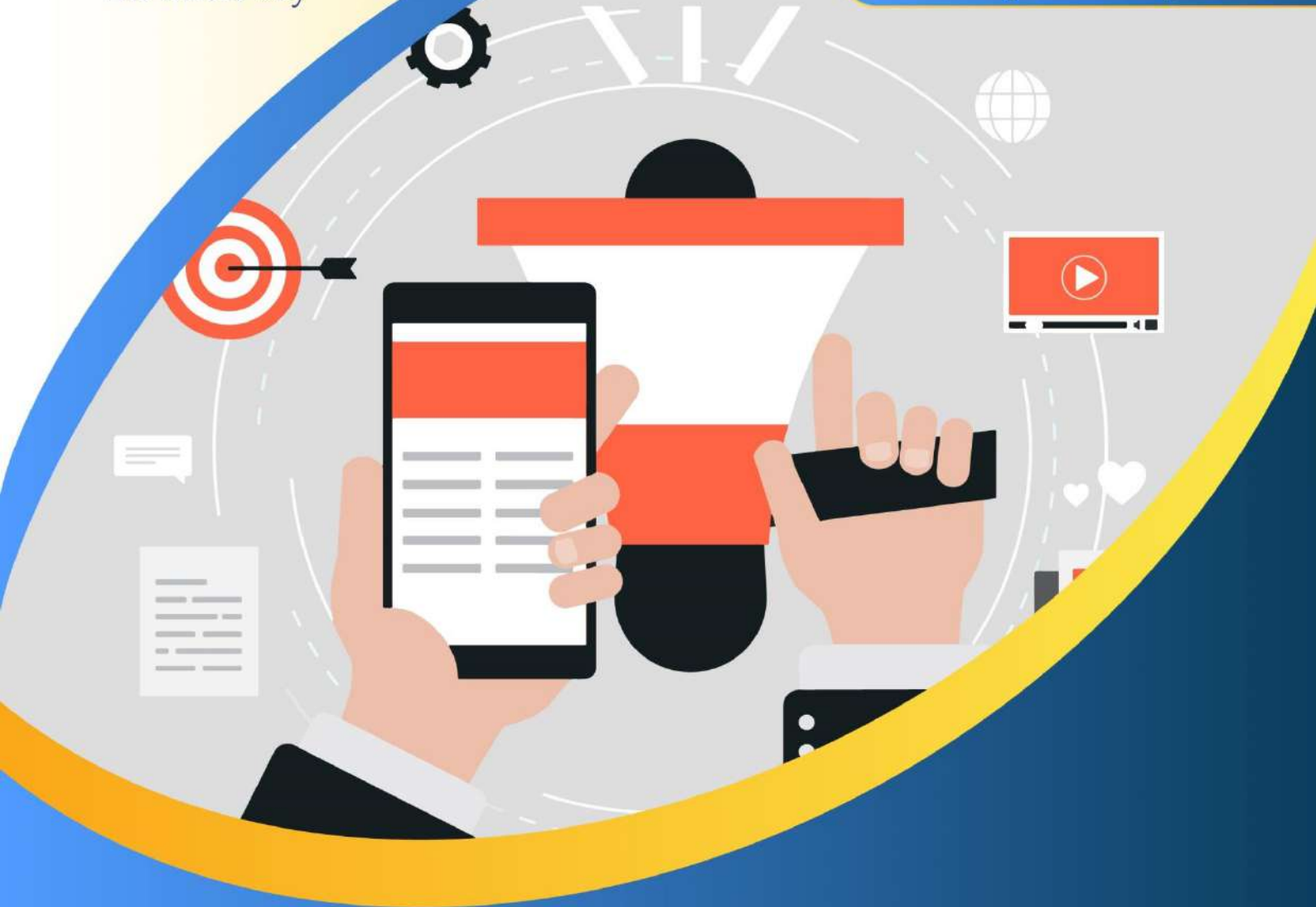


January to July 2021



2021 Current Affairs for Prelims 2021

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SOCIETY

1. Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI)

In news- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare released India report on Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1.

What is LASI?

- LASI is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population ageing in India.
- The National Programme for Health Care of Elderly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has undertaken the survey through International Institute for Population Sciences, (IIPS), Mumbai in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health, University of Southern California, USA, United Nations Population Fund and National Institute on Ageing.
- It covered a baseline sample of individuals aged 45 till 75 and above from all States and Union Territories (UTs) of India (excluding Sikkim).

Significance of the report-

- It is **India's first and the worlds largest ever survey** that provides a longitudinal database for designing policies and programmes for the older population.
- It helps in establishing a range of preventive and health care programmes for older population and most vulnerable among them.
- A unique feature of LASI is the **coverage of comprehensive biomarkers** as no other survey in India collects detailed data on health and biomarkers together with information on family and social network, income, assets, and consumption.

2. GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2020

In News- India has been ranked at 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020.

About the report-

- It is published by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.
- This report is released annually.
- Worldwide hunger is at a moderate level, according to the 2020 Index.
- 3 countries have alarming levels of hunger – Chad, Timor-Leste, and Madagascar.
- Africa (South of the Sahara) and South Asia have the highest hunger.

Indian Scenario:

- With a **score of 27.2**, India has a level of hunger that is “**serious**”.
- It ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Index.
- In 2019, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.
- **Country has the highest prevalence of 'wasted children'** when even Bangladesh and Pakistan score better.
- India features behind Nepal (73), Pakistan (88), Bangladesh (75), Indonesia (70) among others.
- Out of the total 107 countries, only 13 countries fare worse than India.

Indicators:

- 14% of India's population is **undernourished** (2017-19) (It was 16.3% during 2011-13).

- **Child Wasting** is 17.3% (2015-19)(it was 15.1% in 2010-14).
- **Child Stunting** has improved significantly, from 54% in 2000 to less than 35% now.
- **Child Mortality** is 3.7%, which was 5.2% in 2012.

3. Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC):

About FDRVC-

- It is a **Private Company Limited** by Guarantee, registered with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi.
- It is a **joint initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trusts**.
- It is a **Not for Profit Company** set up in 2019 with the support of Tata Trusts.
- It has been designated as an Implementing Agency (IA), to promote 100 FPOs allocated to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), GoI under the scheme.
- Functions include establishing Producer Owned Enterprises and build the 'Produced in India' brand.
- Partnerships include Multi-stakeholder Governing Board and partnerships with Research, Academia, Civil Society, and Corporates.

4. India Justice Report 2020:

In News- The second edition of the Indian Justice Report (IJR) was recently launched.

About Indian Justice Report-

- The India Justice Report ranks individual Indian states in relation to their capacity to deliver access to justice.
- The Tata Trusts brought together a group of sectoral experts to develop a report that would measure the structural capacity of state-based instrumentalities of the justice system.
- The first ever ranking was published in November 2019.
- The ranking is based on quantitative measurements of budgets, human resources, infrastructure, workload, diversity across police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid in 18 large and medium sized states with a population of over 1 crore and 7 small states.

Highlights:

- Women comprise only 29 percent of judges in India.
- Two-thirds of the country's prisoners are yet to be convicted.
- In the last 25 years, since 1995, only 1.5 crore people have received legal aid.
- Maharashtra is ranked again at the top of the 18 large- and mid-sized states (with a population of over one crore each), followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab and Kerala.
- The list of seven small states (population of less than one crore each) was topped by Tripura, followed by Sikkim and Goa.

5. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):

In news - Jiya Rai, a 12 years old naval child, swam 36 kilometers to create awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder.

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

- It refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social interactions, social skills, /restricted/repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.

- Autism is known as a “spectrum” disorder because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience.
- It occurs in all ethnic, racial, and economic groups.
- Although ASD can be a lifelong disorder, treatments and services can improve a person’s symptoms and ability to function.
- People with ASD often have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills.
- They might repeat certain behaviors and might not want change in their daily activities.
- Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things.
- Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person’s life.
- Though the exact causes of ASD are unknown, research suggests that genes can act together with influences from the environment to affect development in ways that lead to ASD
- Some risk factors include- Having a sibling with ASD; Having older parents; Having certain genetic conditions such as Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome and Rett syndrome; Very low birth weight.

6. Stop TB Partnership

In news: The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as the Chairman of the international body Stop TB Partnership Board.

Key updates:

- He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.
- He will serve a three year term, commencing from July, 2021.

About Stop TB Partnership:

- It was formed in 2001 with a vision of a TB-free world.
- Its mission is to ensure that every TB patient has access to effective diagnosis, treatment and cure.
- Its partners include international and technical organizations, government programmes, research and funding agencies, NGOs, community groups and the private sector.
- It was conceived following the meeting of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Tuberculosis Epidemic held in London in March 1998.
- In 1998 through the Amsterdam Declaration it gave a call for collaborative action from ministerial delegations from 20 countries that bear the highest burden of TB.
- It operates through a secretariat hosted by UNOPS in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It envisages to end the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030 as envisaged under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO End TB Strategy.
- Its 90-(90)-90 targets is that by 2020 at least 90% of all people with TB should be reached and placed on appropriate therapy, at least 90% of the most vulnerable, should be reached and to achieve a treatment success of at least 90%.
- India has committed to eliminating TB in the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global deadline of 2030.

7. Gond tribe

In news: On the occasion of International Women’s day, the Prime Minister of India mentioned the artistic works done by Gond Tribes.

A brief note on Gond Tribe-

- Gond tribes are one of the largest tribes of Central India and call themselves Koitur or Koi.
- They can be found in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal.
- They speak Gondi, which belongs to the Dravidian family of languages and is similar to Tamil and Kannada.
- And they also speak Sadri in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- Their first historical references of the Gonds come from Muslim writers in the 14th century.
- The first kingdom of the Gonds was that of Chanda, founded in 1200 and other kingdoms include Garha, Kherla, Deoghar and Mandla (Rani Durgavati).
- There is no cultural uniformity among the Gond, although the religion of all Gond peoples centres in the cult of clan and village deities, together with ancestor worship.
- The Gond people were known to offer human sacrifices, especially to the goddesses Kali, Danteshwari and Bara Deo.
- They venerate Ravana as Gade Raja, a figure they have been worshipping since ancient times.
- They are listed as a Scheduled Tribe.
- Pola, a cattle festival and Phag are some of their major festivals.
- They follow slash-and-burn (jhum) cultivation on hill slopes and digging sticks are still used more than plows.

8. Toda Tribe

In news: On International Women's day Prime Minister of India mentioned about women of Toda tribes and their artistic works.

A brief note on Toda Tribes-

- They are **pastoral tribes of the Nilgiri Hills** of southern India, mainly concentrated in Tamil Nadu.
- They speak **Toda language** which is **Dravidian** but is the most aberrant of that linguistic stock.
- They also speak in **other languages like Kannada, Telugu, and Malayalam etc..**
- They live in **settlements of three to seven small thatched houses** built on a wooden framework, with an arched roof in the shape of a half barrel.
- They call their **villages as munds**, which consist of five buildings or huts, out of which they use three as dwellings, one as a dairy and the other as shelter for the calves at night.
- These tribes **traditionally trade dairy products, as well as cane and bamboo articles**, with the other Nilgiri peoples, receiving Badaga grain and cloth and Kota tools and pottery in exchange.
- Their religion centres on the all-important Buffalo.
- They also **worship nature like hill gods, Lord Amodr (the realm of the dead) & Goddess Teikirzi**.
- As per the tradition, **ritual must be performed for almost every dairy activity**, from milking and giving the herds salt to churning butter and shifting pastures seasonally.
- **Polyandry** is fairly common.

9. World Happiness Report 2021

- **India is ranked 139th** in the recently released World Happiness Report 2021 (previous year India's rank was 144).
- The report is **released by** Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) for the United Nations.
- The report ranks 149 countries on "how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be".

- It is the **ninth edition** with **focus on** the effects of COVID-19 on happiness and how countries have differed in their success in reducing deaths and maintaining connected and healthy societies.
- The results of the report, which is **based on the Gallup World Poll**, have been **correlated with factors like GDP and social security**.
- Ranking of Happiness is **based on a three-year-average 2018-2020**.
- The report evaluated levels of happiness by taking into account **6 key factors** such as economic, health, social support, personal freedom, generosity, and perception of corruption.
- **Finland** has been declared the **world's happiest country** for the fourth year running.
- Of the 10 top countries in the list, nine were in Europe.
- A number of Asian countries fared better this year than they had last year, while China moved to the 84th spot from the 94th.

10. International Pulsar Timing Array

- Recently, the International Pulsar Timing Array (IPTA) approved India's full membership as the **Indian Pulsar Timing Array (InPTA)**.
- **IPTA is multi-institutional, multi-telescope collaboration**, comprising the European Pulsar Timing Array (EPTA), the North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (**NANOGrav**), and the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array (**PPTA**).
- **Goal of IPTA** is to detect gravitational waves using an array of approximately 30 pulsars.
- **InPTA** set up in 2019, is an experiment aimed at detection of Gravitational waves (GWs) in the sub-microHertz frequency range by observing an ensemble of millisecond pulsars (MSPs).
- With the India's joining, observations made by **Pune-based upgraded Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (uGMRT)** will be used along with the data gathered by some large radio telescopes located in Europe, America and Australia.
- With uGMRT, India has become the **first Asian country to be a full member of IPTA consortium**.
- With 30 dish antennas each measuring 45m diameter and positioned over 25 km around **Khodad village in Junnar**, the uGMRT is the **only radio telescope in the world offering a frequency range of this width** (frequency range between 300 to 800 MHz) and sensitivity.

11. MANAS Mitra

In news- Recently, the pilot version of a health application, MANAS Mitra (**Mental health And Normalcy Augmentation System**), was launched.

About MANAS Mitra-

- The app, meant to be a guide, especially for mental health, was launched virtually by Prof K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the Government of India.
- A **mission-mode initiative led by the Office of the PSA**, MANAS Mitra is a **joint venture by Pune-based Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) and NIMHANS**, Bengaluru.
- The application has been developed by the Bengaluru centre of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).
- Though the app is still to undergo field trials and is not available for public use as yet, it will be a platform catering to the **overall wellness of people of all age groups and genders**.
- The current version has identified two age groups ages 15 to 20, termed as **Mann-Marg**, and ages 20 to 35, termed as **YoungISTAN**.
- Over the next 100 days, field trials will be carried out to validate the application.

12. Online grievance management portal by NCSC:

In news- Recently, Union Minister for Communication & IT and Law & Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the Online Grievance Management Portal of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

About the portal-

- It was launched by NCSC on the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar.
- NCSC aims to streamline the grievance redressal specially of the Scheduled Caste population through this portal.
- The portal, designed in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), will facilitate an end-to-end e-filing of complaints and grievances and their tracking.
- Portal would make it easier for the SC population to register their complaints from any part of the country.
- It is intended to make the hearing process work on similar lines as e-courts.
- This portal is linked to the Commission's website and one can file one's complaint upon registering on it.
- The facility to upload documents and audio/video files is also available.
- This would supplement the physical submission of complaints and grievances.

Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)-

- It is a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Its vision is to empower and serve the nation through development of Space and Geo-spatial Technologies, its applications/solutions/services in accordance to governance principles for socio-economic welfare of the Society.

Profile-

- It provides specialized services and solutions in implementing map-based Geographic Information Systems.
- It undertakes all services for the entire process of implementing an enterprise level GIS system.
- These services include GIS database design and development, map creation/updation and finishing, data migration/conversion and format translation, software development and customization, systems integration and technical consulting.
- It also provides complete GIS solutions, which bundle hardware and software with GIS systems development services.
- It has strengthened its range of high-end Geo-Spatial services in large-scale mapping by using advanced Photogrammetry and D-GPS technologies to cover elevation modelling, surface modelling and true ortho-photo generation.
- It offers comprehensive GIS/PHOTOGRAMMETRIC solutions over large geographical areas.

13. SAMVEDNA helpline

In news- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is providing Tele-Counselling to children through SAMVEDNA - a Toll-Free Helpline.

More information-

- **SAMVEDNA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance)** was launched in September, 2020 to provide psycho-social mental support for Children affected during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- This service is **exclusively for children who are willing to talk and are in need of counselling.**

- When a child/ caretaker/Parent dial SAMVEDNA **1800-121-2830**, they get to speak to a professional counsellor in a safe environment.
- Counsellors have been specially trained by the expert team of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (**NIMHANS**) to address the needs of children in these difficult times.
- Tele counselling is provided to the children under **three categories**:
 - Children who are in Quarantine/isolation/COVID Care centers.
 - Children who have COVID positive parents or family members and near ones.
 - Children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19 Pandemic.
- This Tele-Counselling caters to the children from all over India in **various regional languages**.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights-

- NCPDR is an **Indian** statutory body established by the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The Commission began operational on 5 March 2007.
- As defined by the commission, a 'child' includes a person up to the age of 18 years.
- The commission consists of a chairperson, Six members, out of which at least two are women and are appointed by the Central Government.
- **The functions of NCPDR are-**
 - Examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
 - Present to be central government, annually reports upon working of those safeguards;
 - Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases;
 - Examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disaster, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, exploitation, and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
 - Look into the matters relating to the children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children;
 - Undertake and promote research in the field of child rights;
 - Spread child rights literacy among various section of society and promote awareness of the safeguards;
 - The Commission shall not enquire into any matter which is pending before a State Commission or any other Commission duly constituted under any law for the time being in force.

14. One Stop Centres (OSCs) for women

In news- THE Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) will set up One-Stop Centres to support women affected by violence in public and private spaces in foreign missions.

About these centres-

- The OSCs will be set up in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- The first 10 OSCs will be introduced in Australia, Canada, Singapore, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.
- The countries have been identified by the MEA based on the Indian diaspora population.
- These centres will be run by the MEA and will be funded by the WCD Ministry.

- Women overseas, who are victims of violence or are simply stuck due to particular situations, can approach these centres for immediate as well as non-immediate support including legal aid, medical support and counselling.
- There are currently 700 One-Stop Centres in the country and WCD Ministry plans to add 300 more such centres across the country.
- The ministry announced an amount of Rs 74 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for rape victims who are minors.

15. YUVA scheme

In news- The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education recently launched YUVA - Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors.

About the scheme-

- It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country.
- The launch of YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with PM's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.
- It was during Mann ki Baat on 31 January 2021, Prime Minister called upon the young generation to write about freedom fighters, incidents associated with freedom as a tribute to the heroes of India's freedom.
- YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in the National Movement.
- This scheme will thus help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system.
- The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education is the implementing agency that will ensure phase-wise execution of the scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.
- The books prepared under this scheme will also be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- The selected young authors will interact with some of the best authors of the world; participate in literary festivals etc.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 👉 **TO MENTOR budding young writers (below 30 years)**
- 👉 **Themes: Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, National Movement etc**
- 👉 **Selection through All India Contest (<https://www.mygov.in>)**
- 👉 **Contest Period: 1st June–31st July 2021**
- 👉 **Total 75 authors to be selected**
- 👉 **Selected authors to be announced on 15th August 2021**
- 👉 **Winner entries to be ready for publication by 15th December 2021**
- 👉 **Published books to be launched on 12th January 2022 on YUVA DIVAS (National Youth Day)**
- 👉 **Scholarship: Rs.50,000 per month for a period of six months**

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- The selected young authors will interact with some of the best authors of the world; participate in literary festivals etc.

17. World No tobacco day

In news- The World Health Organization (WHO) on World No tobacco day, honoured **Union health minister Harsh Vardhan with Director-General Special award** for his efforts to control tobacco consumption in India. He was instrumental in the **2019 national legislation to ban E-cigarettes & heated tobacco products**.

About the awards-

- Every year, the WHO recognises individuals or organisations across the globe for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- This recognition takes the form of **WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award and World No Tobacco Day Awards**.
- In 2021, other than Indian Union health minister, the **Tobacco Control Research Group, University of Bath, UK** is also honoured for its efforts to expose tobacco industry's attempts and tactics to weaken, block or delay tobacco control.
- The WHO also annually recognises efforts of various individuals and groups by honouring them with **World No Tobacco Day awards** and these awards are given across **six regions**.
- In **South East region category**, the awardees include **Madhya Pradesh Voluntary Health Association and Uttar Pradesh Tobacco Control Cell**, along with **one organisation each from Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka**.

World No Tobacco Day-

- It is observed annually around the world on **31 May**.
- It is **one of 11 official global public health campaigns by the WHO**.

- It **started in 1987** when WHO's World Health Assembly passed a resolution calling for 7 April 1988 to be 'World no-smoking day'.
- The day aims at informing the public about the dangers of using tobacco and the business practices of tobacco companies.
- It educates the public about the business practices of tobacco companies, what the World Health Organisation is doing to fight against the use of tobacco, and what the people can do to claim their right to healthy living.
- The **2020 theme** was 'Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use'.
- The **2021 theme** is '**Quit tobacco to be a winner**'.

18. PM-CARES for Children scheme

In news- The children who have lost both parents or surviving parents or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to COVID-19 will be supported under the "PM-CARES for Children" scheme.

About the scheme-

- Under PM CARES, **children between 11-18 years** will be given admission in any Central Government residential school such as **Sainik School, Navodaya Vidyalaya etc...**
- In case the child is to be continued **under the care of Guardian/ grandparents/ extended family**, then he or she will be given admission in the **nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school** as a day scholar.
- If the child is admitted in a private school, the fees as per the RTE norms will be given from the PM CARES that will also pay for **expenditure on uniform, textbooks and notebooks**.
- The child will be assisted in obtaining an education loan for Professional courses / Higher Education in India as per the existing Education Loan norms and the interest on this loan will be paid by the PM CARES.
- For children who are not eligible under the existing scholarship schemes, PM CARES will provide an equivalent **scholarship**.
- PM CARES will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a **corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age**.
- This corpus will be used to give a **monthly financial support/ stipend from 18 years of age, for the next five years** to take care of his/ her personal requirements during the period of higher education.
- On reaching the age of 23 years, he/ she will get the corpus amount as **one lump-sum for personal and professional use**.
- All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a **health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs** and the **premium amount for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid** by PM CARES.

19. Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan

In news- Niti Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched a Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan **in 112 aspirational districts**.

About the campaign-

- The campaign is to assist in providing home-care support to asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic Covid-19 patients.

- It is part of a special initiative, Aspirational Districts Collaborative, in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas.
- The Abhiyaan will be led by district magistrates in partnership with over 1,000 local NGOs, which will enlist and train over 100,000 volunteers to connect with patients through phone calls.
- They will be trained to support 20 affected families each by educating caretakers to follow Covid-19 protocols, provide psycho-social support and timely updates about patients to the administration.
- The campaign will also undertake capacity building of citizens for correct usage of oxygen concentrators that have been supplied to these districts.
- The Piramal Foundation will be working with the district magistrates to support the training of NGOs and volunteers.
- It is expected to play a key role in district preparedness for managing nearly 70 percent of COVID cases at home, reducing pressure on the health system.

20. Master plan for Delhi, 2041

In news- The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has given its preliminary approval to the draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041. Once notified, it will **replace the existing Master Plan of Delhi-2021**, which had come into effect on 7 February 2007.

About the plan-

- The **first Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) was promulgated in 1962** under the Delhi Development Act of 1957, followed by the master plans of **2001 and 2021**.
- The Master Plan is a **'strategic' and 'enabling' framework** to guide the growth of the city.
- The **draft plan for 2041 is in two volumes** and comprises sector-wise policies in the key areas of environment, economy, public spaces, heritage, shelter, mobility and social and physical infrastructure.
- It includes **spatial development strategies** including green development area, regeneration of planned and unplanned areas, transit-oriented development, strategic regeneration and land pooling area.
- It also focuses on creating efficient mobility options for all and to foster a **"sustainable, liveable and vibrant Delhi by 2041"** that attracts talents and facilitates livelihood opportunities for everyone.
- It includes a **300-metre wide green-blue corridor**, aimed at improving drains and river waterfronts, and allowing regulated development in **green belt villages**, while preserving eco-cultural assets.
- It lays a clear boundary of the buffer zone near the **Yamuna river** and explores how to develop it.
- An **area-based improvement approach** will be adopted for revitalising the commercial and socio-cultural hubs of the city.
- A **Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP)** will be prepared for Delhi to achieve integration across all modes of urban transport.
- Under its commitment to environmental safeguard, it aims to minimise vehicular pollution by including a shift to greener fuels for public transport and adoption of mixed-use of **transit-oriented development (TOD)**.
- It advocates for identifying areas in the city for **continuing work, cultural activity and entertainment at night**, thus promoting a vibrant nightlife.
- It addresses parking problems and suggests a **'user pays' principle**, which means users of all personal motor vehicles, except for non-motorised ones, have to pay for authorised parking facilities, spaces and streets.

21. World Giving index, 2021

In news- Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) released the World Giving Index (WGI) 2021.

About the index-

- This year's index highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving.
- **Indonesia remains in the first place**, followed by Kenya.
- **India is at 14th place**, up from the 10-year global rank of 82.
- The improvement in India is seen across all the age groups and amongst both men and women.
- USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the Netherlands fell out of the highest rankings.
- Only Australia and New Zealand have maintained their top 10 rankings.
- Countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, and Kosovo moved up the rankings and made their first appearance in the top 10.
- More than half (55%) of the world's adults (3 billion people) reported helping someone they didn't know in 2020.
- More people donated money in 2020 than had done so in the last five years (31%).

About CAF-

- The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is a registered UK charity.
- It provides services and assistance to UK and international charities and their donors, and promotes general donation to charities.
- It was **founded in 1974** with headquarters in **Kings Hill, Kent, UK**.
- It is responsible for the UK arm of **Giving Tuesday**, the global day of giving.
- It releases an annual global report of generosity, called the **World Giving Index**, that ranks most countries in the world across **three measures - helping a stranger, donating money, and volunteering**.

22. Peter Pan syndrome

In news- Recently, the Bombay High Court granted bail to a 23-year-old rape accused on the ground that the accused suffered from Peter Pan Syndrome.

What is Peter Pan Syndrome?

- It is a psychological condition that is used to describe an adult, more in men than women who are socially immature.
- In simple words, it can be called an overgrown child.
- The term '**Peter Pan Syndrome**' **first appeared in 1983**, in a book authored by **psychologist Dan Kiley** titled '**Peter Pan Syndrome: Men Who Have Never Grown Up**'.
- He described it as a "**social-psychological phenomenon**".
- The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) **does not recognise Peter Pan Syndrome** in its list of mental illnesses.
- The term has its origin in literature, a play called Peter and Wendy by Scottish playwright JM Barrie, who wrote this play in 1904 and a novel by the same name in 1911.
- Peter's character is one of a **care-free young boy**, who never grows up.
- He features in several of Barrie's books and plays, and has since been adapted in numerous films, television series and comics.
- As Peter Pan Syndrome **hasn't officially been diagnosed** as a health disorder, **there aren't clearly-defined symptoms or characteristics** or even reasons which cause it.
- However, it could **affect one's daily routine, relationships**, work ethic, and result in attitudinal changes.
- The '**Peter Pan Syndrome**' **affects people who do not want or feel unable to grow up**, people with the body of an adult but the mind of a child.

Wendy Syndrome-

- Wendy Syndrome takes after Wendy Darling, who appears beside Peter Pan but is seen as playing an antithetical character.
- She is often called a “mother”, taking on the role of an adult or someone more mature.
- People suffering from Wendy Syndrome as often seen “making decisions, tidying up messes, and offering one-sided **emotional support**.”

23. Trafficking in Persons report, 2021

In news- The U.S. State Department has released an annual study called Trafficking in Persons report (TIP), 2021 recently.

About the report-

- The annual Trafficking in Persons report (TIP) has been published since 2001.
- It **uses the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) to define “severe” human trafficking** as “sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act” is not 18.
- The definition also includes “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude”.
- **It ranks countries in tiers based on their compliance with the minimum standard** for eliminating human trafficking according to the TVPA

There are **three tiers** in the report-

- Tier 1 includes governments that wholly meet the minimum standards.
- Tier 2 includes governments that do not meet the requirements “but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. It also includes a Tier 2 watchlist.
- The worst rank, Tier 3, is for countries whose governments do not fully meet minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Being ranked in this tier means countries **may be subject to certain restrictions on foreign assistance** should the president decide to withhold hold.

Key Highlights of the report-

- According to the report, Covid 19 pandemic resulted in an increase in vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts.
- It has determined that governments of twelve countries, including China, had a policy of trafficking in the reporting period (year ending March 31).
- Almost 70 percent of trafficking survivors from 35 countries reported that their financial well-being was heavily affected by COVID-19.
- Twelve governments were determined, by the State Department, to have a “policy or pattern” of human trafficking resulting in their countries being assigned a ‘Tier 3’ rating in the report.
- Afghanistan, Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, North Korea, Iran, Russia, South Sudan, Syria and Turkmenistan were on this list.
- The State Department downgraded Malaysia and Guinea-Bissau to Tier 3 this year.

- The report said that the Chinese government engaged in “widespread forced labour, including through the continued mass arbitrary detention of more than one million Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, ethnic Kyrgyz, and other Muslims” in Xinjiang.
- It also added Turkey, a NATO ally, to the list of countries whose “armed forces, police, or other security forces” recruit or use child soldiers.
- For India, the report said the government is not meeting the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so, resulting in India retaining a Tier 2 classification.

Laws in India-

- Trafficking in Human Beings or Persons is prohibited under the Constitution of India under Article 23 (1).
- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) is the premier legislation for prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- Criminal Law (amendment) Act 2013 has come into force wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A IPC which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking.
- Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, which has come into effect from 14th November, 2012 is a special law to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

24. Kanwar yatra

In news- The Supreme Court issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh state government against the state’s decision to allow ‘Kanwar Yatra’. While the UP government has allowed the yatra from July 25 despite concerns raised about possible third wave of COVID-19, the neighbouring Uttarakhand state has suspended the kanwar yatra.

About the yatra-

- The Kanwar yatra is an **annual pilgrimage of devotees of Shiva**, known as **Kānvarias or "Bhole"**, to Hindu pilgrimage places of **Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri** in Uttarakhand and **Sultanganj** in Bihar to fetch holy waters of Ganges River.
- Millions of participants **gather sacred water from the Ganga** and carry it across hundreds of miles to dispense as offerings in their local Śiva shrines, or specific temples such as Pura Mahadeva and Augharnath temple in Meerut, and Kashi Vishwanath, Baidyanath, and Deoghar in Jharkhand.
- The phenomenon surely existed in the early nineteenth century when English travelers reported seeing Kanwar pilgrims at many points during their journeys in the north Indian plains.
- Kanwar Yatra is named after the kānvar, a single pole (usually made of bamboo) with two roughly equal loads fastened or dangling from opposite ends.
- The kanwar is carried by balancing the middle of the pole on one or both shoulders.
- Kanwar-carrying pilgrims, called Kanwarias, carry covered water-pots in kanwars slung across their shoulders.
- The yatra is related to the churning of the ocean of milk in the Hindu Puranas.
- The festivals run during the monsoon month Shraawan (July — August).
- While most pilgrims are men, a few women also participate in Yatra.

25. Senari massacre of Bihar

In news- Recently, the Supreme Court of India admitted Bihar government's appeal against acquittal of 13 people in Senari massacre case.

About Senari massacre -

- **This incident took place on March 18, 1999** where **34 upper caste men** were forced out of their homes in Senari village of Jehanabad district allegedly by cadres of the now defunct Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), and **slaughtered near the village temple.**
- It was said that the Maoist organisation perpetrated the massacre allegedly to take revenge for the Ranvir Sena, a private army of upper-caste people, allegedly killing 56 Dalits at Laxmanpur Bathe in 1996 and 23 more at Shankarbigaha in 1999.
- The **upper caste villagers**, especially the Ranbir Sena led by Barmeshwar Mukhiya who was sent to jail in 2012.
- The Senari massacre saw the killing of the largest number of upper caste victims (34) after the Dalelchak-Bhagora massacre of Aurangabad in 1987, in which 42 upper caste people including 21 of a single family were killed.
- In 2016, a Jehanabad court sentenced 11 accused to death, and awarded the life sentence to three others. Three of those convicted challenged the verdict in the High Court.
- In May 2021, the Patna High Court acquitted 13 accused persons in the Senari massacre case.
- A Division Bench of Justices Ashwini Kumar Singh and Arvind Srivastava reversed the lower court's verdict, citing lack of sufficient corroborative evidence.

26. Harela festival

In news- Harela festival is celebrated across Uttarakhand.

About Harela festival-

- Harela means 'day of green' and it is a **festival of greenery, peace, prosperity** and environmental conservation.
- It is **celebrated as the monsoon starts** and is considered one of the most important festivals in the entire Kumaon region.
- The festival is celebrated in the month of Shravan (the fifth month of the Hindu lunar calendar) to **worship Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.**
- The **seeds of five to seven types of crops** such as maize, til (sesame), urad (black gram), mustard, oats are sown in donas (bowl made of leaves) or ringalare (hill bamboo baskets) nine days before the festival.
- These crops are harvested on the ninth day and distributed to neighbours, friends and relatives.
- The flourish of the crops symbolises prosperity in the year ahead.
- A day before the festival, **people make clay statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, known as Dikare,** and worship them.
- Harela is also linked to the **Barahnaza system** (12 types of crops), a crop diversification technique followed in the region of Garhwal.
- During the festival, people also sing songs in the kumaoni language.
- **It is called Hariyali/Rihyali in the Kangra, Shimla and Sirmour region, Dakhrain in Jubbal and Kinnaur regions of Himachal Pradesh.**
- In Garhwal region, the festival is celebrated as **Mol-Sankranti or as Rai-Sagrān.**

27. NISHTHA online program

In news- In order to provide continuous professional development opportunities to the teachers at the elementary level, the MHRD launched NISHTHA online using DIKSHA platform in October 2020. Around 24 lakh teachers have completed NISHTHA online training at elementary level by June, 2021.

More about the program-

- Under NISHTHA, a module on integrating ICT in teaching, learning and assessment has been introduced.
- Assessment is in-built in every Module and Online Certificates are automatically generated for participants after completion of the course.
- Module 1 of NISHTHA is specifically on '**Curriculum, Learner Centred Pedagogy, Learning Outcomes and Inclusive Education**', wherein the pedagogies for achieving the learning outcomes for all children have been specified.
- It also includes content on assistive technologies, digital resources for DIVYANG children etc.
- NCERT has developed guidelines on the specific goal of developing teaching-learning e-content for Children with Special Needs.

About NISHTHA-

- NISHTHA in **face-to-face mode was launched in 2019**, hereafter, 33 states/UTs have launched this programme in their states/UTs.
- Due to COVID-19 pandemic situation, it has been customized for online mode to be conducted through DIKSHA and NISHTHA portals by the NCERT.
- It is **organised at the elementary stage under Samagra Shiksha**, a Centrally sponsored flagship programme of MHRD to improve learning outcomes.
- It is a capacity building programme for "**Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training**".
- It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.
- It is the **world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind**.
- The basic objective of this massive training programme is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- The initiative is first of its kind wherein standardized training modules are developed at national level for all States and UTs.