



HYPERLOOP 2018

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSOLIDATED PRELIMS CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1. POVERTY AND RELATED

1.1 Poverty status in India

India extricated 120 million people from extreme poverty between 1990 and 2013. However, this process was relatively slow.

Methods adopted:

- State-sponsored anti-poverty and social protection schemes
- Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) etc.

Way forward

- Need good social infrastructure to provide quality education, health and nutrition, across the board.
- The objective is to alleviate current poverty while simultaneously seeking to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty by encouraging investment in the human capital of poor children.

1.2 National Nutrition Strategy

NITI Aayog has drafted the National Nutrition Strategy.

- The nutrition strategy envisages a framework wherein the four proximate determinants of nutrition – uptake of health services, food, drinking water & sanitation and income & livelihoods – work together to accelerate decline of under nutrition in India.
- Currently, there is also a lack of real time measurement of these determinants, which reduces our capacity for targeted action among the most vulnerable mothers and children.

The Nutrition Strategy framework envisages a Kuposhan Mukh Bharat - linked to Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat. The aim is to ensure that States create customized State/ District Action Plans to address local needs and challenges.

1.3 Inclusive Development

- Financial Inclusion of the Poor: Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana.
- Expansion of Social Security Net through Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (Accident Insurance), Atal Pension Yojana (Unorganized Sector) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (Life Insurance)
- **Stand up India** - To boost the spirit of entrepreneurship among the Scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and women
- **Panchtirth** - 5 key places related with Babasaheb Ambedkar declared as Panchtirth

- **Schemes for farmers and farm labourers:** Jan Dhan, life and crop insurance and village irrigation schemes.
- **Subsidies:** Subsidized cooking gas, construction of toilets and priority lighting of rural households
- **Employment related schemes:** Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India, Skilled India

1.4 Global Human Capital Index

The Global Human Capital Index for the year 2017 has been released by World Economic Forum.

Performance of India:

- India has been placed at a low 103 rank, the lowest among BRICS economies and Norway topped the list.
- India is held back by a number of factors, including low educational attainment and low deployment of its human capital, meaning the skills available are not getting put to good use.



The GHCI measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth against four key areas of human capital development, Capacity (determined by past investment in formal education), Deployment (accumulation of skills through work), Development (reskilling and continued up skilling of existing workers) and know-how (specialized skills-use at work)

1.5 Economics of Social Business

Low-income people in the world's richest nations were suffering from the same problems the poor faced in poorer nations:

- Lack of institutional services, health care, inadequate education, substandard housing, and so forth.

Economics of social business

- Elimination of poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation etc. comes under this
- Social business offers advantages that are available neither to profit-maximizing companies nor to traditional charities

1.6 Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 data application

The government plans to use the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 data to identify individual beneficiaries for all its schemes. It is as per the recommendations of Sumit Bose committee

SECC data

- Provides for automatic exclusion on the basis of 14 parameters, automatic inclusion on the basis of five parameters
- Grades deprivation on the basis of seven criteria.
- According to SECC data, more than 62% of rural households are 'deprived'.

Programs that adopted above SECC data are

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: owes much of its success to SECC to accurately identify the households in need of an LPG connection

PM Awas Yojana: financial assistance to the poor

Deendayal Upadhyaya Power Scheme: electricity connection to the poor

Swachh Bharat Mission: for building toilets for the poor

Rural Employment Guarantee Act: to prepare Labor Budgets

How SECC is better than Poverty line method?

- While poverty line method identifies the poor, SECC identifies who actually are the poor.
- It will even help in fine tuning the beneficiaries list by excluding undeserving candidates thus subsidies can be delivered for needy and deserved people

1.7 Universal Basic Income

In its 'Fiscal Monitor – Tackling Inequality', the International Monetary Fund has discussed UBI, the Universal Basic Income.

IMF's observations:

- IMF estimates India could provide a universal basic income (UBI) of Rs 2,600 a year to every person, if it eliminates food and energy subsidies.
- It will address the under coverage of the near 20% lower income groups in the Public Distribution System
- Even such a modest level of UBI will incur a fiscal cost of about 3% of GDP, but would outperform the public food distribution and fuel subsidies

About UBI:

A basic income is an income unconditionally granted to all, on an individual basis, without means of test or work requirement.

1.8 Global Hunger Index

India stood a poor 100th among 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

- India's score on the index calculated was 31.4, worse than countries like North Korea and Iraq.
- It was one of the worst performers in Asia, better than only two other countries Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- While the rate of child stunting has reduced
- India was placed in the "serious" category

The GHI ranks countries based on four key indicators:

- Undernourishment
- Child mortality
- Child wasting
- Child stunting.

1.9 Universal social security plan

Government has drafted a plan to provide universal social security coverage for the poorest people of the country.

About the scheme:

- This broader programme envisages three categories
 - the poorest 20%, who will get a government payout;
 - those who subscribe on their own and
 - Formal sector workers who will need to set aside a fixed proportion of income toward the scheme.

The scheme will have two tiers.

1. Comprises mandatory pension, insurance (both death and disability) and maternity coverage and
2. The second, optional medical, sickness and unemployment coverage.

1.10 Therapeutic food

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) issued a notification to states and Union Territories at the end of August, clarifying that "use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for management of malnutrition is not an accepted policy of the Government of India.

Background

- National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) found 35.7% children aged less than five years were underweight, and 38.4% were stunted.

Concept of therapeutic food

- Referred to as energy dense nutritious food (EDNF).
- It is a medical intervention to improve the nutrition intake of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- Packaged paste of peanuts, oil, sugar, vitamins, milk powder and mineral supplements, which contains 520-550 kilocalories of energy per 100g.
- The paste is given to children aged between six months and six years, usually after a doctor's prescription.
- A child can be given three packets daily for a month.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supports community-based management along with RUTF

Indian government view

- Assessment of the benefits of RUTF had found that therapeutic food was only temporarily helpful in nutritional rehabilitation.
- There is no large scale study of post-RUTF treated children in India so far.
- May replace nutritional best practices and family foods that children would normally be eating, impacting negatively on continued breastfeeding in children older than six month.

Handholding of families of SAM children is essential for optimal child care practices, along with adequate hygiene and sanitation.

1.11 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Group (the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Middle Income Group (MIG)) under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) since 1.01.2017.

Pradhan mantri awas yojana enables poor people availing housing loans and a new interest subsidy scheme for housing loans for the Middle Income Group (MIG).

To further enhance the scope, coverage and outreach of the Scheme, the Cabinet has approved the following:

- Increasing the carpet area in the MIG I category of the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) from the existing 90 square metre to “up to 120 square metre and
- Increasing the carpet area in respect of MIG II category of CLSS from the existing 110 square metre to “up to 150 square meter”;

The CLSS for MIG covers two income segments in the MIG

1. MIG-1 Rs.6,00,001 to Rs.12,00,000 (MIG-I) per annum,
2. MIG-2 Rs.12,00,001 to Rs.18,00,000 (MIG-II) per annum.

The CLSS for MIG is currently effective up to 31.03.2019.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 Higher Education Financing Agency

It is to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions.

- The HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter).
- It would leverage the equity to rise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.
- The HEFA would finance the civil and lab infrastructure projects through a 10-year loan.
- All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible for joining as members of the HEFA.

2.2 School Education Quality Index (SEQI)

- The SEQI is a composite index that will report annual improvements of States on key domains of education quality, conceptualized and designed by NITI Aayog and the MHRD.
- The larger vision of the index is to shift the focus of States from inputs towards outcomes, provide objective benchmarks for continuous annual improvements, encourage state-led innovations to improve quality and facilitate sharing of best practices.

In order to precisely report the quality of education imparted across India, the SEQI is divided into two categories:

- Outcomes and Governance & Management.

- These are further divided into three domains of Outcomes (Learning, Access and Equity) and two domains of Governance & Management (Governance Processes and Structural Reforms).

Currently the index has 34 indicators and 1000 points, with the highest weightage given to learning outcomes (600 out of 1000 points).

2.3 Correspondence Engineering Degree invalidated by SC

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) did not approve distance learning programmes in engineering studies and the approval granted by the Distance Education Council (DEC) for such courses is illegal.

- The apex court directed the Centre to create an oversight mechanism to regulate deemed universities, saying that UGC completely failed to curb the commercialisation of education.
- It asked the government to review the deemed university status of various institutions
- The apex court restrained all deemed universities from offering correspondence courses without the approval of the AICTE and directed a CBI probe against officials who permitted the universities to run the programmes from 2001.

3. HEALTH AND DISEASE

3.1 National Health Policy, 2017

It aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.

Main Features:

- This Policy looks at problems and solutions holistically with private sector as strategic partners.
- It seeks to promote quality of care, focus is on emerging diseases and investment in promotive and preventive healthcare.
- The policy is patient centric and quality driven.
- It addresses health security and make in India for drugs and devices.

3.2 National Family Health Survey

- The indicator “Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age)” is one of the composite indicator for child malnutrition.

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16),

- 35.7 per cent children below five years are underweight, has reduced from 42.5%
- 38.4% are stunted and 21% are wasted in the country
- In the State of Madhya Pradesh 42.8% children below five years are underweight, 42% are stunted.

Steps taken to tackle malnutrition

- MAA (Mother's Absolute Affection) to promote exclusive breast feeding
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
- National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) for anaemia control among children

3.3 Childhood Obesity

What is Junk Food?

- Is a term used for food containing high levels of calories from sugar or fat with little fiber, protein, vitamins or minerals?
- These foods lead to a rapid increase in blood sugar levels (high glycemic index) which forces the body to produce high levels of insulin to counter the rising blood sugar.

Steps taken

- Ministry of Women and Child Development had constituted a Working Group on addressing consumption of foods High in Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) and promotion of healthy snacks in schools of India, which has given its report.
- ICMR, National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and other institutions carry out research and studies related to food and healthy diet.
- The consumers are made aware of food safety through consumer awareness programmes launched jointly by the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

3.4 India's infant mortality rate

The latest 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.

Highlights:

- IMR in rural India is 38 per 1000 live births as compared to 23 in the urban areas.
- What is more encouraging is that the gender gap in India for child survival is reducing steadily.

IMR

Infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age.

3.5 WHO new guidelines to manage obesity in children

There is increasing evidence that childhood obesity is a “global epidemic” affecting even the poorer nations

- India has the second highest number of obese children in the world after China
- The WHO guidelines provides updates for the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)

Recommendations:

- Providing counseling to parents and caregivers on nutrition and physical activity including promotion and support for exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months and continued breastfeeding until 24 months or beyond
- Health workers should assess children for overweight or obesity

3.6 Non-Communicable diseases

Non communicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviour factors.

- The main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes
- These diseases are driven by forces that include rapid unplanned urbanization, globalization of unhealthy lifestyles and population ageing.
- Unhealthy diets and a lack of physical activity may show up in people as raised blood pressure, increased blood glucose, elevated blood lipids and obesity.
- NCDs disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries

3.7 Vector borne diseases

What are vector borne diseases?

Disease that results from an infection transmitted to humans and other animals by blood-feeding arthropods, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas.

Arthropod vectors are cold-blooded (ectothermic) and thus sensitive to climatic factors and normally see a spike during the monsoon season

Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) or kala-azar

- Is endemic to districts spanning West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh in India also in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal
- India itself accounts for half the global burden of the disease.
- Caused by the **Leishmania donovani** parasite, harboured by an insect called the **sandfly**
- Disease is confined to humans
- India's National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) aims to eliminate the disease with funds from a World Bank-supported project
- 2016 was the first year that no **kala-azar** death was reported officially in India
- The 2015 elimination target was missed and postponed to September 2017

Treatment and Symptoms

- Resistance to the only drug (SSb injection) has led to frequent outbreaks and fatalities
- There are now two mainline drugs, **miltefosine** and **liposomal amphotericin B (LAmB)**
- A rapid diagnostic test, called **rK39** can indicate the presence of the parasite.
- The infection is painless and never known to trigger the fevers and pains typical of parasitical diseases, so normally goes untreated
- The blemished skin is the only sign of post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL)

Swine flu

- Is called H1N1 influenza
- spreads from human to human
- similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue
- It's called swine flu because in the past, the people who caught it had direct contact with pigs.

- Vaccine available to protect against swine flu

Symptoms:

- Cough, Fever, Sore throat, Headache, Fatigue

3.8 Measles-Rubella (MR) Campaign

- India, along with ten other WHO South East Asia Region member countries, has resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020.
- Vaccination campaign in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years is conducted in a phased manner across the nation
- MR vaccine will become a part of routine immunization and will replace the present measles vaccine

3.9 Antiviral drug for dengue

Scientists at the New Delhi-based International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) are in the final stages of developing a new antiviral that promises to tackle all the four types of dengue virus.

Key facts:

- Currently, there is just one vaccine available in the market
- The new drug has been validated in animals and is yet to be tested on humans
- The drug is the result of an exhaustive search of ayurvedic texts, triggered by a talk delivered by the former President of Indian National Science Academy, M S Valiathan
- Scientists at the New Delhi-based International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology have also developed a diagnostic kit, which can detect the infection right on day one

3.10 India's AMR (antimicrobial resistance) problem

India's antimicrobial resistance problem is expected to get much worse because,

- Consumption of antibiotics through animal sources is projected to nearly double
- The country has a huge unregulated livestock sector that freely uses these drugs which are easily accessible.
- Inadequate drug regulation in India is a serious threat to global efforts
- Illegal sale of FDC(fixed-dose combination) drugs

What are Fixed Dose Combination drug?

- A fixed-dose combination (FDC) drug includes two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) combined in a single dosage form, which is manufactured and distributed in fixed doses.
- Many of these fixed-dose combination (FDC) formulations have not been approved by India's drug regulator.

WHO warning

- Antibiotic resistance is a global crisis
- New antibiotics in development are not yet offering realistic prospects for treating the infections caused by resistant bacteria.
- This year, the WHO made a major revision to its list of essential medicines, classifying antibiotics into three categories
- First category 'key access group'- should be widely available
- Second group 'watch group' antibiotics- are recommended for specific infections. Bacteria tend to develop resistance easily to these drugs, so judicious use is needed.
- The final category, "reserve group" antibiotics, should only be used as a last resort when all alternatives have failed.

Status in India

- India is known as "the pharmacy of the world", due to its large pharmaceutical industry.
- Total antibiotic sales increased by 26% over five years.

3.11 Intensified Mission Indradhanush

- Aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization

Mission Indradanush

- It aims to immunize all children under the age of 2 years, as well as all pregnant women, against seven vaccine preventable diseases.
- The diseases being targeted are Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Measles and Hepatitis B.
- In addition to these, vaccines for Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B are also being provided in selected states.
- In 2016, four new additions have been made namely Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis, Injectable Polio Vaccine Bivalent and Rotavirus

3.12 New Vaccine on way for Flu

Influenza or flu is a viral seasonal respiratory disease

- The new vaccine developed by Oxford University's Jenner Institute will target influenza viruses A, B and C.
- The new vaccine will stimulate the immune system to boost influenza-specific T-cells (the body's own immunity-building cells), instead of antibodies, that kill the virus as it tries to spread through the body.

3.13 Tobacco Consumption

- Nicotine does not directly cause cancers and other diseases that kill people, but is extremely addictive.

Regulation in India

- India follows WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control guidelines.
- Has banned tobacco advertisements, introduced pictorial warnings (covering 85% of the front and back of packages of tobacco products)
- Has prohibited the use of descriptors such as light, mild and low as well as the sale of flavoured cigarettes
- India is yet to prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

3.14 Awareness about Organ Donation

The President of India said that an estimated 500,000 people die every year in our country due to unavailability of organs that can be transplanted. Of them, 200,000 suffer from liver diseases and 50,000 from cardiovascular diseases. In addition, approximately 150,000 people await kidney transplantation.

Points about organ donation

- One organ donor can up donate up to twenty five different organs and tissues for transplantation. This can save up to nine lives!
- Almost anyone of nearly any age and average health can donate an organ. Anyone who has cancer, HIV or disease-causing bacteria in the bloodstream or body tissues is exempt from donation.

Living Donation: Living donation takes place when a living person donates an organ (or part of an organ) for transplantation to another person.

Deceased Cadaver Donation: The patient has to register in a hospital that does transplants. The patient will be put on a wait list. As and when the organ from an appropriate deceased donor (brain death) is available, the patient will be intimated.

What is India's legal position on Organ Donations?

Organ donations are legal by Indian law. The Indian government enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994, which allows organ donation, and legalized the concept of 'brain death'.

4. WOMEN AND CHILD RELATED**4.1 Women Related Issues****4.1.1 The Supreme Court bar instant Talaq**

- SC declared practice of instant triple talaq as unconstitutional
- Discriminatory practices does not deserve constitutional protection under Article 25 (Right to freedom of religion)
- The verdict does not address issues like polygamy, or other routes of divorces
- The government to bring legislation to govern marriage and divorce in the Muslim community.
- Most large Islamic nations that have already outlawed triple talaq, including Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Article 25

- Gives Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

Article 14

- Gives equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth

4.1.2 Liberalization impact on gender discrimination

Conventional wisdom would suggest that gender discrimination should have declined in India; However evidence suggests that India's economic liberalization has not reduced gender discrimination.

Work status of women:

- The concentration of female entrepreneurs in low-wage industries has grown over time.
- Female ownership shares are 2% or less in industries related to computers, motor vehicles, fabricated metal products, and machinery and equipment.

- Female ownership shares exceed 30% in industries related to sanitation and education.

Steps to be taken:

- Elimination of gender discrimination in access to bank loans, and increased voice and political representation.
- Simply put, empowering half of the potential workforce has significant economic benefits beyond promoting gender equality.

4.1.3 Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) Scheme

- Focus to promote self-employment for women SHGs (Self Help Groups) in non-farming sector
- There is provision for grant up to 30% of the loans

4.1.4 e-Shakti initiative of NABARD

Aims and Objectives:

- Digitization of all the SHG accounts
- Integrating SHG members with the national Financial Inclusion agenda
- Improving the quality of interface between SHG members and Banks for delivery of banking services
- Use Aadhaar linked identity.

4.1.5 Jan Sampark Programme

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) of the Ministry of Women & Child Development has started a monthly “Jan Sampark” program.

- It is to enable the public to have interaction with its officials and staff for seeking information related to Adoption as well as flagging their concerns.
- The event will now be a regular feature every month apart from the quarterly Facebook live chat by CEO CARA.

4.1.6 Global Gender Gap Index

INDIA has been ranked a low 108 out of 144 countries on the gender equality scale, slipping from 87 last year, according to the Global Gender Gap Index (2017) released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

DOWN FROM 87 TO 108									
Global Index		Economic Participation & Opportunity		Educational Attainment		Health and Survival		Political Empowerment	
2017*									
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
108	0.669	139	0.376	112	0.952	141	0.942	15	0.407
2016*									
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
87	0.683	136	0.408	113	0.950	142	0.942	9	0.433
<i>*Total 144 countries; highest score 1, lowest 0.</i>									

Highlights:

The top ranks continue to be held by the Nordic countries of Iceland, Norway and Finland, Bangladesh, at 47th position, holds the highest rank in South Asia

- Health and Survival indicator the report blames India’s poor sex ratio at birth which still points to a strong preference for sons
- Economic Participation and Opportunities for Women India ranks above only Iran, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Syria. Countries that are among those with the worst overall gender gap ranking.
- India is very near to closing its tertiary education gender gap
- The overall literacy rate still shows disparity between the men (80 per cent) and women (59 percent)
- The proportion of women in legislature is an abysmal 11 per cent.

4.1.7 SHe-box' (sexual harassment electronic box)

Admin Login

Ministry of Women & Child Development
Government of India

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013

SHe-Box Online Complaint Management System

IF YOU ARE FACING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

REGISTER YOUR COMPLAINT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

RESOURCES

VIEW STATUS OF COMPLAINT

EMPANELLED INSTITUTE LOGIN

Please note that only those women who have faced/are facing sexual harassment in any Ministry/Department/PSU/Attached office etc. of Central Government can utilize the services of the SHe-Box.

A safe workplace is every woman's right

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- SHe-Box online complaint Management System for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
- The new SHe-Box portal offers the facility of making online complaints of sexual harassment at workplace to all women employees in the country including government and private employees. Those who have already filed a written complaint with the concerned Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) or Local Complaint Committee (LCC) constituted under the SH Act are also eligible to file their complaint through this portal.

Main features:

- It is probably the first ever time that the government of any country has launched an online portal to receive complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
- The SHe-Box has been launched to provide platform to aggrieved women to make their complaints directly so that suitable action is taken to redress their grievances.
- These complaints will be monitored by the WCD Ministry

Ensuring the dignity and safety of women must be first priority for any digital society. Towards realisation of the vision of the Digital India programme, the Ministry is promoting utilisation of information and communication technology to achieve the goal of gender equality and women empowerment.

4.1.8 Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has introduced Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme to empower the women.

- This scheme will be implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- This scheme under as a part of the Umbrella Scheme “Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women” for the duration of 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- Under this scheme the central government of will set up Mahila Shakti Kendras across 115 most backward districts of the country.
- On these Kendras, the government will provide some facilities including skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition for women.
- OSCs that would be connected with women helpline and will provide 24 hour emergency and nonemergency response to women.
- The government will also provide their support to working women through 190 more Working Women Hostels.
- The government also approved expanding the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme from 161 districts to 640 districts in the country.
- The central government will constitute an “one common task force” at national, state and district level.
- This task force will help in planning, reviewing and monitoring the scheme to ensure the convergence of action and cost efficiency.

The main objective of the scheme:

- To increase the care, protection and development of women across the country.
- Improving the child sex ratio, survival of new born girl child, girl education.
- Empower Women through several initiatives.

Cabinet
Decision
(Nov 22, 2017)

CABINET APPROVES EXPANSION OF UMBRELLA SCHEME "MISSION FOR PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN" AND INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SCHEME 'MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA' 1/2

- CCEA has given approval for expansion of the schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development under Umbrella Scheme "Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women" for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- CCEA has also given approval to the new scheme called 'Mahila Shakti Kendra', which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential
- Expansion under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has also been approved based on the successful implementation in 161 districts.

- The financial outlay during 2017-18 to 2019-20 will be Rs.3,636.85 crore with a Central Share of approximately Rs.3,084.96 crore.
- **Objectives**
 - Improvement in Child Sex Ratio
 - Ensuring survival, protection and education of the girl child
 - To provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing entitlements
 - Empowering them through training and capacity building.
 - Student volunteers to encourage the spirit of voluntary community service.
 - These students to serve as "agents of change."

4.1.9 Global Entrepreneurship Summit

Adviser to the U.S. President Ivanka Trump underscored the importance of education and technology for women entrepreneurs to make a mark in their chosen field.

Ms. Ivanka said technology was disrupting every sphere of life. It was important to train women in digital literacy, computer science and give them access to skill training.

Global Entrepreneurship Summit

- GES is the preeminent annual entrepreneurship gathering that convenes emerging entrepreneurs, investors and supporters from around the world.
- GES 2017 will create an environment that empowers innovators, particularly women, to take their ideas to the next level.
- Through two and a half days of networking, mentoring, and workshops, GES empowers entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas, build partnerships, secure funding, innovate, and find their target customers -- creating new goods and services that will transform societies.
- GES serves as a vital link between governments and the private sector, and convenes global participants to showcase projects, exchange ideas, and champion new opportunities for investment.
- Relationships formed at past GES Summits have transcended industries and sectors and transformed ideas into enterprises.

4.2 Child

4.2.1 National Action Plan for Children, 2016

The Action Plan has four key priority areas;

- Survival
- Health and nutrition
- Education and development
- Protection and participation.

The plan also puts focus on new and emerging concerns for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and manmade disasters and climate change, etc.

The National Policy for Children (2013) provides for formation of a National Co-ordination and Action Group (NCAG) under the Ministry of Women and Child Development to coordinate and implement the plan and monitor the progress with other Ministries concerned as its members.

4.2.2 'PENCIL' Portal On Child Labour Elimination

The government has launched a web portal called 'PENCIL' for effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project, (NCLP).

About PENCIL portal:

- PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) — an electronic platform for no child labour in the country is being developed by the Labour Ministry.
- PENCIL portal has five components — Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project and Convergence.

4.2.3 Sexual intercourse with minor wife is rape, says SC

The Supreme Court held that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, who is below 18 years of age, is rape

- Human rights of a girl child are very much alive and kicking whether she is married or not

Background:

- Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) allowed the husband of a girl child — between 15 and 18 years of age — blanket liberty and freedom to have non-consensual sexual intercourse with her.

4.2.4 WHO releases guidelines on responding to child sex abuse

In a first, the World Health Organisation has formulated clinical guidelines on responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused.

- The guidelines put forward recommendations for the frontline health care providers
 - general practitioners, gynaecologists, paediatricians, nurses and others — who may directly receive a victim of sexual abuse or may identify sexual abuse during the course of diagnosis and treatment.

The guidelines highlight that child sexual abuse has a short-term as well as long-term mental health impact like

- lifetime diagnosis of post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression, externalising symptoms, eating disorders, problems with relationships, sleep disorders and suicidal and self-harm ideation and behaviours.

- Health consequences of the abuse include the risk of pregnancy, gynaecological disorders such as chronic non-cyclical pelvic pain, menstrual irregularities, etc

One of the most commonly seen mistakes in handling child sexual abuse cases is re-traumatizing the child as well as his parents with questions. Such mistakes can be avoided if those dealing with such cases are well trained,

4.2.5 Karnataka amends child marriage act

- Every child marriage, whether solemnised before or after the commencement of the Act, shall be voidable by the contracting party who was a child at the time of the marriage.
- This makes Karnataka the first and the only state to do this.
- The Supreme Court also recommended that all the State Legislatures adopt the route taken by Karnataka.

4.2.6 Mission Parivar Vikas

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.

These 145 districts are in the seven high focus, high TFR states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam that constitute 44% of the country's population.

5. OTHER DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

5.1 Caste Related

5.1.1 Greater Social Justice

Centre having decided to set up a panel to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Castes (OBC)

Aims:

- Improving the representation of OBCs in educational institutions and jobs
- Ensuring that the more under-privileged among them are not denied chances of social mobility.

Measures taken:

- The Union Cabinet has also approved an increase in the income criterion of `6 lakh per annum to `8 lakh for excluding the 'creamy layer' from the purview of OBC reservations
- The government has introduced a bill in Parliament to provide Constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes.

5.2.2 Panel on sub-categorisation OBC

President appointed a commission to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to ensure that the more backward among the communities can access the benefits of reservation.

- The five-member panel will be headed by retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Rohini
- The commission is to examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of OBC
- And to work out the mechanism for sub- categorisation

5.2.3 Social Boycott Act

Maharashtra's new law prohibiting the social boycott of individuals, families or any community by informal village councils is a step in the right direction, given the pervasive nature of the problem.

The new law disallows social boycott in the name of caste, community, religion, rituals or customs.

What amount to social boycott under the new law?

- If any individual or group tries to prevent or obstruct another member or group from observing any social or religious custom or usage or ceremony, or from taking part in a social, religious or community function, assembly, congregation, meeting or procession, the act amounts to social boycott.
- So is challenging the freedom of individuals in the name of jati panchayats, religion, customs, or denying them the right to practise a profession of their choice.

How does the Act seek to prevent social boycott?

- A Collector or District Magistrate, on receiving information of the likelihood of unlawful assembly for imposition of social boycott can, by order, prohibit the assembly.

- Conviction of the offence of social boycott will attract a prison term of up to three years or a fine up to Rs 1 lakh, or both.

5.2.4 Call to wipe out modern slavery

Who come under Modern slavery?

Bonded labourers, contract workers, domestic workers, intra- and inter-state as well as international migrant workers, and sex workers.

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) released new global estimates of modern slavery.

SDG(sustainable development goals) 8.7

- The SDG 8.7 calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking,
- Secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers by 2025.
- This can be achieved by increased inspections and better resources for the labour inspectorate

5.3 Region Related

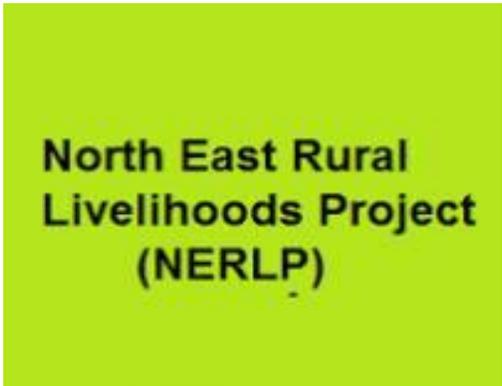
5.3.1 NE Integration

- A North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre will be set up in Delhi to act as a cultural and convention/information hub of the North Eastern Region
- “Venture Capital Fund” for the young Start-Ups and entrepreneurs, to initiate an enterprise in NE region
- ‘Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Center for Policy Research and Analysis’ is launched at the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM), Shillong
- Better connectivity to the region via rail networks, roads and waterways.

5.3.2 Exclusive ‘Rural Livelihood’ scheme for Northeast

The “North East Rural Livelihood Project” is being supported by the World Bank and will primarily benefit the tribals and the lower socioeconomic groups, including women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER).

- To begin with, four states, - Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, will be taken up for helping the tribal and even



**North East Rural
Livelihoods Project
(NERLP)**

the non-tribal lower groups living in remote areas.

- The project is aimed at assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and benefit about three lakh poor households.
- The North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) Ltd, a PSU under the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region, is also assisting the farmers and agriculturists to obtain remunerative price for their produce.
- The more vulnerable tribal groups like Reang in Tripura and Lepsha and Bhutias in Sikkim are also going to benefit from it.

5.3.3 Prabhari Officers

Cabinet Secretary Chairs the first meeting of Prabhari Officers for Rapid transformation of 115 Backward Districts.

The Prime Minister's vision for creation of a New India by 2022, Government has identified 115 backward districts for rapid transformation by 2022.

Prabhari officers:

- For each of the Districts, a senior official in the rank of Additional secretary and Joint secretary has been nominated as Prabhari officer.
- Prabhari officers would take it up as a challenge and succeed in their mission by making a difference in the lives of millions of citizens in these districts.
- Prabhari officers will coordinate the efforts of the Centre and the states by addressing specific developmental needs of the districts
- The prabhari officers will work in a collaborative manner with the state and district teams to achieve effective convergence between various central and state government programmes

The 115 backward districts identified by the government include

5.4 Minority Groups

5.4.1 Hunar Haat Exhibition

The fourth Hunar Haat exhibition is being organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs at India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th to 27th November, 2017

- Hunar Haats are organised under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.

- The USTTAD scheme aims at preserving & promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities. This is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry.
- Hunar Haats provide a platform to master artisans and craftsmen to display their rich heritage and skill, on the other hand these exhibitions bring both domestic and international markets to the artisans and craftsmen, empowering them with various resources. The National Minority Finance Development Corporation also supports them with financial aid/ loans etc.

5.4.2 Re-introduction of transgender rights bill

The transgender community and its allies have erupted in anger over the decision of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to re-introduce the original Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 in the winter session of Parliament.

The transgender community saw the Supreme Court's landmark decision in NALSA v. Union of India as a victory, followed by a private member's Bill, the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014, which was unanimously passed in the Rajya Sabha. Instead of introducing it in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry uploaded its own Bill, the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015, on its website in December for public comments.

SC Judgment

- Recognising transgender as the third sex and also to provide the benefits of socially and economically backward class.
- Also directed the Centre and the state governments to frame new schemes for the welfare of transgender community including reservations for education and employment purposes, health and medical facilities.

5.4.3 Aadi Mahotsav

Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) is organizing Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi till 30 November, 2017. The theme of Aadi Mahotsav is 'A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce'.

The feature of the festival:

- The exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through about 200 stalls.
- Tribal India cuisine recreated and presented in delectable forms to suit urban tastes by special tribal chefs.

- Colourful and Vibrant Tribal Dance and Fine Music are being showcased.

In line with the national aspiration to go cashless, the tribal artisans will be accepting payment through credit/debit cards for which Point of Sale (POS) machines have been provided in each stall.

The main aim of Aadi mahotsav festival is to protect and promote the language and culture of the Tribals with very low population.

5.4.4 Karnataka's transgender policy

It aims to protect transgenders from insults, social discrimination and abuse

Details of the bill

- Counselling centres to address stigma, discrimination and violence, identification and certification
- Integration into the mainstream, through the establishment of a cell for transgenders to initiate welfare programmes.
- Reservation in all levels of education.
- The policy aims to address the insecurities, anxieties and suicidal tendencies

Maitri scheme

- Manasvini and Maitri schemes gives a monthly pension of Rs 500 to unmarried/divorcee poor women and transgenders.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 Sanitation

6.1.1 'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' Programme

- an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card
- make physical activity and recreational games an integral part of learning process ,
- using technology for data capture and analytics, and giving access to schools, parents and teachers

6.1.2 Clean India Mission prioritises behavioural change

Universal sanitation is at the core of India's development agenda.

- As the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) completes three years, five states, nearly 200 districts and nearly 2.4 lakh villages across the country have declared themselves open defecation free (ODF).

Importance of Sanitation

- Every rupee invested in improving sanitation leads to a saving of Rs 4.30, shows a recent independent study by UNICEF.
- Insanitation affects children leading to many deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases.

Challenges

- A major challenge facing the government is to bring about behavioural change in people's mindsets, especially among rural masses.
- To strengthen and take the mission forward, the Centre, has launched a campaign "Swachhta hi Seva" (cleanliness is service), executing a series of activities - such as cleaning toilets, bus stands, movie halls, railways stations, public halls and more.

6.1.3 World Toilet Day (November 19)

Swachh Bharat Mission celebrates World Toilet Day Countrywide for galvanising people's participation for an Open Defecation Free India.

Processions were taken out, discussions were held, and school children joined in large numbers in several innovative activities to highlight the importance of toilet access and usage.



- Swachh Bharat Central Team assist in building twin pits in Champaran to mark World Toilet Day.
- The team chose Champaran as the district to visit for this exercise as part of the Champaran centenary year, "Satyagrah se Swachhagrah tak" celebrations.
- The team encouraged villagers to build and use twin pit toilets in their homes.

Swachh Bharat Mission:

Swachh Bharat Mission is a campaign in India that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas.

Objectives:

- Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in cities, smaller towns and rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.
- Accelerate sanitation coverage in cities, smaller towns and rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019.
- Motivate Communities, urban local bodies (municipalities) and Panchayati Raj Institutions to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.
- Develop wherever required, Community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in cities, smaller towns and rural areas.

6.1.4 Swachh icon places project for Heritage sites

A National Consultation of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP), an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission began at New Delhi.

Representatives from 20 Iconic Sites including central and State officials, representatives of iconic places and Corporate and development partners including World Bank joined the consultations.

10 New Iconic sites identified under Phase II are:

1. Gangotri
2. Yamunotri
3. Mahakaleshwar Temple
4. Charminar
5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi
6. Kalady
7. Gomateshwar
8. Baijnath Dham
9. Gaya Tirth
10. Somnath temple.

These phase II SIPs will join 10 iconic places where special Swachhata work is under implementation for about a year.

These Phase I iconic places are:

1. Ajmer Sharif Dargah, 2. CST Mumbai 3. Golden Temple, 4. Kamakhya Temple, 5. Maikarnika Ghat, 6. Meenakshi Temple, 7. Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi, 8. Shree Jagannath Temple, 9. The Taj Mahal and 10. Tirupati Temple.

SIP is a truly collaborative project with three other central Ministries:

- Urban Development
- Culture
- Tourism

All levels in the concerned States and more importantly, Public Sector and Private Companies as partners.

The CSR partners for both the phases are:

- Hindustan Zinc India Ltd. 2. SBI Foundation 3. HPCL 4. Oil India Ltd 5. Northern Coal Field Ltd 6. BPCL 7. NALCO 8. IOCL 9. GAIL 10. ONGC 11. NHPC 12. NTPC 13. Airport Authority of India 14. Power Grid Corporation (PGCIL) 15. IDEA Cellular 16. Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL).

6.1.5 Protests after Dera chief convicted of rape

Supporters of the Dera Sacha Sauda sect went on the rampage as their chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh had been convicted of rape by a CBI special court.

Lessons to learn:

- Crowd Management is very important task, especially in countries like India.
- There were huge loss of life because of stampedes.

Ethical dimensions:

- Religion became very powerful tool in the hands of politicians and also for self proclaimed godmen
- People carry blind beliefs and actions instead of embracing the basic tenets of any religion, like humanism and peace

6.1.6 Revival of Integral Humanism

Advocated by Deendayal Upadhaya.

- Entire creation of living and nonliving is an integrated organic being; every unit is interconnected and dependent upon each other.
- Diversities arise from the basic unity and not that the diversity creates an illusory unity.