



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Insights PT 2018 Exclusive

Social Issues

June 2017 to March 2018

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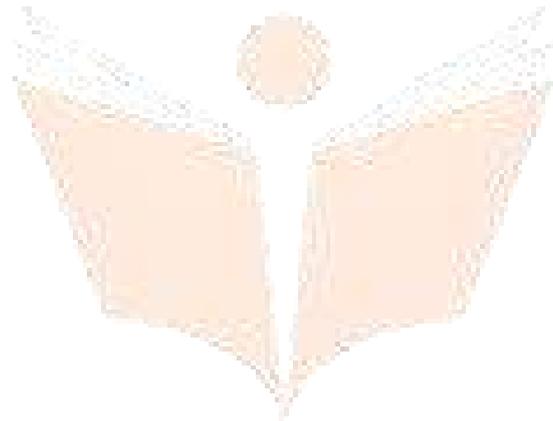
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Women

NOTES

1. "Safe City Surveillance" scheme

- **Bihar state government** has launched "Safe City Surveillance" scheme aimed at putting a check on **eve-teasing and other crimes against women at public places** across the state.
- The scheme will bring all **major public places under the watch of close-circuit television (CCTV) cameras** and improve the overall crime control in the state.
- This scheme is especially being launched for checking crime against women, such as eve-teasing and molestation, harassment, snatching incidents and roadside scuffles etc.
- The **Bihar home department** will be the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme.
- The network of CCTV cameras under this scheme will be connected to control room, where it will be monitored round the clock by policemen.

2. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

- The Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994 was enacted in **response to the decline in Sex ratio in India**, which deteriorated from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991.
- The main purpose of enacting the act is to **ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception and prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic technique for sex selective abortion.**
- **Offences under this act include:**
 - Conducting or helping in the conduct of prenatal diagnostic technique in the unregistered units,
 - Sex selection on a man or woman,
 - Conducting PND test for any purpose other than the one mentioned in the act,
 - Sale, distribution, supply, renting etc. of any ultra sound machine or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus.
- **It regulates the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques by allowing them their use only to detect :**
 - Genetic disorders
 - Metabolic disorders
 - Chromosomal malformation
 - Congenital disorders
 - Sex linked disorder
- The act was **amended in 2003** to improve the regulation of the technology used in sex selection.
 - The Act was amended to bring the technique of pre conception sex selection and ultrasound technique within the ambit of the act.
 - Empowered the central supervisory board, constitution of state level supervisory board
 - Provision for more stringent punishments

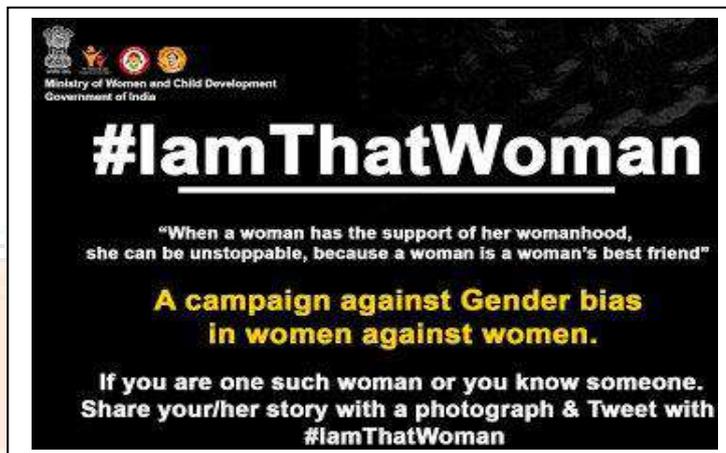
- Empowering appropriate authorities with the power of civil court for search, seizure and sealing the machines and equipments of the violators.

3. Program to train Elected Women Representatives of PRIs

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** launched an **intensive training program for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Master Trainers**, in New Delhi.
- This capacity building program is being organized by **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** of the WCD Ministry which will train approximately twenty thousand EWRs covering nearly 50 EWRs from each district by March, 2018.
- It is for **first time ever initiative of this scale** has been taken up to train EWRs.

4. Campaign on 'women for women': #IamThatWoman

- In an attempt to **end Gender bias in women against women**, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** launched online campaign **#IamThatWoman**.



- Through the campaign, Ministry seeks to highlight various aspects of **women standing 'by' and 'for' women**.
- It also aims to shed light on the enormous **contributions made by women for women**.
- Ministry of WCD also has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other women.
- **Twitter and Facebook** users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with photograph and post online with the hashtag **#IamThatWoman**.

5. SC allows abortion of ailing foetus

- The Supreme Court has permitted a woman, who is in her **26th week of pregnancy** to undergo medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) after a medical board concluded that the foetus was **suffering from severe cardiac ailments**.
- **Abortion in India:**
 - Abortion in India is **legal only up to 20 weeks of pregnancy**, under specific conditions and situations, which are defined as:
 - If the continuance of pregnancy risks the life of the woman or may result in grave physical or mental injury.
 - If there is a substantial possibility of the child being born with

physical or mental abnormalities, as to be seriously handicapped.

- **Who has the right to abort?**

- The pregnant woman has the right to abort; she does not need anyone's acknowledgement or support if she's above 18 years of age and is mentally stable.
- If a woman is married, her own written consent is sufficient. Her husband's consent is not required.
- If a woman is unmarried and over 18 years of age, she can provide her own written consent.
- If a woman is unmarried and under 18, she must provide written consent from her guardian/parent.
- If a woman is mentally unstable, a written consent is required from her guardian/parent.

- **Laws governing abortion in India:**

- According to the IPC abortion falls under '**Offences Affecting the Human Body**', and provides that causing a miscarriage with or without consent for a purpose other than saving the life of the woman is punishable.

- **MTP Act:**

- The **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act** in India came into existence in 1971.
- It was amended in 2003 to facilitate better implementation and increase access for women especially in the private health sector.
- The MTP Act sets some limitations regarding the circumstances when abortion is permissible, the persons who are competent to perform the procedure, and the place where it could be performed.
- The MTP Act overrides the IPC by allowing a woman to get an abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, provided a registered medical practitioner diagnoses grave danger to the pregnant woman's physical and mental health.
- If the foetus is between 12 and 20 weeks old, then the procedure requires permission from two medical practitioners.
- The Act also allows abortion if the foetus will be born with severe abnormalities.
- To determine the risk of physical and mental harm to a pregnant woman seeking abortion, the Act takes into account the woman's actual as well as reasonably foreseeable environment.
- It also defines circumstances which can constitute grave injury to the mental health of a woman. The mentally grievous situations include pregnancy resulting from rape as well as contraceptive failure – of any contraception used by a married woman or her husband – if a married couple is attempting to limit their number of children.
- Abortion beyond 20 weeks is also legal if a registered medical practitioner, in good faith, thinks that emergency termination is necessary to save a pregnant woman's life.

NOTES

6. Swadhar Greh Scheme

- Recently released government data shows that there are **559 Swadhar Greh** presently functional in the country with 17231 beneficiaries.
- The Swadhar scheme was launched by the **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** in **2002** for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
- Swadhar Greh will be **set up in every district** with capacity of 30 women with the following objectives:
 - To provide shelter, food, clothing and care to the **marginalized women/girls** who are in need.
 - To provide them with **legal aid and guidance** to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
 - To **rehabilitate them economically and emotionally**.
- **The benefit of the scheme could be availed by women above 18 years of age.**
- The beneficiaries include **widows deserted by their families and relatives, women prisoners released from jail and without family support, women survivors of natural disasters, women victims of terrorist/extremist violence etc.**
- The implementing agencies are mainly **NGOs**. Other implementing agencies are State Government agencies, Central or State autonomous bodies, Municipal Bodies, Cantonment Boards, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Co-operative institutions.
- An **Evaluation Study** conducted through **Centre for Market Research and Social Development** to assess the performance of the scheme observed that the **scheme is successful** for which it was formulated/implemented.

7. #YesIBleed Campaign

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched **#YesIBleed menstrual hygiene campaign** on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018.
- “#Yes I Bleed” aims to create a holistic approach to the issue of menstruation, which is an experience that transcends culture, class, and caste.
- The campaign has been initiated formally across all multi-media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube to spread awareness about the issue.
- The **United Nations has recognised menstrual hygiene as a global public health** and a human rights issue yet across the globe.
- “Period poverty” as some call it, is a reality for millions of women and girls.

8. Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi

- **Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi** was **India's first female doctor and first woman to obtain a degree in western medicine in the United States.**
- Google Doodle celebrated her 153rd Birthday on March 31st.
- Anandi Joshi was born on 31st March 1865 in Maharashtra.



Health

NOTES

1. Haryana becomes first state to launch High Risk Pregnancy portal

- **Haryana has become the first state in the country to launch High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.**
- It has been launched as part of the **High Risk Pregnancy Policy** of state implemented since November 2017.
- This innovative web application has been designed to **track every high risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery**, so that she receives adequate treatment during the ante-natal period for healthy outcome of pregnancy.
- This portal not only helps in **early identification of high-risk pregnant cases** up to the grass-roots level but also ensures their **timely referral to the civil hospitals** for further management and delivery by specialists.
- **Background:**
 - The **High Risk Pregnancy Policy** has been implemented across the state since November, 2017, for **identifying 100 per cent name-based high-risk pregnancy cases**, and ensuring their delivery by specialists at civil hospitals.
 - This initiative is aimed at increasing the pace of decline in Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Still Birth Incidence as morbidity and mortality is quite high in high risk pregnant cases.
- **Birth companion strategy:**
 - Haryana is also implementing birth companion strategy under which **one female attendant would be allowed during delivery in the labour room.**
 - The presence of a female birth companion during delivery is a step towards **improving the quality of care in labour rooms** for improving the maternal and neo-natal outcome and for respectful maternity care.

2. Arogya 2017

- It is the **First Ever International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness**. The conference was held in New Delhi.
- 'Arogya 2017' is a comprehensive exhibition cum conference on Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddhha, Sowa Rigpa, Homoeopathy and wellness.
- 'Arogya 2017' was jointly organized by **Ministry of AYUSH** and **Ministry of Commerce and Industry including Pharmexcil in partnership with FICCI** to showcase the strength and scientific valuation of traditional system of medicine.

3. Universal Health Coverage Day

- Universal Health Coverage Day is **observed annually on December 12** to promote the human right to health.
- The day is the anniversary of the first unanimous **United Nations resolution calling for all nations to provide for their citizens affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere.**

- Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means everyone can access the quality health services they need without financial hardship.
- UHC has been included in the **Sustainable Development Goals** adopted by the United Nations.

4. World Toilet Day 2017

- The World Toilet Day (WTD) is observed every year across the world on **19 November** to raise **awareness and inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis**.
- WTD was instituted by World Toilet Organisation in 2001.
- **In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated November 19 as World Toilet Day.**
- World Toilet Day is coordinated by **UN-Water in collaboration with governments and partners**.
- By 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically **SDG #6**, aim to reach everyone with sanitation, and halve the proportion of untreated wastewater and increase recycling and safe reuse.
- **2017 theme:** Wastewater.
- **World's biggest toilet pot model** was recently unveiled at **Marora, popularly known as the "Trump village", in Haryana** on the World Toilet Day in a bid to create awareness towards sanitation and use of toilets.

5. Global Clubfoot Conference

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated **Global Clubfoot Conference** organised by **CURE India** in partnership with **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in New Delhi on November 1, 2017.
- Clubfoot is one of the most common **orthopaedic birth defects**.
- It can cause permanent disability if not treated early.
- Clubfoot is a birth defect where one or both feet are rotated inwards and downwards.
- This **affects the child's mobility** and confidence. Inevitably, education and schooling suffer – and the child cannot fulfil his or her potential.
- It occurs in about one in 1,000 newborns. In India, burden of disability affects more than 10 million people.



6. 21st World Congress of Mental Health

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 21st World Congress of Mental Health being organised by the **World Federation for Mental Health** in partnership with **Caring Foundation** and other institutions in New Delhi on November 2, 2017.
- **World Congress of Mental Health took place in India for the first time.**
- Theme - **"Partnerships for Mental Health"**.
- **National Mental Health Survey 2016** found that close to 14 per cent of

India's population required active mental health interventions.

- The World Congress had **sessions on yoga, meditation and traditional approaches** to mental health.

7. 'Hypertension high in Kerala, low in Bihar'

- According to the study, titled '**Diet and Nutritional Status of Urban Population in India and Prevalence of Obesity, Hypertension, Diabetes and Hyperlipidaemia in Urban Men and Women**', **non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have become a growing threat** to global health.
- The study assessed the **diet and nutritional status** of India's urban population.
- The survey was carried out by the **National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau** during 2015-16 by researchers from the **National Institute of Nutrition**.
- The study has brought to light the prevalence rates for non-communicable diseases as well as stunting, under-nutrition and obesity in children under 5 years in the 16 States surveyed.
- **Highlights of the study:**
 - Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have become a growing threat to global health.
 - The increase in incidence of NCDs can be attributed to a change in food habits, sedentary behaviour and unhealthy lifestyles, among other risk factors.
 - **Kerala has the highest prevalence of hypertension as well as high cholesterol** in urban men and women.
 - **Puducherry tops the list with the highest prevalence of diabetes.** Diabetics were the highest in the age group of 60-70 and lowest in the age group of 18-30.
 - **The southern States were among the 10 with the highest prevalence of obesity among urban adults.** Puducherry topped with almost 60% women and 42% men being overweight.

8. Global Breastfeeding Scorecard

- The **Global Breastfeeding Scorecard** is the report by *the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO in collaboration with the Global Breastfeeding Collective*.
- The report points out that breastfeeding not only helps **prevent diarrhoea and pneumonia**, two major causes of death in infants, it also helps **reduce mothers risk of ovarian and breast cancer**, two leading causes of death among women.
- Breastmilk works like a baby's first vaccine, protecting infants from potentially deadly diseases and giving them all the nourishment they need to survive and thrive.
- In China, India, Nigeria, Mexico and Indonesia alone, inadequate breastfeeding is responsible for more than 236,000 child deaths each year.
- Globally, investment in breastfeeding is far too low.

9. WHO revises antibiotics protocol

- In an effort to **curb antibiotic resistance**, the World Health Organization

(WHO) has divided the **drugs into three categories** — **access, watch and reserve** — specifying which are to be used for common ailments and which are to be kept for complicated diseases.

- This is the **biggest revision of the antibiotics section in the 40-year history of the essential medicines list (EML).**
- **Access:**
 - **Commonly used antibiotics** will be under the ‘access’ category.
 - Antibiotics in this group will be **available at all times** as treatment for a wide range of common infections.
 - This includes amoxicillin, a widely-used antibiotic to treat infections such as pneumonia.
- **Watch:**
 - The second line of antibiotics, slightly more potent, have been categorised under “watch”.
 - The ‘watch’ group covers **antibiotics that are recommended as first or second choice treatment** for a small number of infections.
 - Ciprofloxacin, used to treat cystitis (a type of urinary tract infection) and upper respiratory tract infections (like bacterial sinusitis and bacterial bronchitis), falls under this category.
 - The WHO has recommended that prescription of these drugs should be dramatically reduced to avoid further development of resistance.
- **Reserve:**
 - Potent drugs to be used **only as a “last resort”** fall under the ‘reserve’ category.
 - This group includes antibiotics such as colistin and some cephalosporins that should be considered last-resort options, and **used only in the most severe circumstances** when all other alternatives have failed, such as for **life-threatening infections** due to multidrug-resistant bacteria.

10. Passive Euthanasia legalised by Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court has delivered a landmark judgment allowing **“living will”** where, an adult in his conscious mind is permitted to refuse medical treatment or voluntarily decide not to take medical treatment to embrace death in a natural way.
- In Its judgment, the court has laid down a set of guidelines for “living will” and defined passive euthanasia and euthanasia as well.
- **Passive Euthanasia:**
 - When doctors don’t provide, or remove life sustaining treatment to **patients in a permanent vegetative state.**
 - Includes: Disconnecting life-support machines, feeding tubes, not carrying out life-saving operations and not providing life-extending drugs.
- **Advance medical directive or living will:**
 - It is a medical power of attorney that allows an individual to appoint a trusted person to take health care decisions when the patient is not able to take such decisions.

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- The trusted person is allowed to interpret the patient’s decisions based on their mutual knowledge and understanding.
- The trusted person can decide on the patient’s behalf how long the medical treatment should continue when the patient in unconscious or in a coma state is not in a position to decide.

Sense of an ending

While recognising passive euthanasia, the SC has allowed advance directive, or living will, by which patients can spell out whether treatment can be withdrawn if they fall terminally ill or are incompetent to express their opinion

WHO, WHAT AND HOW OF A LIVING WILL

<p>WHO CAN MAKE IT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An adult with a sound and healthy mind ▪ It should be voluntarily executed, based on informed consent ▪ It should be expressed in "clear and unambiguous" terms 	<p>CONTENTS OF WILL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Circumstances in which treatment should be withheld or withdrawn ▪ Specify that the will can be revoked any time ▪ Name of the "guardian 	<p>or close relative" who will give the go-ahead for starting passive euthanasia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO PRESERVE IT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The will shall be attested by two witnesses and preferably 	<p>counter-signed by a first class judicial magistrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The magistrate shall preserve one hard copy and one soft copy each and forward it to the district court registry ▪ Copy will be given to a local govt. official, who shall nominate a custodian for the will
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- **Right to Die:**
 - **Right to die peacefully is part of Fundamental Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21** of the Constitution.
 - Article 21 provides that “no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law”.
 - Dignity is lost if man is allowed or forced to undergo pain and suffering because of unwarranted medical support.

11. Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food

- Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) is a **packaged paste nutritious food items** like peanuts, oil, sugar, vitamins, mineral supplements etc.
- In addition to these ingredients, RUTF contains nuts, sweeteners and grains for improving the taste.
- RUTF is also known as **energy dense nutritious food (EDNF)**.
- It is a **medical intervention** to cure **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** among children.
- The paste is given to children aged between six months and six years, usually after a doctor’s prescription.
- **RUTF use is common in Africa**, where the incidence of malnutrition among children is high.
- The concept of therapeutic food has long been a **subject of debate in India**.
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) issued a notification to states and Union Territories, clarifying that “use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for management of malnutrition is not an accepted policy of the Government of India”.

Education

NOTES

1. NIRF India Rankings 2018

- **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Rankings 2018** in various categories on the basis of performance of Higher Educational Institutions was recently released.
- It is **third edition NIRF survey**.
- **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru bags 1st Position in Overall Ranking, IIT Chennai tops in Engineering and IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management Category.**
- Delhi University's Miranda House was adjudged best college, AIIMS-Delhi as best medical college and NLSIU-Bengaluru as best law school in country.
- **NIRF:**
 - The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by the MHRD and was **launched in September, 2015**.
 - This framework outlines a **methodology to rank higher education institutions covering engineering, management, pharmacy, architecture, universities and colleges across the country**.
 - The methodology draws from the overall recommendations and broad understanding arrived at by a Core Committee set up by MHRD.
 - The parameters broadly cover "Teaching, Learning and Resources", "Research and Professional Practices", "Graduation Outcomes", "Outreach and Inclusivity" and "Perception".

2. APQN Quality Award to NAAC

- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India has received **International Award of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) titled "APQN Quality Award 2017 for International Co-operation in Quality Assurance."**
- APQN Quality Award is among the most prestigious International Awards in quality assurance of higher education.
- The award to NAAC is recognition of **NAAC's continued efforts as facilitator of quality culture and co-operation** within and outside Asia-Pacific region.
- As one of the founder agencies of Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), the **NAAC has played pro-active role in international quality assurance scenario**.
- Similarly NAAC and its faculty have worked with UNESCO on various projects, events and publications.
- In the recent past NAAC has also joined hands with various European partners for collaborative projects sponsored by European Commission.
- **NAAC:**
 - The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an organisation that **assesses and accredits institutions of higher education** in India.
 - It is an autonomous body funded by University Grants Commission of Government of India headquartered in Bangalore.
 - NAAC was established in 1994 in response to recommendations of

National Policy in Education (1986).

NOTES

3. Education impact bond for India

- Britain's Prince Charles has launched a new **10-million-dollar Development Impact Bond (DIB)** to help improve education for over **200,000 children in India**.
- The DIB, the **largest bond of its type in South Asia**, is the latest fundraising initiative by the **British Asian Trust (BAT)**, set up by the royal 10 years ago to fight poverty in South Asia.
- It is intended to improve literacy and numeracy learning levels for **primary school students from marginalised communities** in the country.
- The new bond has been launched by the trust with the support of the UK government's Department for International Development (DfID), Comic Relief, the Mittal Foundation and the UBS Optimus Foundation.
- The concept of DIB is intended as a result-oriented way to attract new capital into development projects, with a strong emphasis on data and evidence.
- The DIB will provide funding to local not-for-profit delivery partners in India over four years, delivering a range of operational models including principal and teacher training, direct school management, and supplementary programmes.

4. Integrated School Education

- The Government has decided to formulate an **Integrated Scheme on School Education** by subsuming **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE)** from 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2020.
- The vision of the Scheme is to ensure **inclusive and equitable quality education** from nursery to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal for Education.
- The main emphasis of the Integrated Scheme is on improving quality of school education by focussing on the **two T's - Teacher and Technology**.
- **The objectives of the Scheme are:**
 - Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students;
 - Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education;
 - Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education;
 - Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions;
 - Promoting vocationalization of education;
 - Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009; and
 - Strengthening and up-gradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as nodal agencies for teacher training.

5. National Achievement Survey

- The National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted throughout the

country on November 13, 2017 for **Classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government aided schools.**

- It was an exercise to understand the gaps in learning in government and government-aided schools.
- This is **the Largest Assessment survey conducted in the country and is amongst the largest conducted in the world.**
- It assessed performance of students in five major subjects - **Mathematics, Language, Environmental Sciences, Sciences and Social Sciences.**
- The competency based test questions developed reflected the Learning Outcomes developed by the NCERT which were recently incorporated in the Right to Education Act (RTE) by the Government of India.
- **Comparison between NAS and Annual Status of Education Report (ASER):**

NAS	ASER
This is a school based survey	It is household based survey.
Conducted by NCERT	Conducted by ASER Centre (Pratham)
It is based on pen-paper test	It is one-on-one assessment
It takes into account children enrolled in government and government-aided schools	All children whether they are school going or not
Based on wide variety of skills	Based on foundational skills such as reading and arithmetic
For both urban and rural areas	For rural areas

6. ASER Report 2017

- **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2017** has been brought out by **NGO Pratham.**
- Previous ASERs focused on 6-14 year olds and have reached almost all rural districts to make estimates representative at district, State, and national levels.
- However, **ASER 2017 focuses on an older age group i.e. youth who are 14 to 18 years old.**
- Also, it was conducted in 28 districts spread across 24 States and generated only district level estimates.
- The survey looks '**Beyond Basics**', exploring a wider set of domains beyond foundational reading and arithmetic abilities of youth.
- It reports on **children's schooling status and their ability** to do basic reading and arithmetic tasks in its previous reports.
- In 2017 report a wider set was considered including **four domains - activity, ability, awareness, and aspirations.**

7. All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for 2016-17

- **8th All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** for the year 2016-17 was released.
- AISHE is a **Pan India, annual web-based survey** which covers all the Higher Educational Institutions in the country conducted by **Ministry of Human Resource Development.**

- **Major Findings of AISHE:**
 - There is an **increase in overall enrolment** from 27.5 million in 2010-11 to 35.7 million in 2016-17.
 - **Improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** which is a ratio of enrolment in higher education to population in the eligible age group (18-23) years, from 19.4% in 2010-11 to 25.2 in 2016-17.
 - **Gender Parity Index (GPI)**, a ratio of proportional representation of female and male, has improved from 0.86 to 0.94 to the corresponding period.
 - Number of **institutions of higher education** listed on AISHE portal has also increased significantly.
 - The survey covers almost all the Higher Education institutions (HEIs) in the country including Universities, Colleges and Stand-Alone institutions.
 - The survey is also unique in the sense that it is a **participatory effort** between State Governments, Regulatory Statutory Authorities and the Ministries of the Government of India.
- The Survey was initiated in the year 2011 to prepare a robust data-base on higher education.

8. Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)

- Government unveiled a new scheme named **Revitalization Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)** in Union Budget, 2018.
- All centrally-funded institutes (CFIs), including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs, can borrow from a **Rs 1,00,000 crore corpus** over the next four years to expand and build new infrastructure.
- The initiative aims to step up **investments in research and related infrastructure** in premier educational institutions, including health institutions.
- It will be **financed via restructured Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**, a non-banking financial company.

9. Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)

- Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is a joint venture company of Canara Bank and Ministry of Human Resource Development Govt.
- RBI granted license to operate as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- (HEFA) has been set up to **mobilize funds from the market** as per requirements of the centrally funded higher educational institutions.
- HEFA is a Section 8 **Not for Profit Company**. HEFA helps in channelizing CSR and donations from corporate and philanthropists as grants to these institutions to support their research and development initiatives.
- It aims to **lend low-cost funds** to IITs, IIMs, the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and such other institutions for promoting research and innovation.

10. Institutions of Eminence

- Government has constituted **Empowered Expert Committee (EEC)** to select **20 Institutions of Eminence (10 public and 10 private)**.
- The committee will be headed by **former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) N Gopalaswami**.
- The scheme of Institutions of Eminence was rolled out by **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
- It aims to help 20 higher education (10 public and 10 private) institutions from country break into top 500 global rankings in 10 years, and then eventually break into top 100 over time.
- These selected institutions are proposed to have **greater autonomy** compared to other higher education institutions.
- They will be **exempted from approvals of government or UGC** for academic collaborations with foreign institutions, except institutions in MEA and MHA's list of negative countries.
- They will be **free to decide their fee** for domestic and foreign students and have **flexible course duration and structure**.
- They will have complete **flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus**.



Gender Issues

NOTES

1. Iceland becomes first country to legalise equal pay

- A new law making it illegal to pay men more than women has taken effect in Iceland.
- The legislation makes Iceland the **first country in the world to legalise equal pay** between men and women.
- Under the new rules, **companies and government agencies employing at least 25 people** will have to obtain government certification of their equal-pay policies.
- Those that fail to prove pay parity will face fines.
- **Background:**
 - Iceland, an island country in the North Atlantic Ocean that is home to approximately 323,000 people, has a strong economy, based on tourism and fisheries.
 - For the past nine years, it has been ranked by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as the world's most gender-equal country.

2. India's digital gender gap could further marginalise women

- **UNICEF has released the 2017 edition of its annual flagship publication "The State of the World's Children Report".**
- Themed "**Children in a digital world**", the report provides country-level examples to give a sense of the kinds of barriers girls and women confront.
- With **less than one-third of India's internet users being females**, the country's girls and women risk becoming further marginalised in society and at home if they remain **digitally illiterate** in the backdrop of the country making a push towards a more digital economy.
- Globally, 12% more men than women used the internet in 2017. In India, where only 29% of all internet users are female.

3. National Women Entrepreneurship Council

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is considering to establish **National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NWEC)**.
- NWEC will promote entrepreneurship as it would be the umbrella organization for socio-economic gender parity, financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women in India.
- It will **advise the government on issues related to entrepreneurship in women** as current business chambers are largely "male-dominated".
- **Background:**
 - According to **Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs**, India scored an overall 41.7 points, ranking 49 among 54 economies globally with comparatively low in Women Business Ownership percentages.

4. India's falling sex ratio

- A **recent report from the NITI Aayog** said sex ratio at birth (SRB) nationwide had dropped from 906 in 2012-2014 to 900 in 2013-2015.
- In all, 17 of 21 large Indian States saw a drop in the SRB, with Gujarat

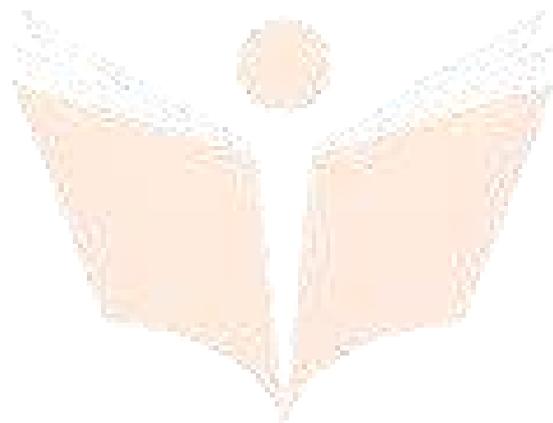
performing the worst, declining 53 points.

- The **SRB is the number of girls born for every 1,000 boys**.
- While the NITI Aayog report used data up to 2013-15, newer data from India's Sample Registration System show the SRB fell even further in 2014-2016, from 900 to 898.

5. India's First Transgender Sports meet

- **India's First Transgender Sports meet** was organised by the **Kerala State Sports Council** at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Kerala formulated the **Transgender Policy** to enforce the constitutional rights of transgenders and create an inclusive and empowering milieu for the community.
- **Odisha** state is the **first region in the country to give transgender people social welfare benefits** - such as a pension, housing and food grains - usually allocated for only the most impoverished.
- **Andhra Pradesh** recently announced pension scheme for transgender community.

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Old Age / Disabled

NOTES

1. National Conference of State channelizing Agencies, Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks of NHFDC

- A National Conference of the State channelizing Agencies, Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) was recently held.
- During the conference, the participating agencies were asked to **better coordinate with NHFDC** and Channelising agencies for the smooth and better **implementation of NHFDC Schemes** for the benefit of larger number of **Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**.
- **NHFDC:**
 - The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been set up by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**, Government of India on 24th January **1997**.
 - The company is registered under Section 25 of the **Companies Act, 1956** as a Company **not for profit**.
 - The corporation provides **financial assistance** for wide range of **income generating activities** to disabled persons
 - It is **wholly owned by Government of India** and has an authorised share capital of Rs. 400 crores.
 - The company is managed by Board of Directors nominated by Government of India.
 - NHFDC functions as an **Apex institution for channelizing the funds to persons with disabilities** through the **State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs)** nominated by the State Government.

2. Quota For Acid Attack Survivors, People With Disability In Govt. Jobs

- The **Department of Personnel and Training** has written to **all central government departments** to ensure that **1% of each posts be reserved for people with blindness and low vision; deaf and hard of hearing; locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy**.
- In case of direct recruitment, 4% of the total number of vacancies, up from the existing 3%, in groups A, B and C shall be reserved for people with benchmark disabilities.
- The additional 1 % reservation to existing 3% reservation is as per the provision **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.
 - **Benchmark disability** means a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability.
 - **Intellectual disability** is a condition characterised by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning such as reasoning, learning and problem solving, and in adaptive behaviour that covers a range of everyday skills.
- **Grievance redressal:**
 - Under the new rules, all government organisations have been asked to appoint '**grievance redressal officers**' to look into complaints.

- Any person aggrieved with any matter relating to discrimination in employment against any person with disability may file a complaint with the grievance redressal officer of the respective government establishment.
- Every complaint shall be inquired into **within two months of its registration** and outcome shall be communicated to the complainant or person with benchmark disability.

3. Global Retirement Index

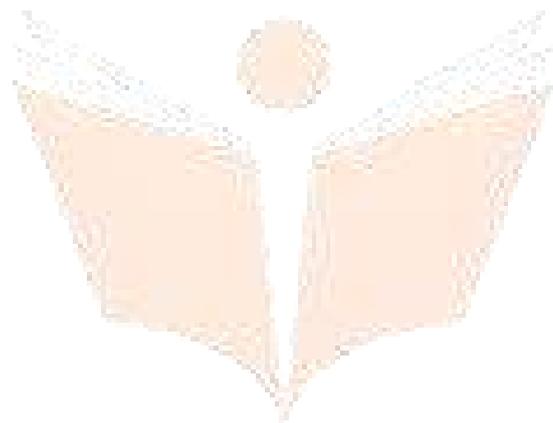
- In a list of global retirement index of 43 countries, India has ranked the lowest.
- The Global Retirement index created by French asset management company Natixis Global, ranks countries on **the basis of four factors**:
 - The material means to live comfortably in retirement;
 - Access to quality financial services to help preserve savings value and maximize income;
 - Access to quality health services; and
 - A clean and safe environment.
- The index ranks 43 countries which include International Monetary Fund (IMF) advanced economies, members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China).
- India ranks 43rd in 2017 GRI and has the same score compared to last year.
- Switzerland, Norway and Iceland topped the ranking.

4. National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC)

- In pursuance of the **National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP)**, a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) was constituted in 1999 under the Chairpersonship of the **Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment** to oversee implementation of the Policy.
- **Functions:**
 - The NCOP is the highest body to **advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the aged.**
 - The National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) was reconstituted and renamed as National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC) in 2012.
 - The NCSrC advises Central and State Governments on the entire gamut of issues related to welfare of senior citizens and enhancement of their quality of life.
 - **Chairman and Vice-chairman:** The Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment is the Chairman and Minister of State (Social Justice and Empowerment) is the Vice-Chairman of the Council.
- **Members:**
 - The members of the Council includes Secretary (SJ&E), Joint Secretary (Social Defence), related central ministries such as Finance, Rural Development, Home Affairs, Law and Justice, Human Resource Development etc., National Commissions like NHRC, NCW etc., State

Governments (on rotation), Oldest member of the Lok Sabha, Oldest member of the Rajya Sabha, along with representatives of Senior Citizens Associations, Pensioners' Associations, eminent senior citizens working on issues related to senior citizens etc.

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Children

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1. 25th National Children's Science Congress

- The 25th edition of National Children Science Congress (NCSC-2017) was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **The theme** of the Congress was **'Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development'** with the **special focus on persons with disabilities**.
- National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) is a **nationwide Science Communication programme** started in the year 1993.
- It is a programme of **National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC)**, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India organised nationally by **NCSTC-Network**, New Delhi.
- The primary objective of the Children's Science Congress is to make a forum available to children of the **age-group of 10-17 years**, both from formal school system as well as from out of school, to **exhibit their creativity and innovativeness** and more particularly their **ability to solve a societal problem** experienced locally using the method of science.

2. WHO releases guidelines on responding to child sex abuse

- **For the first time, WHO has published guidelines** to help (primarily) front-line healthcare providers give high-quality, compassionate, and respectful care to children and adolescents (up to age 18) who have or may have experienced sexual abuse, including sexual assault or rape during course of diagnosis and treatment.

3. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

- The data from **Sample Registration Survey (SRS)** show that **India's infant mortality rate (IMR) declined from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 34 per 1000 live births in 2016**.
- However, there is still a long way to go to meet the **2019 target of IMR 28 per 1000 live births**.
- **What is IMR?**
 - Infant mortality rate (IMR) is the **number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age**.
- There has been a significant **8% decline** in country's IMR, even though more infants are dying in the rural areas.
- IMR in rural India is 38 per 1000 live births as compared to 23 in the urban areas.

Medical causes of infant mortality	
Neonatal mortality (0-4 weeks)	Post-neonatal mortality (1-12 months)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low birth weight and prematurity 2. Birth injury and difficult labour 3. Sepsis 4. Congenital anomalies 5. Haemolytic diseases of newborn 6. Conditions of placenta and cord 7. Diarrhoeal diseases 8. Acute respiratory infections 9. Tetanus 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diarrhoeal diseases 2. Acute respiratory infections 3. Other communicable diseases 4. Malnutrition 5. Congenital anomalies 6. Accidents <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>

- What is more encouraging is that the **gender gap in India for child survival is reducing steadily.**
- The data shows that the gender difference between female and male IMR has reduced to below 10%.
- The government's family planning programme seems to be going in the right direction, with the data showing a major drop in number of estimated births in a year which has come down to below 2.5 crore from 2.6 crore.

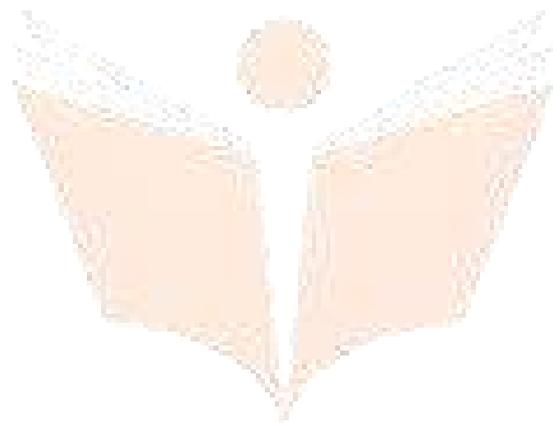
4. Handbook, Module & Guidelines on Safe Childhood Programme for Gram Panchayats

- A Handbook along with Module & Guidelines on **protection of Child Rights at Gram Panchayat level was released jointly by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Ministry of Panchayati Raj and UNICEF.**
- **Safe Childhood Programme** will contribute in improving the current scenario related to health, development, education and protection of children.
- The Handbook will help Panchayat Members and other stakeholders to **understand their role and actions** in protection of children at the village level resulting in better convergence of programmes and increased allocation of resources to address Child Right issues.
- The Programme was launched in 14 States initially and will cover the entire country later.
- NCPCR will receive reports on its implementation each month from the States. After one year, the Commission will evaluate the impact and felicitate those States which achieve good results.
- **NCPCR:**
 - The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.**
 - The commission works under the aegis of **Ministry of Women and Child development.**
 - The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the **Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India** and also the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Children**, ratified by India in 1992.
 - As per the convention the Child is defined as a person in the **0 to 18 years** age group.
 - **Functions and Powers:**
 - It **examines and reviews the safeguards** provided by the laws for protection of child rights and recommends measures for the same to government.
 - Present to be central government, annually and at such other intervals, **reports upon working of those safeguards.**
 - **Inquire into violation of child rights** and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases.
 - Look into matters relating to children in need of special care and protection and recommend appropriate remedial

measures.

- **Study treaties and other international instruments** and undertake periodic review of existing policies, programmes, and other activities on child rights.
- Undertake and **promote research** in the field of child rights.

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Events / Reports / Index

NOTES

1. 'Reward Work, Not Wealth' report

- A report titled '**Reward Work, Not Wealth**' has been released by the international rights group **Oxfam**.
- The report reveals how the global economy enables wealthy elite to accumulate vast wealth even as hundreds of millions of people struggle to survive on poverty pay.
- **Highlights of the report:**
 - The richest 1% in India cornered 73% of the wealth generated in the country in 2017.
 - Besides, 67 crore Indians comprising the population's poorest half saw their wealth rise by just 1%.
 - The survey also showed that women workers often find themselves at the bottom of the heap and nine out of 10 billionaires are men.

2. Legatum Prosperity Index

- '**The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017**', an annual ranking developed by the **London-based Legatum Institute**, has been released.
- The Legatum Prosperity Index is the **world's leading global measure of economic and social wellbeing** that studies 104 indicators under these categories: Economic Quality, Business Environment, Governance, Personal Freedom, Social Capital, Safety and Security, Education, Health and Natural Environment.
- The Index offers a unique insight into how prosperity is forming and changing across the world.
- **Key findings:**
 - **Global prosperity at a record high:** World prosperity increased in 2017 and now sits at its highest level in the last decade. It is now 2.6% higher than in 2007.
 - **Asia-Pacific makes the greatest gains:** While prosperity improved around the world in 2017, no region grew as fast as Asia-Pacific.
 - **Improved government accountability:** Every region in the world improved in Governance in 2017, with Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa rising fastest.
 - **Decreasing Safety and Security in the MENA region:** Despite gains in Social Capital and a strengthening Business Environment, overall prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has suffered in recent years through worsening Safety and Security.

3. India Youth Development Index and Report 2017

- The **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)**, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, an Institute of National Importance has come out with **Youth Development Index and Report 2017**.
- Constructing Youth Development Index for the year 2017 was done using the latest **definition of youth as used in National Youth Policy – 2014 (India) and World Youth Development Report of Commonwealth (15 – 29 years)** as well

as using the Commonwealth Indicators in order to facilitate Global comparison.

- This age-group constitutes 27.5% of India's population.
- The index tracks the trends in Youth Development across the States.
- The Index enables recognizing the high and low performing states, identifies the weak domains and informs the policy makers the priority areas of intervention for youth development in the states.
- **How is India Youth Development Index different from Global YDI?**
 - In the India Youth Development Index 2017, the first five dimensions are retained same as that of Global YDI.
 - The indicators and weights have been modified based on the availability of data at sub-national level i.e., state level.
 - Global YDI is different from YDI constructed for India in one unique way; **YDI for India adds a new domain, social inclusion**, to assess the inclusiveness of societal progress as structural inequalities persist in Indian society.
- **Global Youth Development Index (YDI):**
 - The YDI is a composite index of **18 indicators** that collectively measure multi-dimensional progress on youth development in 183 countries, including 49 of the 53 Commonwealth countries.
 - It has five domains measuring levels of education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, political participation and civic participation for young people.
 - The YDI is **guided by the Commonwealth definition of youth** as people between the ages of 15 and 29, while recognising that some countries and international institutions define youth differently.

4. World Habitat Day

- **The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day** to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
- It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the **power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.**
- **2017 theme:** Housing Policies: Affordable Homes
- Each year, World Habitat Day takes on a new theme to **promote sustainable development policies** that ensure adequate shelter for all.
- These themes often promote one of **UN-Habitat's focal areas** such as:
 - Inclusive housing and social services.
 - A safe and healthy living environment for all — with particular consideration for children, youth, women, elderly and disabled.
 - Affordable and sustainable transport and energy.
 - Promotion, protection, and restoration of green urban spaces.
 - Safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.
 - Healthy air quality.
 - Job creation.
 - Improved urban planning and slum upgrading.
 - Better waste management.

5. International Day of the Girl Child

- **The International Day of the Girl Child** was celebrated by countries across the world on **October 11**.
- The **theme** of the 2017 International Day of the Girl is **'EmPOWER girls: Before, during and after crises'**.
- **Background:**
 - The **United Nations established the day** to bring attention to the needs and difficulties that girls face around the world.
 - It also calls for **empowerment and improved rights** of the world's 1.1 billion girls.
 - Since 2012, 11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl.

6. Global Hunger Index

- Global Hunger Index for the year 2017 has been released.
- The report is released by Washington-based **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.
- **Performance of India:**
 - India has a **"serious" hunger problem** and ranks **100th out of 119 countries** on the global hunger index. India stood at 97th position in 2016 rankings.
 - The country's serious hunger level is driven by **high child malnutrition** and underlines need for stronger commitment to the social sector.
 - However, India has made considerable improvement in reducing its child stunting rate, down 29% since 2000, but even that progress leaves India with a relatively high stunting rate of 38.4.
- **India's relative performance:**
 - **India ranks below many of its neighbouring countries** such as China (29th rank), Nepal (72), Myanmar (77), Sri Lank (84) and Bangladesh (88). It is ahead of Pakistan (106) and Afghanistan (107).
- The **Central African Republic (CAR)** has the highest GHI score and has been categorised as **"extremely alarming"**.

7. International Literacy Day – 2017

- The **51st International Literacy Day** was celebrated on 8th September, 2017 and the **theme was 'Literacy in a digital world'**.
- On this day, in the year 1965 the **World Congress of Ministers of Education** met in Tehran for the first time to discuss the programme of education at the international level.
- The **UNESCO in its 14th Session** in 1966, declared 8th September as the

International Literacy Day.

- Since then, ILD is celebrated on 8th September every year by most of the member countries.
- ILD is a forum to disseminate information on literacy and raise the public awareness and the significance of literacy for individual and national development.

8. National Nutrition Week

- The National Nutrition Week was observed throughout the country from 1st to 7th September.
- **Theme:** The theme of the National Nutrition Week for 2017 was “**Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health**”.
- **Objective:** The basic objective of this annual event is to **intensify awareness generation** on the **importance of nutrition for health** which has an impact on development, productivity, economic growth and ultimately National development.
- During the week, the **Food and Nutrition Board of Ministry of Women & Child Development** coordinate with concerned Department of the State/UT Governments, National Institutions, NGOs and organize State/UT Level Workshops, Orientation Training of Fields Functionaries, Awareness Generation Camps, Community meetings during the week on the specified theme.
- **Significance of right nutrition:**
 - Child born underweight have **impaired immune function** and **increased risk of diseases** such as diabetes and heart diseases in their later life.
 - Malnourished children **tend to have lower IQ and impaired cognitive ability**, thus affecting their school performance and then productivity in their later life.

9. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Conference 2017

- The **Bengaluru Declaration** was adopted by the Karnataka State government sponsored **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Conference 2017**.
- The theme of the conference: “**Quest for Equity**”.
- Bengaluru Declaration calls for SC/ST quota in judiciary.
- The declaration recommends a slew of **affirmative action measures** in private sector, judiciary, educational institutions, government contracts and promotions for Dalits.
- The declaration has 40 recommendations under **six broad categories** — *safeguarding the people, strengthening democratic institutions, deepening social justice, enhancing human development, ensuring responsive governance, and promoting social security*.
- Similar Declaration was adopted by Madhya Pradesh in 2002. The **Bhopal Declaration** that called for “**liberalisation of capital for Dalits**” was adopted in 2002.

10. “Healthy States, Progressive India” Report

- **NITI Aayog** has released a comprehensive Health Index report titled, “Healthy States, Progressive India”.
- The report has been developed by **NITI Aayog**, with technical assistance from the **World Bank**, and in consultation with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- The **report ranks states and Union territories** innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.
- It is the first attempt to establish an annual systematic tool to measure and understand the heterogeneity and complexity of the **nation’s performance in Health**.
- **Background:**
 - States and UTs have been ranked in **three categories** namely, **Larger States, Smaller States, and Union Territories (UTs)**.
 - The Health Index is a weighted composite Index, which for the larger States, is based on indicators in three domains:
 - Health Outcomes (70%);
 - Governance and Information (12%); and
 - Key Inputs and Processes (18%),
 - Health Index has been developed as a tool to leverage co-operative and competitive federalism to accelerate the pace of achieving health outcomes.
 - With the annual publication of the Index and its availability on public domain on a dynamic basis, it is expected to keep every stakeholder alert to the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal number 3**.
- **Performance of states:**
 - Among the Larger States, Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance, while Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh are the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance.
 - Among Smaller States, Mizoram ranked first followed by Manipur on overall performance, while Manipur followed by Goa were the top ranked States in terms of annual incremental performance.

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11. International Women’s Day 2018

- International Women’s Day is being celebrated on **March 8** across the world.
- It is an annual marker that aims to bring **attention to women’s accomplishments and obstacles**.
- The theme for International Women’s Day 2018 is ‘**Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives**’.
- The theme aims to encourage women to raise voice for their rights and promote growing global movement to support gender parity.
- The first Women’s Day was celebrated on February 28, 1909, in New York by the Socialist Party of America.
- **In 1975, the United Nations declared March 8 as the official date to**

celebrate Women's Day.

12. Women Entrepreneurship Platform

- **NITI Aayog** has launched the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to **realize their entrepreneurial aspirations**, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.
- This will be done through an enabling network of industry collaborations, partnerships, mentors and peer-to-peer connect.
- From providing unique services such as credit evaluation of women-led startups by CRISIL and potential equity investments through an INR 10 crore fund established by DICE Districts, the WEP opens up avenues of growth and opportunity for women entrepreneurs.

13. Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017

- Nari Shakti Puraskars 2017 were presented to 30 women by the President on the eve of **International Women's Day**.
- 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.
- The Nari Shakti Puraskar carries a cash award of Rs.1 Lakh and a **certificate for individuals and institutions**.

14. Swachh Shakti 2018

- The **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**, in association with the **Government of Uttar Pradesh**, organized a **Women's Convention called Swachh Shakti 2018** on the occasion of International Women's Day, at Lucknow.
- 8000 women sarpanches, 3000 women Swachhagrahis and women champions from other walks of life from across the country were recognised for their **outstanding contribution towards making a Swachh Bharat**.

15. Annual Survey of India's City-Systems

- The **fifth edition of the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS)** by **Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy** has been released.
- The objective of the survey was to **measure the preparedness of cities to deliver high quality infrastructure** and services in the long term by evaluating "city systems".

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- The survey spans 23 Indian cities and factors in answers to 89 questions.
- The cities were scored based on the quality of laws, policies, institutions and institutional processes that together help govern them.
- **ASICS groups questions into four categories:** urban planning & design; urban capacities & resources; transparency, accountability & participation; and empowered & legitimate political representation.
- Pune, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram top the country in terms of urban governance.



16. Rare Disease Day

- **28 February 2018** was the eleventh international Rare Disease Day coordinated by **European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)**.
- In 2018 the theme is Research. **Research is key.**
- **Rare disease:**
 - A rare disease, also referred to as an orphan disease, is any **disease that affects a small percentage of the population.**
 - Most rare diseases are **genetic**, and are present throughout a person's entire life, even if symptoms do not immediately appear.
 - In Europe a disease or disorder is defined as rare when it affects less than 1 in 2000 citizens.
 - Rare diseases are characterised by a wide diversity of symptoms and signs that vary not only from disease to disease but also from patient to patient suffering from the same disease. Relatively common symptoms can hide underlying rare diseases, leading to misdiagnosis.
- **Rare Disease Day:**
 - Rare Disease Day takes place on the last day of February each year. The main objective of Rare Disease Day is to **raise awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers** about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives.
- Building awareness of rare diseases is so important because 1 in 20 people will live with a rare disease at some point in their life.

17. World Happiness Index

- The **World Happiness Report 2018** ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels.
- The rankings are based on the pooled results from Gallup World Poll surveys from 2015-2017, as well as parameters such as inequality, life expectancy, GDP per capita, social freedom, generosity, public trust (i.e. a lack of corruption in government and business) and social support.
- The World Happiness Report is published by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.
- **The 2018 report, for the first time ranked happiness of foreign-born immigrants in 117 countries.**
- The main focus of this year's report, in addition to its usual ranking of the levels and changes in happiness around the world, is ***on migration within and between countries***.
- **India ranked 133rd**, from 122nd in 2017
- India was behind majority of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations apart from Afghanistan.

TOP 10	COUNTRY
1	Finland
2	Norway
3	Denmark
4	Iceland
5	Switzerland
6	Netherlands
7	Canada
8	New Zealand
9	Sweden
10	Australia

18. India Pharma 2018 and India Medical Device 2018

- India's biggest Annual Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices – India Pharma 2018 and India Medical Device 2018 – was held at Bengaluru.
- The event was organized by **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, in collaboration with **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- **Theme of the event:** Themed around 'Affordable, Quality Healthcare'.

19. The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2017

- The report is jointly prepared by **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO), **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, **World Food Programme (WFP)**, **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- 2017 edition of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* marks the **beginning of a new era in monitoring the progress made towards achieving a world without hunger and malnutrition**, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Specifically, the report will henceforth monitor progress towards both the targets of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG target 2.2).
- It will also include thematic analyses of how food security and nutrition are related to progress on other SDG targets.

Government / Private Initiatives

NOTES

1. electronic - Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)

- The government has launched **electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) for central government employees.**
- It is an online platform for central government employees to apply for leave and access their service-related information.
- With launch of e-HRMS, employees will be able to not only see all their details with respect to service book, leave, GPF, salary, etc. but also apply for different kind of claims/reimbursements, loan/advances, leave, leave encashment, LTC advances, tour etc. on a single platform. They will also be able to track status and match details instantly.
- Availability of centralized data will **enable Government for policy research and planning.**
- It will enable Government to take transfer and posting decisions more pragmatically based on reliable first hand data.

2. Facebook brings in disaster response tools to India

- **Facebook has partnered with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and a non-profit body, SEEDS in India, to offer tools to these agencies to help them respond more effectively to natural disasters.**
- Facebook will offer '**disaster maps data**' that illustrate aspects like people's movement and concentration of Facebook users in the given area before and after a calamity.
- The programme will be piloted in two disaster-prone States — **Assam and Uttarakhand.**
- **How will this help in disaster management?**
 - The intention of introducing these initiatives is to help **improve response efforts to natural disasters** in India.
 - Traditional communication channels are often offline and it can take significant time and resources to understand where help is desperately needed.
 - In case there is an area which has a high concentration of Facebook users that suddenly goes offline, even that data insight can be used to rush services to the area.
- **Disaster maps:**
 - Disaster Maps was recently introduced globally and uses aggregated location information that users have chosen to share with Facebook.
 - These tools have been deployed in Peru and the US.
- **Other initiatives by Facebook:**
 - Facebook already has a **safety check feature** that allows users to notify their friends and family that they are safe.
 - '**India Disaster Response Summit**', was organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook, on how best to leverage social media platforms to 'prepare, respond and recover' for, during and after a disaster.
 - It is also supporting the pilot of the **Aapda Samachar Karyakarta-**

Disaster Information Volunteers (ASK-DIV) scheme where a network of trained volunteers provides supplementary information to inform government relief efforts through the Facebook Workplace platform.

3. 'SheMeansBusiness' programme

- Odisha government has launched '**She Means Business**' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs.
- Odisha **government's partnership with Facebook** aimed to **reduce the digital divide** and empower nearly 25,000 women entrepreneurs and SHGs.
- Under the scheme 25,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given **training on digital marketing skills** within by the end of 2018.
- Facebook will also make a database of entrepreneurs in the state and will monitor their growth, turnover and profit after the training. While success stories among them will be highlighted to inspire others.
- The programme has been launched in 16 countries around the world including India.
- It is designed to reach out to aspiring and established women entrepreneurs to help them build and grow their business online.

4. IndiaRAP programme

- **India Road Assessment Programme (IndiaRAP)** was unveiled by Global Charity to **rate highways' safety levels** and to eliminate the most unsafe roads.
- The IndiaRAP programme is being **supported by FedEx Express** and will be **hosted by the Asian Institute of Transport Development**, and will work with government agencies as well as investors, researchers and NGOs to assess existing highways and promote the use of better design to make roads safer.
- **The ratings are assigned** on the basis of the level of safety which is 'built-in' to a road for vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Five-star roads are the safest while one-star roads are the least safe.

5. SIDBI revamps portal for easy credit access

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has revamped its portal **www.udyamimitra.in** with enhanced features to provide **easy access to credit** and hand-holding services for **micro small medium enterprises (MSME)**.
- The portal brings **transparency and competition** among lenders.
- It removes the need to approach several banks individually.
- The portal is mobile-enabled and provides a self-assessment module.
- It sends various information on registered MSMEs from time to time.
- It also allows loan applications to be perused and picked up by multiple lenders.
- **SIDBI:**
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), set up on April 2, 1990 under an **Act of Parliament**, acts as the **Principal Financial Institution for the Promotion, Financing and Development of the**

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector.

- SIDBI aims to facilitate and strengthen credit flow to MSMEs and **address both financial and developmental gaps in MSME** eco-system across the country.
- Currently, the shares of SIDBI (as on February 01, 2018) are held by the Government of India and 29 other institutions / public sector banks / insurance companies owned / controlled by the Central Government.

6. Two new contraceptives launched by Health Ministry to aid family planning

- In a bid to keep a check on the increasing population in the country, The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched **two new contraceptives- MPA and Chhaya**.
- The two new contraceptives are **an injectable contraceptive MPA under the 'Antara' programme and a contraceptive pill, 'Chhaya'**.
- The contraceptives are being launched under **the government's Mission Parivar Vikas, a central family planning initiative**.
- The contraceptives are safe and highly effective, the 'Antara' injectable being effective for three months and the 'Chhaya' pill for one week.
- The contraceptives will be available for free in **Medical Colleges and District Hospitals** at present.
- **Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS):**
 - To help **improve the supply and distribution of contraceptives**, the Ministry had recently launched a **new software**, FP-LMIS, designed to provide robust information on the demand and distribution of contraceptives to health facilities and ASHAs.
- **About Mission Parivar Vikas:**
 - The main objective of the Mission Parivar Vikas **family planning initiative is to bring down the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1**, which is when the population starts stabilizing, by the year 2025.
 - The mission is being implemented in **146 high focus districts** that house 44% of the country's population, with the highest total fertility rates of 3 and more in the country.
 - The high focus districts are in the seven states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Assam.
 - The key strategic **focus of this initiative will be on improving access to contraceptives** through delivering assured services, dovetailing with new promotional schemes, ensuring commodity security, building capacity (service providers), creating an enabling environment along with close monitoring and implementation.

7. Review of FSI/FAR norms in mega cities

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MHUA) has ordered **the review of Floor Space Index (FSI) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) norms in mega cities** of the country.
- The time bound review of these norms will be taken up in all the 53 cities with

a population of one million and above each.

- A similar review for State Capitals with less than million population will also be taken up each in due course.
- **What is FSI?**
 - FSI is *the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the piece of the land on which it is built*.
 - In Indian cities, it is generally about 1.50, which is said to be on the lower side given the needs of rapid urbanization.
 - NITI Ayog in their report noted that a comparison of Mumbai and Shanghai illustrates the deleterious effects of restrictive FSI.

8. National strategic plan for malaria elimination

- The **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Malaria Elimination (2017-22)** has been launched.
- The government has set **malaria elimination deadline as 2027** and urged the states for active cooperation. It gives strategies for working towards the ultimate goal of elimination of malaria by 2030.
- The NSP, a year-wise roadmap for malaria elimination across the country, is based on 2016 **National Framework for Malaria Elimination**, which was, in turn, spurred by World Health Organisation's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030.
- The NSP **divides the country into four categories**, from 0 to 3.
 - **Category 0** has 75 districts that have not reported any case of malaria for the last three years.
 - **Category 1** has 448 districts, in which the annual parasite incidence (API, or the number of positive slides for the parasite in a year) is less than one per 1,000 population.
 - In **Category 2**, which has 48 districts, the API is one and above, but less than two per 1,000 population.
 - **Category 3** has 107 districts, reporting an API of two and above per 1,000 population.
- The plan is **to eliminate malaria (zero indigenous cases) by 2022 in all Category 1 and 2 districts**. The remaining districts are to be brought under a pre-elimination and elimination programme by 2022.
- The NSP also **aims to maintain a malaria-free status for areas where transmission has been interrupted**.
- It seeks to achieve universal case detection and treatment services in endemic districts to ensure 100% diagnosis of all suspected cases, and full treatment of all confirmed cases.
- **Components of the plan:**
 - The plan has **four components, based on WHO recommendations**:
 - Diagnosis and case management;
 - Surveillance and epidemic response;
 - Prevention — integrated vector management;
 - 'Cross-cutting' interventions, which include advocacy, communication, research and development, and other initiatives.

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- **Funding:**
 - The resources required for the elimination of malaria will be managed from **government sources, international donors**, and the corporate sector as part of **corporate social responsibility (CSR)**.
- **Significance:**
 - This is for the first time, the Union Health Ministry has come up with a roadmap for elimination of malaria in the country.
 - Prior to it the effort was to control malaria under the **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDC)**.
- **Background:**
 - Malaria is a vector borne disease caused by parasitic protozoans belonging to the Plasmodium type.
 - It is most commonly transmitted by an infected female Anopheles mosquito.
 - In India, malaria is caused by the **parasites Plasmodium falciparum (Pf) and Plasmodium Vivax (Pv)**.
 - Pf is found more in the forest areas, whereas Pv is more common in the plains.
 - The disease is mainly concentrated in the **tribal and remote areas** of the country.
 - The majority of reporting districts are in the country's eastern and central parts — Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and the North-eastern states of Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya.

9. Programme 17 for 17

- It is a **17 point action plan for 2017** – for **building digital campuses and high quality education**.
- The action plan covers measures like universal adoption of digital education, digital financial transactions in the campuses.
- It was adopted at the end of the **National Convention of Vice Chancellors of all Universities** in the Country, and Heads of IISc/IITs/IIMs/NITs/IITs.

10. India Health Fund

- The India Health Fund (IHF), an initiative by **Tata Trusts, in collaboration with the Global Fund** has come forward to **financially support** innovations and technologies designed to **combat tuberculosis and malaria**.
- The IHF aims to **support individuals and organisations** with already germinated innovative strategies, services, products, such that they become sustainable and scalable solutions in addressing TB and malaria.
- The initiative is not a fellowship programme to do research from scratch.
- It is long-term exercise aligned with country's goal of eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030.
- **India Health Fund:**
 - The India Health Fund is a lead initiative of Tata Trusts, with technical support from the Global Fund.
 - It is designed to not only influence **philanthropic capital** within India, but also serve as a trusted mechanism to generate significant impact

in **addressing key health challenges** in the country – starting with malaria and tuberculosis.

NOTES

11. Watan ko Jano

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** had recently organized the programme “Watan Ko Jano”.
- “Watan Ko Jano” is sponsored jointly by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (Kashmir Cell) and **State Rehabilitation Council Social Welfare Department**.
- The programme aims to give **exposure to the youth and children of Jammu and Kashmir** about the **cultural and socio-economic development taking place in other parts of the country**.
- Youth and children hit by militancy and from weaker sections of the society have been identified for the purpose.

12. Northeast Venture Fund

- In a bid to **make northeast a favourite destination for young Startups**, the government has invited young start-ups to avail the benefits of Northeast Venture Fund.
- The **Ministry of DoNER** had rolled out “Venture Fund” for anybody who wishes to Startup in the Northeast region, which would provide a huge financial relief particularly to young entrepreneurs.
- Northeast Venture Fund is the first dedicated venture capital fund for North-Eastern region.
- It has been set up by **North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi)**, which already has the mandate to encourage entrepreneurship in the region, primarily by offering support to the first-generation entrepreneurs.
- In addition, the NEDFi also performs the role of hand-holding and capacity building.

13. NITI Forum for Northeast

- The Union Government has issued order setting up the ‘Niti Forum for North-East’.
- The forum will be **co-chaired by the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER)**.
- The forum will have its **Secretariat in the Ministry of DoNER**.
- The NITI Forum for Northeast is tasked to **identify various constraints** on the way of accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the North East Region of the country and to **recommend suitable interventions** for addressing identified constraints.
- It will also **review the development status** in the NER.
- **Members of the Forum** will include Secretaries of Ministries of Road Transport & Highways, Railways, Power, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, New & Renewable Energy, Health & Family Welfare, Human Resource Development, Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

- **Chief Secretaries of North-eastern states** of Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram will also be **members of the Forum.**

14. **'WomenInTech' forum**

- **RBS India in association with prominent technology corporates**, Academia and government participation has setup an exclusive platform **'Women In Tech'** for encouraging more women to **take up careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).**
- WomenInTech has been conceived in association with a number of technology corporates, academia and NGOs.
- The forum has been designed "to help accelerate the national agenda of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and further to work in alignment with the UN's focus area— 'Turning promises into action'.
- One of its initiatives is to build an independent corpus of funds, in collaboration with education NGOs, to sponsor the tertiary education of at least three young women to begin with from economically weak backgrounds in the field of engineering to top universities in the United States and United Kingdom.

15. **Social security scheme**

- The **labour ministry has proposed a comprehensive social security system** to provide **retirement, health, oldage, disability, unemployment and maternity benefits to 50 crore workers** in the country.
- The scheme will be implemented in **three phases over 10 years**, after which the government hopes to make it universal.
- The scheme will be implemented in **four tiers** with the **government wholly financing the cost for people below the poverty line.**
- **Funding:**
 - The scheme will be largely funded from the **Building and Construction Worker Cess** and funds allocated to other scattered schemes through the National Stabilisation Fund set up for the purpose.
 - Its implementation would be regulated and monitored by an overarching regulatory body called the **National Social Security Council to be chaired by the prime minister** with finance minister, health minister and chief ministers of all states along with workers and employers as its members.
- **The 50 crore beneficiaries will be classified into four tiers:**
 - The first tier will comprise destitute and people below poverty line who cannot contribute for their security and hence the cost will be entirely borne by the government under tax-based schemes.
 - Workers in the unorganised sector who have some contributory power but are not self-sufficient may be covered under the subsidised schemes in the second tier.
 - The third tier of beneficiaries will include those who either by themselves or jointly with their employers can make adequate contribution to the schemes, so as to be self-sufficient.

- The fourth tier will comprise comparatively affluent people who can make their own provisions for meeting the contingencies or risks as they rise.

16.Udyam Sakhi Portal

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME)** has launched a **portal for women entrepreneurs** of India.
- The portal is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services in order to **empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient**.
- The portal provides assistance through its platform for entrepreneurship learning tools, incubation facility, training programs for fund raising, providing mentors, one-on-one investor meet, provide market survey facility and technical assistance.

17.Suvidha

- The **Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** has launched '**Suvidha**', a **100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin**, under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.
- The affordable sanitary napkin will be available for Rs. 2.50 per pad at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India.
- It would ensure '**Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha**' for the underprivileged Women of India.
- It was launched under government's vision of providing **Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana:**
 - Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
 - PMBJP stores have been set up to **provide generic drugs**, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
 - It was launched in November 2008 under the name **Jan Aushadi Campaign**.
 - **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

18.Nirbhaya Fund

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** has approved projects worth Rs 2,919 crore under Nirbhaya Fund for **creating eight safe cities**.
- They are Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Lucknow.
- The projects for safe cities will have **special focus on women safety** in public spaces and **quick response systems** to create deterrence against crime.
- The Nirbhaya fund is created by **Ministry of Finance in 2013**.
- It is a **non-lapsable** corpus fund.

- The Fund is administered by **Department of Economic Affairs** of the finance ministry.
- It dedicated for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the **safety and security** for women in the country.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, along with several other concerned ministries, will work out details of the structure, scope and the application of this fund.

19. Stree Swabhiman Initiative

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY)** has launched **Stree Swabhiman Initiative**.
- Its aim is to create sustainable model for **providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.
- Under the 'Stree Swabhiman' project, **sanitary napkin micro manufacturing units are being set up** at CSCs across India, particularly those operated by women entrepreneurs.
- The initiative is driven by awareness and personalised outreach by women entrepreneurs who produce and market sanitary napkins themselves.
- These micro manufacturing units will be operated by women entrepreneurs and generate employment for 8-10 women.
- **CSCs:**
 - Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the **Digital India programme**.
 - They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

20. Ayushman Bharat

- The Government has announced two major initiatives in **health sector**, as part of Ayushman Bharat programme.
- These two health sector initiatives under Ayushman Bharat Programme will build a New India 2022 and ensure enhanced productivity, well being and avert wage loss and impoverishment.
- **Health and Wellness Centre:**
 - The **National Health Policy, 2017** has envisioned **Health and Wellness Centres** as the foundation of India's health system.
 - Under this **1.5 lakh centres** will bring health care system closer to the homes of people.
 - These centres will provide comprehensive health care, including for **non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services**.
 - These centres will also provide **free essential drugs and diagnostic services**.
 - The Budget has allocated Rs.1200 crore for this flagship programme.
 - Contribution of private sector through **CSR and philanthropic institutions** in adopting these centres is also envisaged.
- **National Health Protection Scheme:**

- The second flagship programme under Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over **10 crore poor and vulnerable families** (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing **coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.**
- This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme.
- Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme.
- ***It will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes*** -Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
- At the national level to manage, a **National Health Protection Mission Agency (NHPMA)** would be put in place. States/ UTs would be advised to implement the scheme by a dedicated entity called **State Health Agency (SHA).**
- Benefits of the scheme are **portable across the country** and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take **cashless benefits** from any **public/private empanelled hospitals** across the country.

NOTES

Tribes

1. Khasis of Meghalaya

- The Khasi people are an **indigenous tribe**, the majority live in **Meghalaya**, with a significant population in **Assam**, and in certain parts of **Bangladesh**.
- They call themselves **Ki Khun U Hynñiewtrep**, which means "The Children of The Seven Huts" in their language.
- The Khasi people designed and built the famous living **root bridges of the Cherrapunjee region**.
- Under the *Constitution* of India, the *Khasis* have been granted the status of **Scheduled Tribe**.
- A unique feature of the Khasi people is that they follow the **matrilineal system of descent and inheritance**.

2. Apatani tribe

- The **Apatani, or Tanw**, are a tribal group of people living in the **Ziro valley in the Lower Subansiri district** of Arunachal Pradesh in India.
- Unlike the other tribes, they are **non-nomadic** in nature.
- They practice permanent **wetland cultivation** in hilly terrain by slicing the hills, whereas other tribes practice cultivation in dry land by cutting down forests.
- Their **wet rice cultivation** system and their agriculture system are extensive even without the use of any farm animals or machines.
- **UNESCO has proposed the Apatani valley for inclusion as a World Heritage Site** for its "extremely high productivity" and "unique" way of preserving the ecology.

3. Irulas

- Irulas reside in the **Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu** and are one of the oldest tribes in India.
- The term Irula means being **capable of finding one's path in dark forests**, according to an Irula myth.
- Irulas are recognised as the **Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) of Tamil Nadu**.
- They are known as the last "**forest scientists**" of the world, they have been snake catchers and rat catchers for generations.
- Irulas are also very knowledgeable about medicinal plants.

4. Koya Tribe

- **Koya** a scheduled tribal community habituated **southern part of India**.
- The Koya population is spread out in the states of Telengana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and in Lakshadweep islands.
- The Koya are mainly **settled cultivators** and artisans, expertise in making bamboo furniture.
- Koyas speaks **Koya language**, also known as koya basha, and is a **member of the Dravidian language family**.

5. Reang Tribe

- **Reang** are one of the scheduled tribes of the Indian state of **Tripura**.
- The correct nomenclature for this ethnic group is actually **Bru**.
- They may also be found in Mizoram, Assam, Manipur and Bangladesh.
- They speak the Reang dialect of Kokborok language which is of Tibeto-Burmese origin and is locally referred to as **Kau Bru**.
- The Reangs are primarily an **agrarian tribe**.
- The **Hojagiri folk dance** of Riang sub tribe is rather well known all over the world.

6. Soliga

- They inhabit the **Biligiriranga Hills and associated ranges** in southern Karnataka and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu.
- The Soliga speak **Sholaga**, which belongs to the Dravidian family.
- Soligas - whose name means **Children of the Bamboo** - live off forest produce like honey, berries and timber.

State	Tribes
Andhra Pradesh	Bhil, Chenchus (Chenchawar), Gadabas, Gond, Jatapus, Kammara, Kattunayakan, Konda, Dhulia, Thoti, Sugalis.
Arunachal Pradesh	Abors, Aptanis, Dafla, Galong, Momba, Singpho.
Assam	Chakma, Chutiya, Dimasa, Hajong, Garos, Khasis, Gangte, Mikirs.
Andaman and Nicobar	Oraons, Onges, Sentinelese, Shompens, Jarawa, Andamanese, Nicobarese.
Bihar	Baiga, Birhor, Chero, Gond, Santhals, Mundas, Oarons (also called Kurukh)
Himachal Pradesh	Gujjars, Gaddis, Bhot
Jammu and Kashmir	Bakarwal, Gaddi, Mon.
Jharkhand	Birhors, Gonds, Mundas, Santhals.
Karnataka	Barda, Gond, Bhil, Iruliga, Koraga, Hakkipikki, Jenu Kuruba, Yerava.
Kerala	Adiyan, Eravallan, Kurumbas, Moplahs, Uralis.
Madhya Pradesh	Baigas, Bhils, Bharia, Birhors, Gonds, Khond, Kol, Murias.
Maharashtra	Bhils, Bhaina, Bhunjia, Dhodia, Khond, Rathawa, Warlis
Manipur	Angami, Chiru, Kuki, Monsang, Thadou.
Meghalaya	Chakma, Garos, Hajong, Jaintias Khasis, Pawai.
Mizoram	Chakma, Dimasa, Khasi, Kuki, Lushais, Synteng.
Nagaland	Angami, Garo, Kuki, Mikir, Nagas.
Odisha	Gadaba, Gonds, Mundas, Oraons, Santhals, Chenchus
Rajasthan	Bhils, Damaria
Sikkim	Bhutia, Khas, Lepchas.
Tamil Nadu	Irular, Kadar, Kotas, Todas.
Telangana	Chenchus.
Tripura	Bhil, Bhutia, Chakma, Khasia, Lushai.

Uttarakhand	Bhotias, Buksa, Khas.
Uttar Pradesh	Bhotia, Buksa, Kol.
West Bengal	Khond, Hajong, Ho, Santhals, Mundas, Oarons (also called Kurukh)

Miscellaneous

NOTES

1. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

- ICRISAT is a **non-profit agricultural research organization** headquartered in Patancheru in Hyderabad.
- It has several regional centres around globe.
- It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organizations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller Foundations.
- **Its charter was signed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**
- The original goal was to use **crop improvement research** as the basis to improve food availability in drought-prone areas of the tropics.
- ICRISAT performs crop improvement research, using conventional as well as methods derived from biotechnology, on the following crops: Chickpea, Pigeonpea, Groundnut, Pearl millet, Sorghum, Finger Millet and Small millets.
- Since its inception, **India has granted special status to ICRISAT** as a UN Organization operating in the Indian Territory making it eligible for special immunities and tax privileges.

2. National Medical and wellness Tourism Board

- The National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board was constituted under the Chairmanship of the **Minister for Tourism** in October 2015 to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward Medical Tourism and position India as competent and credible medical and well tourism destination.

3. Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy

- **Wipro Chairman Azim Premji** is among the recipients of **2017 Carnegie Medal**, considered the most prestigious prize in **philanthropy**, for his efforts to reform India's public school system.
- Premji is among the nine recipients recognised "for their outstanding and innovative leadership in philanthropy".
- The Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy is a private award for philanthropy established in 2001 and is awarded every two years.