

GOVERNANCE**Global Health Estimates 2019: WHO**

Recently, the World Health Organization's (WHO) released the 2019 Global Health Estimates.

The WHO Global Health Estimates provide a comprehensive and comparable assessment of mortality and loss of health due to diseases and injuries for all regions of the world.

The new data of Global Health Estimates cover the period from 2000 to 2019.

The Estimates are in consonance with the report Ten Threats to Global Health in 2019 by WHO.

Key Points**Key Findings of the Global Health Estimates 2019:**

- **Top Ten Causes of Death:** Ischaemic heart disease, Stroke, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Lower respiratory infections, Neonatal conditions, Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers, Alzheimer disease and other dementias, Diarrhoeal diseases, Diabetes mellitus, Kidney diseases.
- **Non-communicable diseases:** Make up 7 of the world's top 10 causes of death, an increase from 4 of the 10 leading causes in 2000.
- **Heart disease :** It now represents 16% of total deaths from all causes and the number of deaths from heart disease increased by more than two million since 2000 to nearly 9 million in 2019.
- **Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia:** Ranked 3rd in both the Americas and Europe in 2019.
- **Women are disproportionately affected:** globally, 65% of deaths from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are women.
- **Diabetes:** Deaths from diabetes increased by 70% globally between 2000 and 2019, with an 80% rise in deaths among males.
- **In the Eastern Mediterranean,** deaths from diabetes have more than doubled and represent the greatest percentage increase of all WHO regions.
- **Communicable diseases:** They still take in low-income countries: 6 of the top 10 causes of death in low-income countries are still communicable diseases, including malaria (6th), tuberculosis (8th) and Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (9th).
- **Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections:** These were the deadliest group of communicable diseases and together ranked as the fourth leading cause of death.
- **However,** compared to 2000, lower respiratory infections were claiming fewer lives than in the past, with the global number of deaths decreasing by nearly half a million.
- **The reduction is in line with a general global decline in the percentage of deaths caused by communicable diseases.**
- **AIDS :** It dropped from the 8th leading cause of death in 2000 to the 19th in 2019, reflecting the success of efforts to prevent infection, test for the virus and treat the disease over the last two decades.
- **It remains the fourth leading cause of death in Africa,** the number of deaths has dropped by more than half, falling from over 1 million in 2000 to 435 000 in 2019 in Africa.
- **Tuberculosis :** It is no longer in the global top 10, falling from 7th place in 2000 to 13th in 2019, with a 30% reduction in global deaths.
- **However,** it remains among the top 10 causes of deaths in the African and South-East Asian regions, where it is the 8th and 5th leading cause respectively.
- **More non-communicable diseases are now causing deaths worldwide,** there has been a global decline in deaths from communicable diseases, which however still remain a major challenge in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Longevity:** The estimates confirm the growing trend for longevity as in 2019, people were living more than 6 years longer than in 2000.
- **Global average of longevity was 73 years in 2019 compared to nearly 67 in 2000.**
- **The new projections state that people are living longer but with more disability.**
- **Disability, however, is on the rise.**

Suggestions:

- **There is a need for an intensified global focus on preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, as well as tackling injuries, in all regions of the world, as set out in the agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals.**
- **The world needs to rapidly step up prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases.**

- There is an urgency to improve primary health care equitably and holistically.
- Strong primary health care is clearly the foundation on which everything rests, from combating non-communicable diseases to managing a global pandemic.
- Governments and stakeholders need to urgently invest in data and health information systems to support timely and effective decision-making.

Indian Initiatives to Improve Health sector:

Ayushman Bharat: It is a flagship initiative that attempts to move away from the sectoral and segmented approach of service delivery to a comprehensive need-based health care service.

Aim: It has been launched by the government with an aim to move towards a provision of universal healthcare in the country.

POSHAN Abhiyaan: It aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters.

National Digital Health Mission: It is a complete digital health ecosystem. The digital platform will be launched with four key features — health ID, personal health records, Digi Doctor and health facility registry.

INTERNAL SECURITY**Steps to Counter Maoist Threat**

To speed up the implementation of the Road Requirement Plan for extremism-affected areas, Chhattisgarh has suggested the Centre to divide the remaining contracts into small packets so that local contractors can take up the jobs.

Key Points**Road Requirement Plan for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas:**

- This Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for improving road connectivity in 34 LWE affected districts of 8 States.
- 8 States are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.
- This scheme envisaged construction of 5,422 km roads lengths in LWE affected States.

Present Issue:

- 90% of the 5422 km Road Requirement Plan stands completed, but progress remains a problem in Chhattisgarh.
- Of the 419 km of roads remaining across four states, Chhattisgarh accounts for 360 km.

Proposed Solution:

- Chhattisgarh proposed to the Centre to break up the contracts into small portions so that local contractors can take up the jobs.
- When local people take up the contracts, they are in a better position to get the work done.

Left Wing Extremism (LWE):

- LWE organizations are the groups that try to bring change through violent revolution. They are against democratic institutions and use violence to subvert the democratic processes at ground level.
- These groups prevent the developmental processes in the least developed regions of the country and try to misguide the people by keeping them ignorant of current happenings.
- Left Wing Extremists are popularly known as Maoists worldwide and as Naxalites in India.

Other Government Initiatives to fight LWE:

Greyhounds: It was raised in 1989 as an elite anti-naxal force.

Operation Green Hunt: It was started in 2009-10 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.

LWE Mobile Tower Project: To improve mobile connectivity in the LWE areas, the Government in 2014, approved installation of mobile towers in LWE affected States.

Aspirational Districts Programme: Launched in 2018, it aims to rapidly transform the districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.

SAMADHAN:

It stands for

S- Smart Leadership,

A- Aggressive Strategy,

M- Motivation and Training,

- A- Actionable Intelligence,
- D- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
- H- Harnessing Technology,
- A- Action plan for each Theatre, and
- N- No access to Financing.

This doctrine is the one-stop solution for the LWE problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels.

Way Forward

- Though the number of incidents of LWE violence has come down in the recent past, continued efforts and focus are needed in eliminating such groups.
- Government needs to ensure two things; security of the peace-loving people and the development of the naxalism-affected regions.
- Centre and states should continue with their coordinated efforts in development and security both where Centre should play a supportive role with state police forces taking the lead.
- Government needs to undertake technological solutions such as the use of drones to minimize loss of lives of security personnel.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December - the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

- The UDHR established a set of common basic values both with regard to the view of human beings and to the relationship between the state and the individual.
- 2020 Theme: Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights.

Key Points

Human Rights:

- These are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status.
- These include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more.
- Nelson Mandela had stated 'To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity'.

International Human Rights Conventions and Bodies:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

- The 30 rights and freedoms include civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy and economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to social security, health and education, etc.
- India took active part in drafting of the UDHR.
- The UDHR is not a treaty, so it does not directly create legal obligations for countries.
- The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols (on the complaints procedure and on the death penalty) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights.

Other Conventions:

- These include the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), among others.
- India is a party to all these Conventions.

Human Rights Council:

- The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights. It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- The most innovative feature of the Human Rights Council is the Universal Periodic Review. This unique mechanism involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN member states once every four years.

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the secretariat for the Human Rights Council.

Amnesty International:

- An international organisation of volunteers who campaign for human rights. This organisation brings out independent reports on the violation of human rights all over the world.

Human Rights in India**Enunciated in the Constitution:**

- Since inception, the Indian Constitution incorporated most of the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration in two parts, the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Fundamental Rights: Articles 12 to 35 of the Constitution. These include the Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right Against Exploitation, Right to Freedom of Religion, Cultural & Educational Rights, Saving of Certain Laws and Right to Constitutional Remedies.
- Directive Principles of State Policy: Article 36 to 51 of the Constitution. These include 'right to social security, right to work, to free choice of employment, and protection against unemployment, right to equal pay for equal work, right to existence worthy of human dignity, right to free & compulsory education, equal justice & free legal aid and the principles of policy to be followed by the State.'

Statutory Provisions:

- Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (as amended in 2019) provided for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission at the Union level, which steers State Human Rights Commission in States and Human Rights Courts for better protection of Human Rights and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

Recent Events:

- The human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) following the dilution of Article 370 and the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) have brought renewed international focus on India's human rights practice.
- Since 2014, the government has cancelled the registration of more than 14,000 NGOs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). It has also mainly targeted its own critics.
- Scores of hate crimes against Muslims and other religious groups, ethnic groups, including Dalits and Adivasi (an indigenous tribal people), as well as caste and gender-based crimes, took place across the country in 2019.
- The Freedom in the World 2020 report ranked India at the 83rd position, along with Timor-Leste and Senegal. India's score fell by four points to 71, the worst decline among the world's 25 largest democracies this year.

Measures Taken by Government during the Pandemic:

- During the Corona pandemic, the government ensured the right to food of every person through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, so that no one would go hungry.
- Apart from this, wages have been increased under MGNREGA for the empowerment of workers in rural areas. The government directly transferred money to the accounts of migrant labourers affected by Covid-19, to ensure the protection of their rights.

Way Forward

- Human rights are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as in the absence of human dignity one cannot hope to drive sustainable development.
- The Covid-19 crisis has been fuelled by deepening poverty, rising inequalities, structural and entrenched discrimination and other gaps in human rights protection. Only measures to close these gaps and advance human rights can ensure that people fully recover and build back a world that is better, more resilient, just, and sustainable.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT**Emissions Gap Report 2020: UNEP**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Emissions Gap Report 2020 has been published recently.

The annual report from UNEP measures the gap between anticipated emissions and levels consistent with the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming this century to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C.

Key Points

Analysis for the year 2019:**Record high GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions:**

- Global GHG emissions continued to grow for the third consecutive year in 2019, reaching a record high of 52.4 Gigatonne carbon equivalent (GtCO_{2e}) without including land use changes (LUC).
- There is some indication that the growth in global GHG emissions is slowing.
- However, GHG emissions are declining in Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) economies and increasing in non-OECD economies.

Record carbon emission:

- Fossil carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions (from fossil fuels and carbonates) dominate total GHG emissions.
- Fossil CO₂ emissions reached a record 38.0 GtCO₂ in 2019.

Forest fires increasing GHG emissions:

- Since 2010, global GHG emissions have grown 1.4% per year on average, with a more rapid increase of 2.6% in 2019 due to a large increase in vegetation forest fires.

G20 countries account for bulk of emissions:

- Over the last decade, the top four emitters (China, the United States of America, EU27+UK and India) have contributed to 55% of the total GHG emissions without LUC.
- The top seven emitters (including the Russian Federation, Japan and international transport) have contributed to 65%, with G20 members accounting for 78%.
- The ranking of countries changes when considering per capita emissions.

On consumption-based emissions:

- There is a general tendency that rich countries have higher consumption-based emissions (emissions allocated to the country where goods are purchased and consumed, rather than where they are produced) than territorial-based emissions, as they typically have cleaner production, relatively more services and more imports of primary and secondary products.
- Both emission types have declined at similar rates.

Impact of the Pandemic:

Emissions Level: CO₂ emissions could decrease by about 7% in 2020 compared with 2019 emission levels, with a smaller drop expected in GHG emissions as non-CO₂ is likely to be less affected.

- The resulting atmospheric concentrations of GHGs such as methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) continued to increase in both 2019 and 2020.

Sector reporting the lowest dip in emission due to pandemic:

The biggest changes have occurred in transport, as restrictions were targeted to limit mobility, though reductions have also occurred in other sectors.

Issues and Possible Solutions:

- The world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century.
- The levels of ambition in the Paris Agreement still must be roughly tripled for the 2°C pathway and increased at least fivefold for the 1.5°C Pathway.
- Rise of 3°C in global temperatures could cause catastrophic weather-related events around the world.
- UN Experts believe the way to avoid it is encourage green recovery for countries facing Covid-induced economic slumps.
- A green recovery involves investment in zero emissions tech and infrastructure, reducing fossil fuel subsidies, stopping new coal plants, and promoting nature-based solutions, according to the UN.
- Such actions could cut 25% of predicted emissions by 2030, and gives the planet a 66% chance of keeping warming below the 2° mark that the Paris pact had set as a long term goal.

United Nations Environment Programme

- The UNEP is a leading global environmental authority established on 5th June 1972.
- Functions: It sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for global environment protection.
- Major Reports: Emission Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.

- Major Campaigns: Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wild for Life.
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**United Nations Population Award 2020**

Recently, **HelpAge** India has been presented the UN Population Award for 2020 in the institutional category.

Bhutan's Queen Mother Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck has been awarded the United Nations Population Award in the individual category for 2020 for her work on sexual health and ending gender violence.

Key Points**United Nations Population Award:**

- Each year, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award honours an individual and/or institution in recognition of outstanding contributions to population and reproductive health issues and solutions.
- The Award was established by the General Assembly in 1981, and was first presented in 1983. It consists of a gold medal, a diploma and a monetary prize.
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serves as its secretariat.

HelpAge India:

- It is a leading charity in India working with and for disadvantaged elderly for nearly 4 decades. It was set up in 1978 and is registered under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860.
- For the first time in the history of the UN Population Award, the honour is being conferred on an Indian institution.
- Only two Indians have been awarded in the past four decades since the award was established in 1981: former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1983 and industrialist-philanthropist J.R.D. Tata in 1992.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns The frequent promulgation of ordinances is an assault on the democratic structure of the Constitution. Critically analyse. (250 words)

Ans:

Article 123 of the Constitution grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament. These ordinances have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament but are in the nature of temporary laws.

- Likewise, the Governor of a state can issue ordinances under Article 213 of the Constitution, when the state legislative assembly (or either of the two Houses in states with bicameral legislatures) is not in session.
- The ordinance making power is the most important legislative power of the President and the Governor. It has been vested in them to deal with unforeseen or urgent situations.

Need for the promulgation of ordinances

- Immediate action requirement: Temporary law making power has been conferred on the President and the Governor under the Constitution of India to meet the unforeseen and extraordinary situations which require immediate action to which the ordinary law prevailing at that time cannot handle.
- Legislature not in session: An ordinance can be issued only when both Houses of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, are not in session. But it is not possible to pass a law immediately to grip the suddenly arisen circumstances due to procedural formalities, President/Governor may prorogue the Legislature and issue an ordinance.

Issues with frequent promulgation of ordinances

- Deliberate bypassing of the legislature: At times there are instances that legislature is being deliberately bypassed to avoid debate and deliberations on contentious legislative proposals. This is against the ethos and spirit of democracy. Repromulgation of ordinances: As observed by the Supreme Court, re-promulgation of ordinances is a "fraud" on the Constitution and a subversion of democratic legislative processes, especially when the government persistently avoids placing the ordinances before the legislature.
- For example, a series of ordinances were issued by the Bihar Governor between 1989 and 1992 regarding the taking over of private Sanskrit schools by the state.

- Infringement of principle of separation of powers: The power of the executive to issue ordinances goes against the principle of separation of powers as lawmaking is the domain of legislature.
- The satisfaction of the President: Ordinance can be promulgated only when the President is satisfied that circumstances exist for the same thus providing the scope of misuse of the power.
- When ordinances are frequently issued and re-issued, it violates the spirit of the Constitution and result in an 'ordinance raj'. In D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar 1987, the Supreme Court strongly condemned this practice and called it a constitutional fraud.
- Since independence, numerous ordinances have been issued which clearly shows that this power has been used quite regularly instead of being the last resort.
- For example: The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was re-promulgated for the third time during the term of the 15th Lok Sabha.
- The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2010 was re-promulgated four times. This happened despite the SC verdict in 1986 condemning such action.
- The promulgation of Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 was seen as a politically motivated action.
- More recently the BJP led government has released three ordinances: The Farmers' Produce Market Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 which appear to be an abuse of power.

Conclusion

Our Constitution has provided for the separation of powers among the legislature, executive and judiciary where enacting laws is the function of the legislature. The executive must show self-restraint and should use ordinance making power only in unforeseen or urgent matters and not to evade legislative scrutiny and debates.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Morocco shares the land boundary with Western Sahara, Algeria and Libya.
2. Morocco is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. With reference to the HelpAge India, consider the following statements:

1. It became the first institute from India to receive the UN Population Award for 2020.
2. It was established by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 1978 to work for elderly people.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Health Estimates 2019, consider the following statements:

1. Non-communicable diseases make up the majority of the world's top 10 causes of death.
2. Deaths from diabetes have marginally decreased globally between 2000 and 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements:

- a) The Human Rights Council is a body within the UN system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.

- b) In India, a constitutional body National Human Rights Commission deals with the matters of human rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) **1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Which of following countries are the constituents members of ASEAN:

- 1. Singapore
- 2. Brunei
- 3. South Korea
- 4. Philippines
- 5. Laos

Select the correct code from following options:

- a) 1 and 5 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- d) **1, 2, 3 and 5**



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