

HEALTH (SOCIAL WELFARE)**Context**

Recently, some points were highlighted to achieve the **Measles-Rubella elimination** target by **July-August 2023**.

What is Measles-Rubella (MR) Elimination ?

- **MR elimination** is defined as **zero transmission of measles and rubella viruses**, evidenced by zero clinical disease, sustained over three years.
- The two arms of **intervention** are **vaccination and surveillance**.
 - **Surveillance helps identify places** where either virus is still in transmission, so that vaccination can be pinpointed there to stop further spread.

Why should Measles and Rubella be eliminated?

- **Measles**
 - In the pre-vaccination era, while polio paralysed about **1% of all children before** the age of five, **measles actually killed 1%** of all under-five children.
 - During measles outbreaks, the case-fatality rate was about **10%-15%**.
 - Children who recovered would have lost weight as well as the steady **momentum of cognitive development** and scholastic performance.
 - **Measles affects the immune system** rendering the child vulnerable to other infectious diseases, leading to **high mortality** over the next two to three years.
- **Rubella**
 - The rubella virus is a **slower transmitter** and the **risk of rubella** is extended from childhood through **adolescence into the reproductive age range**.
 - Unfortunately, if a **pregnant woman gets infected**, the virus has a tendency to cross the placenta and damage the developing foetus's eyes, brain, heart and other tissues.
 - Therefore, **Measles-Rubella elimination** is of **very high priority**.
 - The MR vaccine is a combined product, targeting two diseases in one shot.

Governments programme to eliminate Measles and Rubella

- **National Strategic Plan**
 - Measles and rubella (MR) elimination is a **national health priority** and the government has adopted the **National Strategic Plan for Achieving and Sustaining Measles and Rubella Elimination** in India.
- **Target**
 - The Government decided to **eliminate measles and rubella** from India by the year **2020** having missed the earlier set target of 2015 and the MR elimination target was reset to 2023.
- **Campaigns**
 - The **school-based campaigns** of **Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination** of children from 5 to 15 years, conducted in all States, in 2017.
 - Success was good in a few States, but not in others.
 - The country is moving towards the **MR elimination goal of achieving** and sustaining **vaccination coverage of 95%** with two doses of a measles- and rubella-containing vaccine at the national and subnational levels.
- **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP):**
 - India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) provides free vaccines against 12 life threatening diseases.
 - It provides life-saving vaccines to all children across the country free of cost to protect them against Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea. (Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine in select states and districts)
- **Other steps**
 - The country is also prioritising continued implementation of key strategies for **strengthening surveillance**, including the **sensitisation of front-line workers**, **increasing active case searches**, **expansion of the reporting network**, **rapid response to outbreaks**, and **establishing synergistic linkages** between MR elimination

and other public health priorities, such as health systems strengthening and emergency preparedness and response.

- **Support of WHO**
 - WHO Country Office for India is supporting the Government of India and state governments towards reaching key elimination targets.
 - WHO has also provided technical assistance and monitoring for all rounds of IMI to support immunisation strengthening.

Issues/Challenges

- School managements, teachers, children themselves and parents were not informed of the basis of school-based campaigns of **Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination**.
- The set targets were not achieved due to **gaps in immunisation**.
- The COVID-19 pandemic stole two years from the **programme**.

Way Forward

- We can reach **MR elimination goals in India** if we **strengthen surveillance** by finding, investigating, and collecting and testing a sample for every suspected case, in each **district in every state and UT**.
- It is the time to further **strengthen routine immunisation** through intensified efforts to close immunity gaps through Intensified Mission Indradhanush, with a special focus on the first and second dose of **measles- and rubella-containing vaccines**.
- All districts in a State can be galvanised by the State Government, and all States can be supported by the Immunisation Division of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

1. National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 Report

Recently, the Ministry of Education released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report.

- About National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report

Released by:

- Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Administration:

- This nation-wide survey was administered by the CBSE.
- The survey was managed through the technology platform designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Aim:

- It assesses the health of the school education system in the country by conducting a comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years.
- It reflects the overall assessment of the school education system.
- The last NAS was held in 2017.

Coverage:

- It was held at all India level and covered:
- Government Schools (Central Government and State Government)
- Government Aided Schools
- Private Unaided Schools.

Key Findings:

- Nearly the same percentage of students (80%) also felt that learning was better in schools because of the help they received from their classmates.
- As many as 24% students said they had no digital device at home.
- Though 45% students found the experience "joyful", 38% also said that they had difficulties in learning.
- Students across various classes performed better in languages but lagged behind in subjects like mathematics and science.
- It also shows that across various subjects and classes, SC, ST and OBC students performed worse than general category students.

Significance:

- To evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels.

- It will help to unravel the gaps in learning and will support state/UT governments in developing long term, midterm and short-term interventions to improve learning levels and orient on differential planning based on NAS 2021 data.

2. Digital India BHASHINI

Recently, MeitY organised a brainstorming session on Mission Digital India BHASHINI - [BHASHa INterface for India] - the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).

Digital India BHASHINI

About:

- It is India's AI led language translation platform.
- It will make Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Startups and Individual Innovators in the public domain.
- It is interoperable and will catalyse the entire Digital Ecosystem. It is a giant step to realise the goal of Digital Government.
- It will create and nurture an ecosystem involving Central/State government agencies and start-ups, working together to develop and deploy innovative products and services in Indian languages.

Aims and Objectives:

- It aims to increase the content in Indian languages on the Internet substantially in the domains of public interest, particularly, governance-and-policy, science & technology, etc., thus will encourage citizens to use the Internet in their own language.
- It aims to build a National Public Digital Platform for languages to develop services and products for citizens by leveraging the power of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

3. 40th Edition of PRAGATI

Recently, the Prime Minister of India chaired the meeting of the 40th edition of PRAGATI. Up to the 39 editions of PRAGATI meetings, 311 projects having a total cost of 14.82 lakh crore have been reviewed.

About PRAGATI Platform

- It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform that is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- It uniquely bundles three latest technologies:
 - Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.
- It also offers a unique combination in the direction of cooperative federalism since it brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.
- It is a unique integrating and interactive platform which is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q. Discuss various Socio-Economic impacts of globalization on Indian youth. (150)

Introduction

Globalization is a process of interaction, integration and interdependence among the people, companies, and governments of different nations. It has political, economic and cultural manifestations. It also has both positive and negative consequences for the people.

Body

The impact of globalization is far reaching. Youth are the foremost to be affected by globalization given their fragile transitional position in a rapidly changing and uncertain global context. Thus, globalization not only provides economic opportunities among the youth but also comes with social costs.

- With information and communication technology, youth in India now have access to a vast resource pool. As a result they have begun to develop a global psychology.
- It has also created more employment opportunities as a result of its open market concept.
- Globalization provides encouragement and freedom among the youth to seek for excellence and become more competitive.
- It has led to urban poverty due to increasing migration from rural India. It also creates structural inequalities in society. These result in division across caste, class, gender,

religion and residence also increase vulnerability, instability and insecurity among young people.

- It led to blind adoption of western values and culture and incorporating it into their Indian identity. English has begun dominating Indian languages among the youth not only for official purposes but also in everyday parlance.
- Globalization has also influenced the institutions of marriage and family. Youths are not close to their elders resulting in the weakening of social relationships.
- The rise of socio-economic uncertainty due to globalization has led to an increase in the incidence of depression and suicides among the youth.
- Globalization has also impacted the religious belief among the youth. Thus, most of the religious activities are becoming irrelevant to them.
- The culture of consumerism has permeated and changed the traditional beliefs of the Indians. As a result, the younger population, especially the urban youth are in favour of new fashions from the West.

Conclusion

To reduce the negative impact of globalization on youth, they must be empowered to achieve their full potential in education, skill development and employment, entrepreneurship, health and healthy lifestyle etc. The National Youth Policy-2014 (NYP-2014) gave emphasis on promotion of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance, youth engagement, inclusion and social justice.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Darlong community recently seen in news belongs to which of the following state ?
a) Assam
b) Kerala
c) Tripura
d) Tamil nadu
2. Idate Commission and Reneke Commission were constituted for the welfare and development of?
a) Schedule tribes
b) Schedule casts
c) Other backward classes
d) Denotified , nomadic and semi- nomadic tribes
3. Recently issued Pragyata guidelines by the Union Government are related to
a) Guidelines for planning and implementation of Digital Education.
b) Guidelines to impart self defence training for working women.
c) Set of provisions that is to be followed while setting up a committee to take care of the elderly living alone.
d) Provision of rehabilitation and care to children orphaned due to COVID pandemic.
4. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to e-Santa?
1. It will enable farmers to get a better price and the exporters to directly purchase quality products.
2. It was launched under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
Select the correct answer from the codes given below.
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. “FASTER” scheme recently seen in news is launched by
a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
b) Niti Aayog
c) Ministry of Railways
d) Supreme Court of India
6. With reference to Wild Boars, consider the following statements:
1. It is the largest of the wild pigs.
2. It occupies a wide variety of temperate and tropical habitats.
3. The IUCN Red list classifies it as Vulnerable.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
7. Consider the following statements:
1. Formation of a new State requires a special majority in the parliament.
 2. A bill calling for the formation of new States may be introduced in Lok Sabha only.
 3. The bill is introduced only on the recommendation of the President.
- Which of the above given statements is/are not correct?
- a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
8. With reference to Qutub Minar, consider the following statements:
1. Iltutmish completed the construction of Minar.
 2. Red sandstone and marbles are used in its construction.
 3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- a) 1 only**
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
9. With reference to Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to stop immoral trafficking and prostitution in India.
 2. The act criminalizes prostitution or prostitutes per se.
- 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