights watchdog Human Rights Watch (HRW)**, in its 2016 report on India titled 'Stifling Dissent: The Criminalisation of Dissent in India,' presents a **list of draconian Indian laws that "restrict freedom of expression"**.
- These Include:
  - section 124 A (the sedition law)
  - section 295 A (hurting of religious sentiments) of the IPC
  - Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and its amendment, the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015.
- **Human Rights Watch (HRW):**
  - **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** is an American-founded **international non-governmental organization** that conducts **research and advocacy on human rights**.
  - **HRW headquarters are in New York City, USA.**
  - Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are the only two Western-oriented international human rights organizations operating in most situations of severe oppression or abuse worldwide.

## 7. Khelo India Scheme

- **Khelo India National level Competitions** under aegis of **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** was recently organized.
- Khelo India Competitions is not only to **promote sports at grass-root level** but also to provide a platform to the **budding talents to compete at national level**.
- **Khelo India Scheme**
  - Khelo India Programme is based on **Gujarat Government's model of Khel Mahakumbh**.
  - The Union Government has merged **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA)** with the Khelo India Programme for development of sports.
  - Union Government has also merged two other sport projects viz. **Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS)** and **National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS)** under Khelo India.