

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

**Health in India Report**

According to the 'Health in India' report recently published by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO), the full immunisation programme is not completed among 40% of the children.


- The report is based on the 75<sup>th</sup> round of the National Sample Survey (July 2017-June 2018) on household social consumption related to health.

**Key Points**

- **Data Analysis:**
  - Across the country, only 59.2% of children under five years are fully immunised.
  - About 97% of children across the country received at least one vaccination — mostly BCG or the first dose of OPV at birth.
  - Only 67% of children are protected against measles. Only 58% got their polio booster dose, while 54% got their DPT booster dose.

**More work needed** | The table depicts the percentage share of children below 71 months who received immunisation as per the NSS health survey conducted in July 2017-June 2018

		% of children immunised
Polio vaccine	BCG	94.1
	Polio birth dose	93.9
	OPV-1	92.4
	OPV-2	87.8
	OPV-3	80.6
DPT / Pentavalent*	Booster dose	58.1
	DPT-1	91
	DPT-2	86.5
	DPT-3	78
	Booster dose	54
	Measles	67



\*Prevents five diseases—diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and Hemophilus influenza type B (Hib)

- **States/UTs Specific Data:**
  - Best Performance: Manipur (75%), Andhra Pradesh (73.6%) and Mizoram (73.4%) recorded the highest rates of full immunisation.
  - Poor Performance: Nagaland (12%), followed by Puducherry (34%) and Tripura (39.6%).
  - In Delhi, less than half of all children are fully immunised.
- **Issues Involved:**
  - The Covid-19 pandemic has already impacted the childhood vaccination programme.
  - According to advocacy group Child Rights and You reports, only half of Indian families with children under five years were able to access immunisation services during the lockdown.

**Additional Information**

**Full Immunisation**

- It means that a child receives a cocktail of eight vaccine doses in the first year of life. This includes:
  - BCG Vaccine: It is injected in a single dose shortly after birth, which protects against a childhood attack of tuberculosis.
  - Measles Vaccine: Measles is a viral disease.
  - Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV): It is given against polio virus. Its first dose is given at birth, followed by two more doses at intervals of four weeks.

- DPT/Pentavalent Vaccine: It is injected in three doses, which is meant to protect a child from diphtheria, pertussis or whooping cough, tetanus, Hepatitis B, and meningitis and pneumonia caused by haemophilus influenzae type B.
- Booster doses for OPV and DPT are also given between 16 and 24 months.

**Way Forward**

- Immunisation is a simple and effective way of protecting children from serious diseases. It not only helps protect individuals, it also protects the broader community by minimising the spread of disease. Therefore the government needs to remove any gap in immunisation.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**The First World Solar Technology Summit**

Recently, the first-ever World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) was organised by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

**Key Points**

- **Objectives:**
  - To showcase to member countries the state of the art and next-generation solar technologies worldwide.
  - To give an opportunity to decision-makers and stakeholders to meet, and discuss their own priorities and strategic agenda towards a larger integration.
  - To discuss the recent highlights of solar technologies, cost-wise, technology-wise, technology transfers, challenges and concerns in the field.
- **Steps Taken by India:**
  - In spite of having one of the lowest per-capita carbon emissions in the world, India has pressed ahead with the deployment of renewable energy at a fast pace for lowering carbon footprints.
    - India has enhanced its installed renewable capacity by 2.5 times and increased the solar installed capacity by more than 13 times.
    - Globally, India ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of renewable power.
  - India has scaled non-fossil fuel-based power generations to 134GW, which is about 35% of the total power generation and it is expected to increase it to 220 GW by 2022.
  - India is providing capacity-building support to ISA member countries through its Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.
  - Project Preparation Facility has been set up to develop bankable Solar Energy projects in ISA member countries with the help of Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India.
  - In 2018, India announced about USD 1.4 billion worth of lines of credit (LOCs) for covering 27 solar projects across 15 countries. These projects are in various stages of implementation.
- **Solar Energy related Schemes:**
  - Solar energy has taken a central place in India's National Action Plan on Climate Change with the National Solar Mission as one of the key Missions.
    - National Solar Mission (NSM) was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and is in line with India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
    - Its objective is to establish India as a global leader in solar energy by creating the policy conditions for solar technology diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.
  - One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG): India's ambitious cross-border power grid plan which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.
  - KUSUM Scheme: It aims to replace the use of diesel in the farm sector with solar energy with the target of solarisation of 2.8 million irrigation pumps.
  - Solar Charkha Mission: It is an enterprise driven scheme and envisages setting up of 'Solar Charkha Clusters' which will have 200 to 2042 beneficiaries. These solar charkhas are operated using solar power, keeping the environment clean and generating sustainable employment for the artisans.
  - 750 megawatt (MW) solar project which has been inaugurated in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

**Additional information**

**International Solar Alliance**

- It is a treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation which was jointly launched by India and France on 30th November 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France.
- It was conceived as a coalition of solar-resource-rich countries (which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn) to address their special energy needs.

**Aim:** To lower the cost of technology and finance and thereby facilitate deployment of over 1,000 GW of solar energy and mobilize more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030 in member countries.

Solar energy is a key source of affordable and reliable energy, thus it could play a significant role in achieving the universal energy access goal (SDG 7).

**Headquarter:** Gurugram in Haryana, India.

As of June 2020, the ISA Framework Agreement has been signed by 86 countries, with 68 having also deposited instruments of ratification.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATION**

**Tensions between Russia and Germany**

Recently, tensions between Russia and Germany have deepened over the alleged poisoning of Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny.

- Germany has threatened sanctions against Russia which, in turn, has accused Germany of delaying the investigation on the matter.

**Key Points**

- Alexei Navalny is Russia's opposition leader and anti-corruption campaigner who was evacuated to Germany after falling ill.
- Germany claims that the opposition leader has been poisoned using the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.
  - It is one of the strongest accusations yet from Germany on the basis that the deadly substance has been used by the Russian authorities, in the past as well.
- Germany, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union (EU), will discuss possible sanctions against Russia if it fails to provide an explanation.
  - The EU can discuss sanctions on Nord Stream 2, which is a critical energy export project for the Russian government.

**INDIAN ART AND CULTURE**

**ROGAN ART OF GUJARAT**

The centuries old tradition of Rogan art (hand painting on cloth), is facing an unprecedented challenge due to pandemic.

**Key Points**



- **About:**
  - The word Rogan means “Oil” in Persian. With origins in Persia, it came to Kutch around 300 years ago.
  - This rare craft is practised by a lone Muslim family, the Khattris of Nirona Village, Gujarat.
- **Technique:**
  - Rogan is a form of textile painting which uses a rich, brightly coloured paint made from castor oil and natural colors. Castor is a crop commonly grown in the Kutch region of Gujarat and the artists source it from the local farmers.
- **Patterns:**
  - The intricate motifs – geometric flowers, peacocks, the tree of life, etc. – are drawn from the history and folk culture of the Kutch region.
- **Process:**
  - The castor paste is mixed with natural colours and then is drawn out into a fine ‘thread’ with a metal stylus or ‘Kalam’. This metal rod never comes in contact with the fabric.
  - The artisans then carefully twist the paint across the cloth into motifs and patterns.
  - Next, the fabric is folded thereby printing its mirror image. The finer details are then added thus completing the Rogan painting.
- **Recognition:**
  - The ‘Tree of Life’ design is the most famous design in Rogan painting. It is inspired by traditional Persian designs. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, gifted Rogan paintings to the USA president, Barack Obama, during his visit to the USA in 2014.
  - The nine artists from the Khatri family have six national awards and six State awards between them.
- **Other Important Painting Styles of India:**
  - Kangra Miniature Painting (Himachal Pradesh)
  - Pattachitra Painting (Odisha)
  - Thanjavur Painting (Tamil Nadu)
  - Kishangarh school of Painting (Rajasthan): The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to this style of painting.
  - Kalamkari Painting (Andhra Pradesh)
  - Madhubani Painting (Bihar)
  - Warli Painting (Maharashtra)

## INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE

### SANSKRIT GRAMS PROGRAMME

The Uttarakhand Government has decided to develop 'Sanskrit Grams' across the state.

- The decision was taken after noting significant progress in a pilot programme to teach Sanskrit to residents of two villages in Uttarakhand.

#### **Key Points**

- Sanskrit Grams Programme:
  - Aim: To teach people to use Sanskrit regularly.
  - Villages Selected:
    - Several villages were selected according to the availability of Sanskrit schools so that teachers may visit the villages often and motivate residents to learn and use Sanskrit.
    - Villages were selected at the meeting of the Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy, chaired by the Uttarakhand Chief Minister.
      - It has also been decided to rename the academy as Uttaranchal Sanskrit Sansthanam Haridwar, Uttarakhand.
      - The academy was established in 2002.
  - Implementation Strategy:
    - The focus will be on the school-going children so that they can learn the language from a young age.
    - The programme will start by teaching people smaller sentences which are used most commonly.

- The programme will run first at the district level and then at the block level for promotion of the Sanskrit language.
- About the Pilot Programme:
  - Earlier, villages of Kimotha in Chamoli district and Bantola in Bageshwar district were developed as Sanskrit villages.
  - Residents have started using the language in their daily communication and they also sing folk songs in Sanskrit.
- Usage of Sanskrit in Uttarakhand:
  - Sanskrit is the second official language in Uttarakhand after Hindi (Article 345 of the Constitution: Official language or languages of a State).
  - The state government currently runs 97 Sanskrit schools, where an average of 2,100 students study each year.

**Sanskrit**

- It is an old Indo-Aryan language in which the most ancient documents, Vedas are composed in what is called Vedic Sanskrit.
- Classical Sanskrit, a language close to late Vedic as then used in the northwest of the subcontinent, was elegantly described in one of the finest grammars ever produced, the Aṣṭādhyāyī (“Eight Chapters”) composed by Pāṇini (c. 6<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century BCE).
- Sanskrit has been written both in Devanāgarī script and in various regional scripts, such as Śāradā from the north (Kashmir), Bāṅglā (Bengali) in the east, Gujarātī in the west, and various southern scripts, including the Grantha alphabet, which was especially devised for Sanskrit texts.
- There are also major works of drama and poetry, although the exact dates of many of these works and their creators have not been definitively established. Important authors and works include:
  - Bhāsa (for example, his Svapnavāsavadatta - Vāsavadatta in a Dream), who is assigned widely varying dates but definitely worked prior to Kālidāsa, who mentions him.
  - Kālidāsa, dated anywhere from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE to the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE, whose works include Śakuntalā, Vikramorvaśīya, Kumārasambhava and Raghuvamśa.
  - Śūdraka and his Mṛcchakatika (“Little Clay Cart”), possibly dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE.
  - Bhāravi and his Kirātārjunīya (“Arjuna and the Kirāta”), from approximately the 7<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Māgha, whose Śiśupālavadha (“The Slaying of Śiśupāla”) dates to the late 7<sup>th</sup> century.
  - The two epics Rāmāyaṇa (“Life of Rāma”) and Mahābhārata (“Great Tale of the Bhāratas”) were also composed in Sanskrit, and the former is esteemed as the first poetic work (ādikāvya) of India.
- Sanskrit is a classical and an eighth schedule language.

**Promotion of Sanskrit by the Central Government**

- The government has established the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in Delhi as a nodal authority to promote Sanskrit. The Sansthan has been allocated Rs 643.84 crore in the last three years.
- Providing financial assistance to Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodha Sansthans.
- Award of merit scholarships to students of Sanskrit Pathasala to College level.
- Financial assistance to NGOs/Higher Educational Institutions of Sanskrit for various Research Projects/Programmes.
- Retired eminent Sanskrit scholars are engaged under the Shastra Chudamani scheme for teaching.
- Sanskrit is also taught through Non-formal Sanskrit Education (NFSE) programme, by setting up Non-Formal Sanskrit learning centres, in reputed institutions like Indian Institutes Technology, Ayurveda institutions, Modern Colleges and Universities.
- Presidential awards for Sanskrit Language are awarded annually to 16 senior scholars and to 5 young scholars.
- Financial Assistance for Publication, Reprint of rare Sanskrit books.
- Ashtaadashi containing eighteen Projects for sustaining the growth of Sanskrit has been implemented.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM****PATRIKA GATE IN JAIPUR**

The Prime Minister has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur (Rajasthan) through video conferencing.



**Key Points**

- The Gate has been constructed by the Rajasthan Patrika Group of Publications (media conglomerate).
- It is an iconic gate built as a monument under Mission Anupam of the Jaipur Development Authority.
- The construction of Patrika Gate was in keeping with Jaipur having recently been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
  - In 2019, Jaipur became the second city of the country after Ahmedabad to get the recognition.
  - India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site.

**Flying V Aircraft**

A team of researchers and engineers along with a drone pilot from the Dutch-based Technical University of Delft (TU Delft) have successfully conducted the first real test flight of the scaled model of the 'Flying V' aircraft.

**Key Points**

- Flying V is a futuristic and fuel-efficient long-distance aircraft that could one day carry passengers in its wings.
- The Flying-V design, which derives its name from its noticeable 'V' shape, integrates the passenger cabin, the cargo hold and the fuel tanks in the wings.
- Computer calculations have predicted that the aircraft's improved aerodynamic shape and reduced weight will reduce fuel consumption by 20% compared to today's advanced aircrafts.
- The Flying-V carries about the same number of passengers - 314 in the standard configuration – and the same amount of cargo, 160 m<sup>3</sup>.
- The original plan for the Flying-V aircraft design came from TU Berlin student Justus Benad.
- The 'Flying V' project was first presented at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch airlines KLM, which has also been a partner in the project since its beginning in 2019. Various business partners including Airbus (an aerospace company), are now involved in the project.



**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. How are cooperative banks different from commercial banks? Highlight their role in revolutionizing the prospect of rural credit.(250 words)**

**Ans.**

- The banking industry plays an important role in the economic development of the country and is the most dominant segment of the financial sector.
- Banks provide the rural small businessmen with loans from deposited money which plays a crucial role in rural development.
- Commercial bank is a kind of financial institution which carries all the operations related to deposit and withdrawal of money for the general public. These banks are profit-making institutions. Whereas, a cooperative bank is a financial entity which belongs to its members, who are at the same time the owners and customers of the bank.

*The differences between commercial and cooperative banks are as follows:*

<b>Cooperative Banks</b>	<b>Commercial Banks</b>
Cooperative banks work on the principle of cooperation	Commercial bank work on the principle of profit-making
Cooperative banks are owned and operated by members, who are its customers	Commercial banks are owned by the and private individuals
Cooperative banks are constituted by different states under different acts	Commercial banks are constituted by a uniform act passed by the parliament
Cooperative banks have 3 tier system- apex level, district level and primary cooperatives	Commercial banks have no such hierarchy
Cooperative banks can not open their branch in foreign countries	Commercial banks can open their branch in foreign countries

**Role in Revolutionizing the Prospect of Rural Credit**

- Financial Inclusion: They have played a significant role in the financial inclusion of unbanked rural masses. They provide cheap credit to masses in rural areas.
- Cooperative banks mainly target rural masses so they play an important role in rural financial inclusion by providing easy credit to people/farmers.
- The cooperative bank ecosystem is farmer-friendly. Farmers can easily avail credit for seeds, tools or any other agriculture activity.
- With stricter laws and regulation of the cooperatives by the RBI, these banks have gained the confidence of the people.
- As the credit and deposit facility is easily available to the people, it encourages them to save more and deposit more in banks instead of hoarding money.
- Low-interest rate- These banks provide easy and cheap credit discouraging the traditional credit methods.i.e Moneylenders and zamindars.

- It makes efforts in improving the lending policies and operational efficiency of cooperative credit institutions.

***Conclusion***

- Cooperative banks have achieved many landmarks since their creation and have helped a normal rural Indian to feel empowered and secure.
- Therefore, despite several shortcomings, Cooperative Banks are important constituents of Indian Financial System. Their contribution in the Indian economy cannot be ignored since they play a major role in Rural Financing.