



## HYPERLOOP 2019

# Social Development

CONSOLIDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ESE 2019

**Contents**

<b>1. HEALTH</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1 WHO</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1.1 WHO fight against tobacco</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1.2 71st World Health Assembly</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.2 National Initiatives</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1.2.1 Ayushman Bharat for a new India -2022</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1.2.2 Steps to Curb Road Accidents</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1.2.3 POSHAN Abhiyaan</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>1.2.4 Reduction of Maternal Mortality</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>1.2.5 Polio-free status</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>1.2.6 Global Sanitation Convention</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>1.2.7 Mental Healthcare Act</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>1.2.8 Draft charter of Patients’ Rights</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>2. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2.1 Education</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2.1.1 Margdarshan</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2.1.2 Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2.1.3 New Integrated Scheme for School Education</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2.1.4 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>2.1.5 Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>2.1.6 Institutions of Eminence list released</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>2.1.7 New system of technical education</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>2.1.8 National Testing Agency</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>2.1.9 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>2.2 Employment</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>2.2.1 National Policy for Domestic Workers</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>2.2.2 Skill India reforms</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>2.2.3 Government opens doors to lateral entry</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>2.2.4 Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>2.2.5 Indian Institute of Skill(IISs)</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>3. SECURITY</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>3.1 National</b> .....	<b>15</b>

3.1.1 India's first coastal policing academy .....	15
3.1.2 New Defence panel .....	15
3.2 Law Enforcement.....	15
3.2.1 DNA profiling Bill .....	15
4. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT .....	16
4.1 Rural Institutions .....	16
4.1.1 Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan .....	16
4.2 Minorities .....	16
4.2.1 The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) .....	16
4.2.2 National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) .....	17
4.2.3 Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).....	17
4.3 Disabled .....	17
4.3.1 EC launches Braille-enabled Voter IDs.....	17
4.4 Women And Children .....	18
4.4.1 Swadhar Greh Scheme .....	18
Death for rape of girls under 12 years.....	18
4.5 SC/ST.....	18
4.5.1 Dilution of SC/ST Atrocities Act .....	18
4.5.2 Van Dhan Scheme .....	19
4.5.3 Declaration of Scheduled Areas in respect of Rajasthan .....	19
4.6 Elderly .....	19
4.6.1 Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY).....	19
4.6.2 Six-month jail likely for abandoning parents .....	20
5. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT .....	20
5.2.2 Right to Information Act, 2005 amendments.....	20
5.2 Human Rights .....	20
5.2.1 Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 .....	20
5.2.3 The Supreme Court Judgement on Aadhaar .....	21
5.3 Measuring Development.....	22
5.3.1 India's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Improves .....	22
5.3.2 World Bank's Human Capital Index .....	22
5.3.3 Global Hunger Index 2018.....	23

5.3.4 National Monitoring Framework on Sustainable Development Goals ..... 24

5.3.5 SATH program..... 25

5.3.6 Ease of Living Index ..... 25

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## 1. HEALTH

### 1.1 WHO

#### 1.1.1 WHO fight against tobacco

- The new guide, titled 'Tobacco product regulation: Building laboratory testing capacity', and a collection of country approaches to regulation of menthol in tobacco products
- The new guidelines provide practical, stepwise approaches to implementing tobacco testing.

#### **Framework Convention on tobacco control**

The Union Cabinet has given approval to accede to the Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.

#### **Highlights:**

- India is a party to WHO FCTC.
- It spells out supply chain control measures that must be adopted by the parties
- The protocol lists out offences, enforcement measures such as seizures and disposal of seized products.
- It calls for international cooperation in information sharing, maintaining confidentiality, training, technical assistance and cooperation in scientific and technical and technological matters.

#### **About WHO FCTC:**

- The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first international public health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO.
- One of the key tobacco supply reduction strategies contained in Article 15 of WHO FCTC envisages elimination of all forms of illicit trade and tobacco products, including smuggling, illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting.

#### 1.1.2 71st World Health Assembly

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the forum through which the World Health Organization (WHO) is governed by its 194 member states. It is composed of health ministers from member states.

- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- It delegates an ambitious new strategic plan for the next five years.
- It sets three targets: to ensure that by 2023, 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage; 1 billion more people are better protected from health emergencies; and 1 billion more people enjoy better health and wellbeing. WHO estimates that achieving this "triple billion" target could save 29 million lives.

## 1.2 National Initiatives

### 1.2.1 Ayushman Bharat for a new India -2022

The Government announced major initiatives in health sector aimed at making path breaking interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both prevention and health promotion.

#### The initiatives are as follows:

- Health and Wellness Centre - 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.
- 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



#### National Health Protection Mission

- AB-NHPM will have a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country
- Beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country
- To control costs, the payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the Government in advance) basis

#### Pradhan Mantri Aarogya Mitra (PMAM):

- The scheme is creating a cadre of certified frontline health service professionals called Pradhan Mantri Aarogya Mitras (PMAMs) who will be primary point of facilitation for the beneficiaries to avail treatment at the hospital and thus, act as a support system to streamline health service delivery.
- Aarogya Mitras training is being conducted in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

### 1.2.2 Steps to Curb Road Accidents

- The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy. This Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, establishing road safety information database, encouraging safer road infrastructure including application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws etc.
- The Government has constituted the National Road Safety Council as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety.

- The Ministry has constituted Group of Ministers of State Transport Minister to examine the best practices of Transport and suggest issues to improve road safety.
- The Ministry has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on 4 'E's viz. Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care.

### 1.2.3 POSHAN Abhiyaan

POSHAN(PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyan which was launched by the Prime Minister in Jhunjhunu on 8th March 2018 would be converted to Jan Andolan across the country.

- The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
- A large component of POSHAN Abhiyaan involves gradual scaling-up of the interventions supported by the ongoing World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) to all districts in the country over a 3-year period
- The project will additionally ensure convergence of all nutrition related schemes and provide performance based incentives to states and community nutrition and health workers, facilitating a focus on results.

**POSHAN  
Abhiyaan**  
PM's Overarching  
Scheme for Holistic  
Nourishment



सही पोषण - देश रोशन

### Malnutrition in India

Data on malnutrition should serve as a wake-up call for the government:

#### Highlights:

- 38% of children are stunted
- 35.7% are underweight in India
- About 21% of children under the age of five are wasted (low weight for height), according to the National Family Health Survey-4 data.
- The point is to address malnourishment through locally produced, diverse food options that the country offers

### 1.2.4 Reduction of Maternal Mortality

India has shown impressive gains in reduction of Maternal Mortality with 22% reduction in since 2013.

#### Highlights:

- Maternal Mortality Ratio of India has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016.
- The decline has been most significant in EAG States and Assam from 246 to 188.
- Three states have already met the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target for MMR of 70 per 100,000. These are Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

- The initiatives like Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush with their focused approach are significantly helping.
- Other major initiatives under the umbrella of National Health Mission (NHM) like augmentation of infrastructure and HR, Capacity Building, JSSK which provides for free transport and care for pregnant women have also contributed to the success.

### 1.2.5 Polio-free status

India is maintaining polio-free status for more than seven years and ensuring that every child is vaccinated against the disease.

Steps Taken:

- There are both mass polio vaccination campaigns and childhood immunization.
- There are two types of polio vaccine - oral polio vaccine and injectable polio vaccine.
- The last case of polio in India was reported in January 2011.

Facts about polio certification by WHO

- For certification, all countries in the WHO Region need to have no case of wild polio for 3 consecutive years in presence of high quality AFP(acute flaccid paralysis) surveillance systems.
- No single country can be certified as polio-free. WHO regions as a whole are certified as polio-free.
- There are national certification committees (NCCs) that prepare national documentations for certification of polio eradication at the country level.
- Three regions (Americas, 1994; Western Pacific, 2000; Europe, 2002) have already been certified as polio-free.

### 1.2.6 Global Sanitation Convention

Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will organize a global sanitation convention to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, also coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission.



## Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

**Highlights:**

- Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) will be a 4-day international conference that will bring together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) from around the world.
- The success of the Swachh Bharat Mission will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the global achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6.2), i.e. to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all. Simultaneously.
- The global Convention will be aimed at sharing sanitation success stories and lessons across all participating countries

### Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

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

- The objectives of Swachh Bharat include eliminating open defecation through the construction of household-owned and community-owned toilets and establishing an accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use.
- The mission aims to achieve an Open-Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2 October 2019, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

### 1.2.7 Mental Healthcare Act

For the first time in India, universal mental health care is now a justiciable right following the enforcement of the Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017.

#### Key Facts:

- It mandates the government to provide accessible, affordable, acceptable and high quality mental health care by integrating mental health-care services at each level of the public health system
- Establishing mental health facilities in proportion to the population in each State
- Providing free mental health-care to socio-economically deprived sections of the population.
- The government is duty-bound to design and implement mental health promotion and preventive programmes to create awareness about the MHCA using public media
- It is for the first time that the law has recognised the right to access health care for citizens — and specifically for mental health.

#### A road map:

- The government will have to make appropriate budgetary provisions to plug existing infrastructure gaps.
- State governments will have to immediately set up and ensure the functioning of State mental health authorities and mental health review boards.
- Implementation of the MHCA with coordinated efforts on the part of all stakeholders with an interest in mental health care.

### 1.2.8 Draft charter of Patients' Rights

The draft, prepared by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has been put up on the Health Ministry's website for comments and suggestions.

#### Right of Patients:

- Hospitals cannot detain a patient in the hospital and not allow him or her to take discharge over procedural grounds such as dispute in payment of hospital charges.
- The patient and caregivers have the right to a fair and prompt redressal of their grievances
- Every patient or their family members have the right to access originals or copies of case papers, indoor patient records, investigation reports during period of admission

#### Regulation of e-pharmacies

- Psychotropic substances, habit-forming medicines like cough syrup and sleeping pills, schedule x drugs will not be sold online.

- The e-pharmacies have to obtain a license from the State government to sell the medicines online.
- An e-pharmacy registration holder will have to comply with provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000
- The details of patient shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person other than the central government or the state government concerned, as the case may be.
- The premises from which e-pharmacy is operated regular inspections will be conducted every two years by the central licencing authority.

## 2. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

### 2.1 Education

#### 2.1.1 Margdarshan

- The scheme aims to provide mentoring to institutes by a well performing Institute
- Institutions of repute will act as a mentor with its existing facilities to serve as the hub to guide and disperse knowledge to 10 technical institutions.
- It will allow for information sharing, such as technical education, research and sharing of resources to encourage best practices.
- Mentor institute also provide services to faculty for self improvement
- Government owned, aided and self financed institutes and universities approved by AICTE can participate

#### 2.1.2 Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

- RUSA seeks to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education of the country to 30% by 2020
- It seeks to increase the spending on higher education by the State Governments
- Improving access, equity and accessibility of higher education in States through reforms such as academic reforms, governance reforms, affiliation reforms etc.
- Promote a spirit of healthy competition amongst states and institutions to excel in quality higher education, research and innovation.

#### 2.1.3 New Integrated Scheme for School Education

An Integrated Scheme on School Education by subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE)

- 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.
- It will help improve the transition rates across the various levels of school education and aid in promoting universal access to children to complete school education.
- The Scheme, by providing quality education, aims to equip the children with varied skills and knowledge essential for their holistic development and prepare them for the world of work or higher education in the future.

#### 2.1.4 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) on 29th September, 2015 to rank institutions across the country.

##### Highlights

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) does the institutional assessment and accreditation, while National Board of Accreditation (NBA) does programmatic accreditation of technical programmes and courses.
- To rationalize the expansion of courses in engineering / technical, management etc. and to bring quality in technical education, AICTE has made it mandatory to have NBA
- Ranking promotes competition among the Universities and drive them to strive for excellence.
- In NIRF, to promote Research and Development in Higher Education, 'Research and Professional Practices' has been given the highest weightage of 40%, for ranking Universities.

##### Highlights

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, retained its position as India's top-ranked university for the third year in a row.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was ranked second, followed by Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in the third place.
- IIT-Madras was first among the engineering colleges, IIM-Ahmedabad the best management school. AIIMS-Delhi topped among medical institutions.

#### 2.1.5 Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

The central Government launched the web portal of the Scheme "Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)".

##### Highlights:

- SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

##### Salient Features of SPARC:

- This scheme will improve research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- To enable productive academic cooperation by supporting the following critical components that can catalyze impact making research:
  1. Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty/researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research
  2. Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide
  3. Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents, demonstrable technologies or action oriented research outcomes and products

4. Consolidation of Bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships through Indo-X Workshops in India
5. Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international conference in India.
  - The Scheme is expected to have a major impact in providing the best international expertise to address major national problems

#### 2.1.6 Institutions of Eminence list released

Six higher education institutions, including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, the Indian Institutes of Technology at Mumbai and Delhi, and the proposed Jio Institute of the Reliance Foundation, have been named Institutions of Eminence (IoE) by the Centre.

- The Jio Institute in Maharashtra — has been chosen in the greenfield category
- The two other private institutions to be granted the status - the Manipal Academy of Higher Education and BITS, Pilani.
- An empowered committee, under former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami, recommended these institutions.

#### 2.1.7 New system of technical education

A new integrated system of technical education at the secondary school stage has been proposed by the Centre

##### Highlights:

- It seeks to vocationalise secondary education
- The scheme envisages two points of entry – one at the end of the seventh class and the other at the end of the tenth class.
- The integrated course will be of five years duration to run concurrently with secondary education but as a distinct and specialised course.
- The idea is that students completing seventh class and tenth class may be siphoned off into technical education, oriented towards industrial employment.

#### 2.1.8 National Testing Agency

The National Testing Agency has been set up to relieve the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) of the burden of conducting multiple examinations.

##### Mandate:

- To put in place a robust system for the conduct of examinations.
- It will also train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers.
- The new body will take over all examinations from the CBSE, except the 10th and 12th board examinations.

##### About NTA:

- Is an autonomous and self-sustained.
- Is a society registered under Indian Societies Registration Act.

### 2.1.9 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

The second stage of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan - a scheme of the Centre aimed at making higher education institutions provide solutions for problems of villages is set to take off with a much wider spread than its first stage.

#### Highlights:

- Both technical and non-technical institutions have been invited to build systems in villages as per their strengths.
- The idea is to have a coordinated approach where the government and institutions work together to facilitate rural development.
- The key points include helping villages achieve 100% school results, creating 25 jobs each in four sectors in each village where work would take place, increasing rural incomes, providing drinking water and sanitation to villages, disposing village garbage, among other things.

About Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India programme to uplift rural India.
- The programme is being launched in collaboration with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTRs) and other leading Government Engineering Institutes like College of Engineering, Pune across the country

## 2.2 Employment

### 2.2.1 National Policy for Domestic Workers

- Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the existing legislations
- Registration of Domestic workers.
- Right to form their own associations, trade unions
- Right to have minimum wages, access to social security, protection from abuse, harassment, violence
- Right to enhance their professional skills
- Protection of Domestic Workers from abuse and exploitation
- Domestic Workers to have access to courts, tribunals, etc.
- Establishment of a mechanism for regulation of concerned placement agencies.

### 2.2.2 Skill India reforms

In 2016, the Government of India formed the Sharada Prasad Committee to rationalise the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), which are employer bodies mostly promoted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry and other industry associations, and improve 'Skill India'. The committee submitted its report in 2016

#### The major recommendations

- It suggests concrete steps to ensure a mindset change, such as having a separate stream for vocational education (in secondary education), creating vocational schools and vocational colleges for upward mobility, and having a Central university to award degrees and diplomas

- Aligning the courses to international requirements, ensuring a basic foundation lifelong learning
- It implies national standards for an in-demand skill set with national/global mobility that translates into better jobs.
- It could ensure reimbursements for those companies undertaking training while rewarding industry for sharing and undertaking skilling until everyone in the company is skilled.

### **Skill India**

- Skill India is a campaign launched by Prime Minister on 15 July 2015 which aim to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022.
- It includes various initiatives of the government like "National Skill Development Mission", "National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015", "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)" and the "Skill Loan scheme".

### **Goals of Skill India**

- To meet employers' needs of skills
- To prepare workers (young and old) for a decent livelihood.

### **2.2.3 Government opens doors to lateral entry**

In an apparent bid to bring in expertise from the private sector individuals and infuse talent into the country's bureaucracy, government has invited "outstanding individuals" to join the government at the joint secretary level at the Centre.

#### **Highlights:**

- Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has invited applications for 10 senior level positions in the Departments of Economic Affairs, Revenue, Commerce and Highways among others.
- The joint secretary level positions are normally filled by career bureaucrats, who join the service after passing UPSC exam., which prepares merit list and allot the different cadres like IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS as per the marks obtained in the three tier exam.
- The lateral entry candidates would bring in a vast number of fresh and vibrant ideas.
- It may affect the regular selection candidates through entrance exam and promotions

### **2.2.4 Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)**

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched Mobile App of the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)

#### **Highlights:**

- The programme endeavours to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development.
- It will help in the attainment of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as Waste Management Rules (2016).
- The GSDP aims to get 80, 000 people imparted green skills and in filling the skill gaps in the environment sector.
- The objective of GSDP is skilling the youth of India, especially dropouts and in increasing the availability of skilled workforce.

### 2.2.5 Indian Institute of Skill(IISs)

The Union Cabinet has approved the for setting up of Indian Institute of Skills(IISs) at different locations across the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP).

#### Benefits:

- It shall augment the global competitiveness of key sectors of Indian economy by providing high quality skill training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with industry.
- It will provide opportunity to aspiring youth across the country to have access to highly skilled training, and
- Enhance the scope of accountability through its linkage with industry and global competitiveness across sectors.
- It would create new institutes of expertise, knowledge and competitiveness

## 3. SECURITY

### 3.1 National

#### 3.1.1 India's first coastal policing academy

The country's first national academy to train police forces in effectively safeguarding the Indian shoreline will start functioning in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat from next month.

#### Highlights:

- To be run by a team of paramilitary and defence forces, the academy will sharpen the skills of marine forces of coastal States

#### 3.1.2 New Defence panel

The new permanent higher defence management committee headed by the National Security Adviser can help improve India's defence planning in the long term.

#### Functions:

- Defence Planning Committee (DPC) would prepare a draft national security strategy,
- develop a capability development plan,
- work on defence diplomacy issues,
- Work on improving defence manufacturing in India.

#### NSA

- The **National Security Adviser** (NSA) is the chief executive of the National Security Council (NSC), and the primary adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security.
- They had either belonged to the Indian Foreign Service Indian Police Service.
- The incumbent is Ajit Doval.

### 3.2 Law Enforcement

#### 3.2.1 DNA profiling Bill

- The Law Commission of India, in its 271st report, prepared the draft Bill named, The DNA Based Technology (Use and Regulation) Bill, 2017, after examining various judicial pronouncements and constitutional provisions.

- DNA profiling was indeed used for disaster victim identification, investigation of crimes, identification of missing persons and human remains and for medical research purposes
- It, however, also flagged that privacy concerns and the ethics involved in this scientific collection of data were very high.
- The commission said the procedure for DNA profiling, if given statutory recognition, should be done legitimately as per constitutional provisions.

**Purpose:**

- For expanding the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country.
- The utility of DNA based technologies for solving crimes, and to identify missing persons.
- To ensure DNA test results are reliable and the data remain protected from misuse or abuse.
- Speedier justice delivery.
- Increased conviction rate.

**4. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT****4.1 Rural Institutions****4.1.1 Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

**Highlights:**

- This scheme will extend to all States and UTs of the Country and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist
- The scheme will have both Central Component - National Level activities including "National Plan of Technical Assistance", "Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat", "Incentivization of Panchayats" and State component - Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

RGSA seeks to:

- Enhance capacities and effectiveness of Panchayats and the Gram Sabhas
- Enable democratic decision-making and accountability in Panchayats and promote people's participation;
- Strengthen the institutional structure for knowledge creation and capacity building of Panchayats;
- Promote devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats according to the spirit of the Constitution and The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act
- Strengthen Gram Sabhas to function effectively as the basic forum of peoples participation, transparency and accountability within the Panchayat system;
- Create and strengthen democratic local self-government in areas where Panchayats do not exist;
- Strengthen the constitutionally mandated framework on which Panchayats are founded.

**4.2 Minorities****4.2.1 The National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has decided to approach the government for granting it Constitutional status.

**Highlights:**

- Till now, only the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes have Constitutional status, giving them powers to act against officials.

**About NCM:**

- The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- Five religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities by the Union Government. Further vide notification dated 27th Jan 2014, Jains have also been notified as minority community.

**4.2.2 National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI)**

The Supreme Court held that the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) has original jurisdiction to determine which institution should be granted minority status.

- The Constitution has granted a fundamental right to all minorities, whether based on religion or language, to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice under Article 30.
- The NCMEI Act has empowered the Commission to decide all questions relating to the status of an institution as a minority educational institution and to declare its status as such.

**4.2.3 Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).

**Highlights:**

- Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in the year 2008-09 in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population and below national average with respect to one or both of the backwardness parameters with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities.

**About PMJVK:**

- The Programme aims to address development deficits in the identified minority concentration areas.

**4.3 Disabled****4.3.1 EC launches Braille-enabled Voter IDs**

- To ensure greater participation of persons with visual impairment in the electoral process.
- The Commission unveiled a strategic framework on “Accessible Elections”.
- Accessible communication awareness materials, a mobile phone application to motivate and educate the voters

**Braille technology**

- Braille technology is assistive technology which allows blind or visually impaired people to do common tasks such as writing, browsing the Internet etc.

## 4.4 Women And Children

### 4.4.1 Swadhar Greh Scheme

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme which targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.

- The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for these women
- To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.
- To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.

### Death for rape of girls under 12 years

Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of an Ordinance to provide death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years

Highlights:

- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance provides for stringent punishment of a jail term of minimum 20 years or life imprisonment or death for rape of a girl under 12 years.
- The amendments would be made to the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Indian Evidence Act.
- As per the ordinance, for the crime of rape of a girl under 16 years, minimum punishment has been increased from 10 years to 20 years, which can be extended to imprisonment for the rest of life.
- Minimum punishment for rape of women has also been increased from rigorous imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.
- It provides for speedy investigation and trial, which must be completed in two months.
- There will be no provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under 16 years.

## 4.5 SC/ST

### 4.5.1 Dilution of SC/ST Atrocities Act

The Supreme Court banned immediate arrest of a person accused of insulting or injuring a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe member, is meant to protect innocents from arbitrary arrest and not an affront to Dalit rights.

**Highlights**

- According to the Supreme court's directive coercive action against public servants, accused of hostility towards the lower caste, can only be taken with written permission from their appointing authority.
- For private citizens accused of a similar crime, arrest can be made only after the Senior Superintendent of Police concerned allows it.

**Centre stand**

- In its review petition filed before the Supreme Court, the Centre said the court had no business to dilute the Act by laying down such guidelines and making it easier for accused persons to escape arrest
- Now, a preliminary enquiry would only reduce the rate of registration of cases, conviction, increase pendency and per se serve as a deterrent in filing FIRs

**4.5.2 Van Dhan Scheme**

The Prime Minister of India launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on 14th April, 2018.

**Highlights:**

- Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers is constituted.
- They are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.
- Training and technical support is provided by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited TRIFED
- The establishment of “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” is for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.
- This first model Van DhanVikas Kendra in Bijapuris being implemented for training of 300 training beneficiaries

**4.5.3 Declaration of Scheduled Areas in respect of Rajasthan**

- The promulgation of new Constitution Order (C.O.) will ensure that the Scheduled Tribes of Rajasthan will get benefits of protective measures available under the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

**Fifth Schedule:**

The Fifth Schedule being a very important provision of the constitution deals with the control and administration of the Schedule Areas. Some of the important features of the Schedule are:

- It deals with provision for the constitution of a Tribes Advisory Council
- The Governor has the power to adapt laws passed by Parliament and State legislature in such a way that it suits these areas.
- It provides Governor with the power to make regulation for good governance and peace for the area.
- The Fifth Schedule also deals with the extension of direction by the Union to a State for the administration of the Schedule Areas.

**4.6 Elderly****4.6.1 Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)**

Government has launched the ‘Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)

- To provide social security during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.

- The scheme enables old age income security for senior citizens through provision of assured pension/return linked to the subscription amount based on government guarantee to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- The scheme provides an assured return of 8% per annum for 10 years.

#### 4.6.2 Six-month jail likely for abandoning parents

The government is planning to increase the jail term for those who abandon or abuse their elderly parents to six months from the existing three months

##### Highlights:

- The draft Act also proposes doing away with the upper limit of Rs. 10,000 a month in maintenance, thus making it variable.
- It proposed to widen the definition of children to include adopted children or stepchildren, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, grandchildren and minors represented by their legal guardians
- At present, only biological children and grandchildren come under the Act.
- The definition of the term 'maintenance' should go beyond providing food, clothing, housing and healthcare and include safety and security of parents
- Elderly parents can approach a maintenance tribunal if their children neglect or refuse to maintain them.

## 5. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### 5.2.2 Right to Information Act, 2005 amendments

The government has proposed amendments to Right to Information Act, 2005

Proposed amendments:

- The Central government seeks control over the tenure, salary and allowances of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners at the Centre, and the State Chief Information Commissioners
- It would grant the Centre powers to determine the tenure of Central and State Commissioners

Demerits of amendment proposals:

- It takes away Information commissioners autonomy and independence,
- It paves way for government interference in judgements

The Right to Information Act, 2005

- It aims to increase government transparency with the hope of increasing accountability in government functioning.
- The law mandates a timely response to citizen requests for official information.

## 5.2 Human Rights

### 5.2.1 Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

##### Highlights

- It proposes to include "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights" as deemed Member of the Commission
- It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission

- It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission
- It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories=
- It proposes to amend the term of office of Chairperson and Members of National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission to make it in consonance with the terms of Chairperson and Members of other Commissions.

**Background**

The amendment to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 will make National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) more compliant with the Paris Principle concerning its autonomy, independence, pluralism and wide-ranging functions in order to effectively protect and promote human rights.

**5.2.3 The Supreme Court Judgement on Aadhaar**

The Supreme Court upheld Aadhaar as a reasonable restriction on individual privacy that fulfils the government’s legitimate aim to provide dignity to a large, marginalised population living in abject poverty.

**Aadhaar necessary services:**

1. PAN-Aadhaar linkage
2. Government subsidies and Benefits

**Aadhaar not necessary services:**

1. School Admissions
2. NEET, JEE, CBSE and others
3. Private companies
4. Mobile Phone connections
5. Bank Accounts

**Other provisions:**

- Children once they attain the age of majority could opt out of Aadhaar.
- The court directed the government and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to bring in regulations to prevent rightfully entitled people from being denied benefits.
- The court held that authentication records should not be retained for more than six months.
- It prohibited the creation of a metabase for transactions.
- The court allows only the UIDAI to file criminal complaints of Aadhaar data breach.



**Aadhaar in Public Service Delivery**

 <b>PAHAL</b> 22.18 crore people get subsidized gas cylinders	 <b>PAN Cards</b> 21 crore linked
 <b>Subsidized food ration</b> 19.25 crore families	 <b>Jeevan Pramaan Certificate</b> 1.73 crore pensioners since 2014
 <b>MGNREGS wages</b> 10.13 crore beneficiaries	 <b>e-KYC</b> Over 98.6 crore for issuance / re-verification of SIM card
 <b>NSAP benefits</b> 1.92 crore beneficiaries	 <b>EPFO</b> 4.73 crore UAN accounts linked
 <b>Passport</b> 1.36 crore linked	 <b>DigiLocker</b> 1.52 crore holders linked to store over 2.04 crore documents

**#Aadhar4Development**

- The Supreme Court struck down Section 33(2), which allowed the disclosure of Aadhaar information for national security reasons on the orders of an officer not below a Joint Secretary.
- An officer above the Joint Secretary rank should first consult with a judicial officer, possibly a High Court judge, and both should decide whether information need to be disclosed in the national interest.
- The Section 33 (1), allowed the disclosure of Aadhaar information on the orders of a District Judge. This cannot be done now without giving the person concerned an opportunity to be heard.

### 5.3 Measuring Development

#### 5.3.1 India's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Improves

India moved to the 26th rank from its earlier 54, in a decade, among 102 developing countries with Global Multidimensional Poverty (MDP)

Highlights:

- The national average is 21%, in the five southern States (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) the average MDP is 9%.
- The poverty levels have dropped in all States.
- Bihar is the poorest State with 43% incidence of poverty.
- Kerala has an MDP of 1%.
- The poverty levels fell from 55% to 21% in a decade, mainly due to the lowered burden in the southern States
- Researchers have extracted data from the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS 2015-16) for the comparison.

#### 5.3.2 World Bank's Human Capital Index

The World Bank released a Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the World Development Report 2019. Theme of the World Development Report: The Changing Nature of Work

Highlights:

- The World Bank has launched a Human Capital Project (HCP).
- The HCP programme is claimed to be a program of advocacy, measurement, and analytical work to raise awareness and increase demand for interventions to build human capital.

Components of HCP:

- A cross-country human capital measurement metric called the Human Capital Index (HCI).
- A programme of measurement and research to inform policy action
- A programme of support for country strategies to accelerate investment in human capital.

About HCI:

- The HCI has been constructed for 157 countries.
- It claims to seek to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18.
- The HCI index values are contended to convey the productivity of the next generation of workers, compared to a benchmark of complete standard education and full health.

**The components of HCI:**

- Survival, as measured by under-5 mortality rates
- Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School which combines information on the quantity and quality of education
- Health environment using two proxies of (a) adult survival rates and (b) the rate of stunting for children under age 5

**HCI for India in the Report:**

- Human Capital Index: A child born in India today will be only 44 per cent as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health.
- The HCI in India for females is marginally better than that for males.
- Probability of Survival to Age 5: 96 out of 100 children born in India survive to age 5.
- Expected Years of School: In India, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete 10.2 years of school by her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Adult Survival Rate: Across India, 83 per cent of 15-year olds will survive until age 60.
- Gender Differences: In India, HCI for girls is marginally higher than for boys.

**5.3.3 Global Hunger Index 2018**

The Global Hunger Index report 2018 released annually by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.

**Component indicators of GHI:**

1. Undernourishment: the share of the population which is undernourished and reflects insufficient caloric intake.
2. Child wasting: the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (low weight-for-height), reflecting acute undernutrition.
3. Child Stunting: the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (low height-for-age), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
4. Child mortality: the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

**Dimensions of hunger:** The GHI scores are based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger-

1. Insufficient caloric intake
2. Child under nutrition
3. Child mortality

**Performance of India:**

- India has been ranked at 103 out of 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2018, with hunger levels in the country categorized as “serious”.
- At least one in five Indian children under the age of five is wasted.
- India’s ranking has dropped three places from last year
- The percentage of undernourished people in the population has dropped from 18.2% in 2000 to 14.8% in 2018.
- The child mortality rate has halved from 9.2% to 4.3%.
- The child stunting has dropped from 54.2% to 38.4% over the same period

**5.3.4 National Monitoring Framework on Sustainable Development Goals**

The Union Cabinet approved National Monitoring Framework on Sustainable Development Goals.

**Targets:**

- Measures to mainstream SDGs into on-going national policies, programmes and strategic action plans to address the developmental challenges.
- Based on statistical indicator, the MoSPI will bring out national reports on implementation of SDGs.
- The Report will facilitate assessment of progress, identify challenges and give recommendations for follow up at the national level.
- High Level Steering Committee will review the National Indicator Framework on regular basis for its improvement.
- Data source Ministries / Departments will be responsible for providing regular information to MoSPI on these indicators at required intervals and disaggregation for national and sub-national reporting of SDGs.
- Advanced IT tools will be used for close and effective monitoring.

**Major impact:**

- SDGs integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. It intends eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world with basic motto of 'SabkaSaathSabkaVikash'.
- SDGs with 17 Goals and 169 Targets intend for promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.
- NIF will help in outcome-based monitoring & reporting on progress on SDGs at National level.

**About Sustainable Development Goals:**



- The UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) for the next 15 years.
- The 17 SDGs came into force with effect from 1st January, 2016.
- They are not legally binding, the SDGs have become de facto international obligations and have potential to reorient domestic spending priorities of the countries during the next fifteen years.
- Countries are expected to take ownership and establish a national framework for achieving these Goals.
- Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.
- Countries would be responsible for follow-up and review at the national level, with regard to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets.
- Actions at the national level to monitor progress under SDGs will require quality, accessible and timely data.

#### 5.3.5 SATH program

- NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing "Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital with the State Governments
- The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors.
- SATH aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for health systems.
- It aims to provide support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement the solutions towards transforming the health.
- The workshop brings experts from development organizations such as World Bank, World Health Organization, UNDP, UNICEF

#### 5.3.6 Ease of Living Index

Ease of Living Index is an initiative of Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

##### Highlights:

- Andhra Pradesh has topped in States in terms of "Ease of Living Index"
- Three cities in Maharashtra Pune, Navi Mumbai and Greater Mumbai top the Index
- The three cities at the bottom of the rankings are Rampur, Kohima and Patna.

##### About Index:

- The Ease of Living Index is structured according to four pillars institutional, social, economic and physical
- The index is in line with SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- The index captures the breadth of the quality of life in cities across four pillars and 15 categories using 78 indicators, of which 56 are core indicators and 22 are supporting indicators.
- The core indicators measure those aspects of ease of living which are considered essential urban services
- The supporting indicators are used to measure the adoption of innovative practices which are considered desirable for enhancing ease of living

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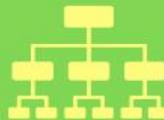


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