

GOVERNANCE**CRISP-M Tool for MGNREG Scheme**

Recently, the Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was launched.

Key Points**CRISP-M Tool:**

- It will help embed climate information in the Geographic Information System (GIS) based planning and implementation of MGNREGS. GIS is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information.
- The implementation of CRISP-M will open up new possibilities for rural communities to deal with the issues of climate change.
- This tool will be used in seven states: Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

MGNREGS Scheme:

- **About:** It is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- **Launch:**
 1. It was launched on 2nd February 2006.
 2. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 23rd August 2005.
- **Objective:** To guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- **Legal Right to Work:**
 1. Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
 2. At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
 3. Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (now subsumed under Code on Wages, 2019).
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:**
 1. The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
 2. This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- **Decentralised Planning:**
 1. There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.
 2. The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

SOCIAL ISSUE**Global Hunger Index 2021**

India has slipped to 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 of 116 countries, from its 2020 position of 94th.

Key Points**About the Global Hunger Index:**

- **Annual Report:** Jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. It was first produced in 2006. It is published every October. The 2021 edition marks the 16th edition of the GHI.
- **Aim:** To comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- **Calculation:** It is calculated on the basis of four indicators:
 - ✓ Undernourishment: Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
 - ✓ Child Wasting: Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
 - ✓ Child Stunting: Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
 - ✓ Child Mortality: The mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- **Scoring:**
 - ✓ Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
 - ✓ Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.
- **Data Collection:**

- ✓ Undernourishment data are provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and child mortality data are sourced from the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME).
- ✓ Child wasting and stunting data are drawn from the joint database of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, among others.

Global Scenario:

- The fight against hunger is dangerously off track. Based on current GHI projections, the world as a whole - and 47 countries in particular - will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
- Food security is under assault on multiple fronts. Worsening conflict, weather extremes associated with global climate change, and the economic and health challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic are all driving hunger.
- After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment - a component of the Global Hunger Index - is increasing. This shift may be a leading indicator of reversals in other measures of hunger.
- Inequality - between regions, countries, districts, and communities - is pervasive and, left unchecked, will keep the world from achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) mandate to "leave no one behind".
- Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest. Hunger in both regions is considered serious.

Indian Scenario

- Since 2000, India has made substantial progress, but there are still areas of concern, particularly regarding child nutrition.
- India's GHI score has decreased from a 2000 GHI score of 38.8 points - considered alarming - to a 2021 GHI score of 27.5 - considered serious.
- The proportion of undernourished in the population and the under-five child mortality rate are now at relatively low levels.
- While child stunting has seen a significant decrease - from 54.2% in 1998-1999 to 34.7% in 2016-2018 - it is still considered very high.
- At 17.3%, India has the highest child wasting rate of all countries covered in the GHI. This rate is slightly higher than it was in 1998-1999, when it was 17.1%.
- According to the Index, only 15 countries fare worse than India.
- India was also behind most of the neighbouring countries. Pakistan was placed at 92, Nepal and Bangladesh at 76 and Sri Lanka at 65.

Government of India Stand:

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has criticised the report claiming that the methodology used by FAO is unscientific.
- According to the Government, the Global Hunger Index Report 2021 and FAO report on 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021' have completely ignored the following facts:
 1. They have based their assessment on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll, which was conducted telephonically by Gallup.
 2. The scientific measurement of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and Height, whereas the methodology involved here is based on a Gallup poll, based on a pure telephonic estimate of the population.
 3. The report completely disregards Government's massive effort to ensure food security of the entire population during the Covid period such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY) and Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS).

Some Related Initiatives by India

- **Eat Right India Movement:** An outreach activity organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.
- **POSHAN Abhiyan:** Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:** A centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
- **Food Fortification:** Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013:** It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

- **Mission Indradhanush:** It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme:** Launched on 2nd October, 1975, the ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services (Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services) to children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

NATIONAL NEWS

‘One Health’ consortium

The Department of Biotechnology has launched a ‘One Health’ consortium. This is the First ‘One Health’ project of the DBT.

About the project:

- It envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens in the country.
- The project also looks into use of existing diagnostic tests and development of additional methodologies for surveillance and understanding the spread of emerging diseases.

Composition:The ‘One Health Consortium’ consists of 27 organisations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad.

Need for and significance of ‘One Health’ approach:

- The Covid-19 pandemic showed the relevance of ‘One Health’ principles in the governance of infectious diseases, specially efforts to prevent and contain zoonotic diseases throughout the world. Therefore, there is a need for a holistic approach to understand the health of human, animals and wildlife to minimise the damage caused by future pandemics.

One Health concept

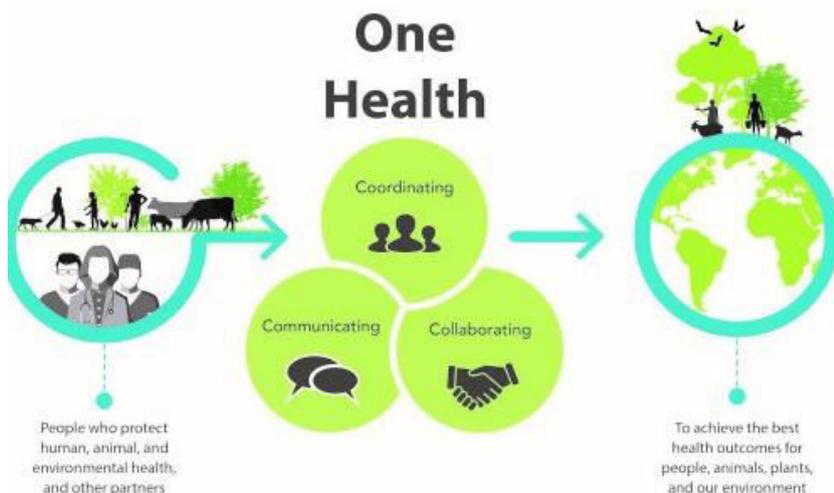
- One Health is the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally, to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment, as defined by the One Health Initiative Task Force.
- One Health model facilitates interdisciplinary approach in disease control so as to control emerging and existing zoonotic threats.

Zoonotic diseases

- The word ‘Zoonosis’ (Pleural: Zoonoses) was introduced by Rudolf Virchow in 1880 to include collectively the diseases shared in nature by man and animals.
- Later WHO in 1959 defined that Zoonoses are those diseases and infections which are naturally transmitted between vertebrate animals and man.
- Zoonoses may be bacterial, viral, or parasitic, or may involve unconventional agents.

Concerns:

- As well as being a public health problem, many of the major zoonotic diseases prevent the efficient production of food of animal origin and create obstacles to international trade in animal products.



India's framework, plans:

- India's 'One Health' vision derives its blueprint from the agreement between the tripartite-plus alliance comprising the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) — a global initiative supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank under the overarching goal of contributing to 'One World, One Health'.
1. In keeping with the long-term objectives, India established a National Standing Committee on Zoonoses as far back as the 1980s.
 2. This year, funds were sanctioned for setting up a 'Centre for One Health' at Nagpur.
 3. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has launched several schemes to mitigate the prevalence of animal diseases since 2015, with a funding pattern along the lines of 60:40 (Centre: State); 90:10 for the Northeastern States, and 100% funding for Union Territories.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**APJ Abdul Kalam**

- Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the former President APJ Abdul Kalam on his 90th birth anniversary.
- Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA) was launched in 2020 on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Key Points**About**

- Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. His birth anniversary is celebrated as the National Innovation Day.
- He graduated in Science from St Joseph's College, Trichy in 1954 and specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1957.
- He is one of the most distinguished scientists of India with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 48 Universities and institutions from India and abroad.
- He was sworn in as India's 11th President in 2002 and completed the full term in 2007.
- He planned programmes to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname "Missile Man".

His Contribution

- **Pioneer in Fiberglass Technology** : He was a pioneer in fiberglass technology and led a young team to initiate this effort in ISRO from design, development leading to the production of composites rocket motor cases.
- **Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3)**
 1. He made a significant contribution as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3) which successfully injected the Rohini satellite into Near-Earth Orbit in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of Space Club.
 2. He was responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme, particularly the PSLV configuration.
- **Indigenous Guided Missiles**
 1. After working for two decades in ISRO and mastering launch vehicle technologies, he took up the responsibility of developing Indigenous Guided Missiles at the DRDO. He was the Chief Executive of Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
 2. He led to the weaponization of strategic missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon State.
- **Technology Vision 2020**
 1. In 1998, he put forward a countrywide plan called Technology Vision 2020, which he described as a road map for transforming India from a less-developed to a developed society in 20 years.
 2. The plan called for, among other measures, increasing agricultural productivity, emphasising technology as a vehicle for economic growth, and widening access to health care and education.
- **Others**
 1. He was passionate about bringing rural prosperity through PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas), in which science and technology has to play a key role.
 2. Based on his diverse experience he propagated the concept of World Knowledge Platform through which the core competencies of organizations and nations can be synergized to innovate and create solutions and products for the challenges of the 21st century.

Awards Received

- He was awarded the coveted civilian awards - Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997).

Literary Works

- "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey" and "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the power within India", "Indomitable Spirit", "Guiding Souls", "Envisioning an Empowered Nation", "Inspiring Thoughts" etc.

Death

- 27th July 2015 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Social evils such as child marriage has a multidimensional impact not only on the girl child but on the society as a whole. Elaborate. (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

Child marriage usually refers to a social phenomenon practiced in some societies in India, where a young child (usually a girl below the age of fifteen) is married to an adult man. Recent analysis by UNICEF points out that one in three of the world's child brides live in India. It has also warned India against the increase in child marriages owing to the adversaries of COVID-19. To achieve the commitment of ending child marriages by 2030, it becomes important to integrate the COVID -19 responses with child marriage elimination efforts.

Body**Impact on Girl child**

- child marriage is one of the worst and deadliest forms of sexual and gender-based violence against girls.
- Child marriage kills more than 60 girls a day globally and six girls a day in South Asia, according to a new analysis released on the International Day of the Girl Child.
- When a girl is married at an early age, she normally tends to have more children and unwanted pregnancy.
- The report also claimed over an estimated 22,000 girls a year are dying from pregnancy and childbirth resulting from child marriage.
- With school closures, health services under strain or closed, and more families being pushed into poverty, women and girls face an increased risk of violence during lengthy lockdowns.
- A further 10 million girls are now expected to marry by 2030, leaving more girls at risk of dying
- Young girls exercise less influence and control over their children and have less ability to make decisions about their nutrition, health care and household management.
- Girls who get married at an early age are often more susceptible to the health risks associated with early sexual initiation and childbearing, including HIV and obstetric fistula
- Young girls who lack status, power and maturity are often subjected to domestic violence, sexual abuse and social isolation.
- Early marriage almost always deprives girls of their education or meaningful work, which contributes to persistent poverty.

Societal impacts

- Child Marriage perpetuates an unrelenting cycle of gender inequality, sickness and poverty
- Getting the girls married at an early age when they are not physically mature, leads to highest rates of maternal and child mortality
- Due to desire for a male child, young girls and women are forced to conceive as many times as she can till, she gives birth to a male child.

Way forward

- **Increase social awareness:**
 1. Children need to be made aware of their human rights and must be taught to refuse and speak up once such an incident is taking place.
 2. The media also needs to adopt a more proactive role in generating awareness towards this heinous ritual.
 3. Changing social norms and attitudes towards girls.
- Develop strong support systems to keep girls in school. Provide scholarships where necessary and encourage teachers to support girls.
- Strengthen and establish community networks and partnerships involving girls clubs, teachers, elders, local government officials, women and youth groups, community and religious leaders, etc. that jointly work towards ending early marriage.

- Strengthen the role of the judicial system particularly the police, judges, and persecutors through training on enforcement of the law against early marriage.
- Efforts should be made to give-up the factors motivating child marriages, all efforts should aim at changing the gender biased attitudes of parents and society by imparting proper education on one hand and eradicating poverty on the other.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. The Doing Business report was a flagship report of the

- World Economic Forum
- World Trade Organization
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- World Bank**

Q2. What is a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?

- It is simply the digital form of a country's fiat currency.
- It is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.
- It is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies.
- All of the above**

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Group of Seven (G7):

- It is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of some OECD members.
- Its members are the world's largest IMF advanced economies and wealthiest liberal democracies.
- It is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3**

Q4. Consider the following statements about Perseverance Rover:

- It was launched in 2020 aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V.
- It was manufactured by the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only**
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. Consider the following statements:

- Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.
- The Government of India has banned the manufacture, sale and use of identified single-use plastic items like plates, cups, straws, trays, and polystyrene from Jul 1, 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only**
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2