

**HEALTH**

**MALNUTRITION IN INDIA**

**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development informed the Rajya Sabha that the Union government aims to reduce stunting and under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) among children under 6 years by 2% per annum.

**About**

- According to findings of the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), nutrition indicators for children under 5 have improved over NFHS-4 (2015-16).
  - Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, wasting from 21.0% to 19.3% and underweight prevalence is down from 35.8% to 32.1%.
  - Women (15-49 years) whose BMI is below normal has reduced from 22.9% in NFHS-4 to 18.7% in NFHS-5.
- **Statewise Data:**
  - Stunting:
    - Meghalaya has the highest number of stunted children (46.5%), followed by Bihar (42.9%).
    - Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have stunted children higher than the national average of 35.5%.
    - Puducherry and Sikkim have the lowest percentage of stunted children.
  - Wasted Children:
    - Maharashtra has 25.6% wasted children (weight for height) — the highest — followed by Gujarat (25.1%).
    - Assam, Bihar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Karnataka and West Bengal have a higher percentage of wasted children than the national average of 19.3%.
  - Underweight:
    - Bihar has the highest number of underweight children (41%), followed by Gujarat (39.7%), and Jharkhand at (39.4%).
    - Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have a higher percentage of underweight children than the national average of 32.1%.
  - Below normal BMI:
    - The NFHS-5 data shows that Jharkhand has the highest percentage of women, between 15 and 49 years, who have a below-normal Body Mass Index (BMI). More than 26% Jharkhand women have below-normal BMI, the national average being 18.5%.
    - Body Mass Index is a value derived from mass and height of a person, and an indicator of under-nutrition.
- Undernourished: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha also have high percentages of undernourished women.

**Malnutrition**

- **About:**
  - Malnutrition, especially that affecting young children, is one of the principal public health problems in the developing world like India.
  - It causes about half of child deaths and is a major cause of morbidity in children.
  - It has medical and social disorder rooted in poverty and discrimination.
  - Effects of malnutrition in early childhood can be devastating and permanent.
- **Ecology of under nutrition:**
  - Poverty: Because of low purchasing power, the poor cannot afford to buy the desired amount and desired quality of food for the family. This starts a **vicious cycle** of poverty, undernutrition, diminished work capacity, low earning and poverty
  - Feeding habits: Lack of awareness of nutritional qualities of food, irrational beliefs about food, inappropriate child rearing and feeding habits all lead to undernutrition in the family.
  - Infections: Infections like malaria and measles or recurrent attacks of diarrhoea may precipitate acute malnutrition and aggravate the existing nutritional deficit.
- **Socio-cultural factors:**
  - Inequitable distribution of food: In most of the poor households, women and preschool children especially girls receive less food than the economically active male members
  - Poor quality of housing, sanitation and water supply: These contribute to ill health and infections thus Contributing to malnutrition.
  - Large families: Rapid succession of pregnancies adversely affects the nutritional status of the mother. In large families per capita availability of food is also less.

**Measures Taken to Tackle Malnutrition**

- **Poshan Abhiyan**
  - It was approved in 2017.
  - It is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to ensure the attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022.
  - The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- **Integrated Child Development Services**
  - It was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1975 and it represents one of the world's largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development.

- The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers
- Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing agency
- **Matritva Sahyog Yojana**
  - Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is a Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) Scheme launched in 2010.
  - The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as the centrally sponsored scheme.
  - It was launched for pregnant and lactating women to improve their health and nutrition status to better-enable the environment by providing cash incentives to pregnant and nursing mothers.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**
  - The centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2017.
  - Rs. 6,000 is transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women and lactating mothers for availing better facilities for their delivery to compensate for wage loss and is eligible for the first child of the family.
  - Implementation of the scheme is closely monitored by the central and state governments through the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana-Common Application Software (PMMVY-CAS).
- **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**
  - The Mid-day Meal Scheme is a school meal programme in India designed to better the nutritional standing of school-age children
  - It covers all school students studying in Classes 1 to 8 of government schools, government-aided schools, special training centres, including madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- **National Food Security Mission**
  - It was launched in 2007-08 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
  - It was based on the recommendations of the agriculture sub-committee of the National Development Council (NDC).
  - It focuses on the sustainable increase in the production of targeted crops through area expansion and productivity enhancement.
- **National Nutrition Mission**
  - It is the government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
  - Aim: To reduce stunting and wasting by 2 percent per year (total 6 per cent until 2022) among children and anaemia by 3 percent per year (total 9 per cent until 2022) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
  - The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal ministry for implementation.
- **National Nutrition Strategy**
  - The Strategy aims to reduce all forms of malnutrition by 2030, with a focus on the most vulnerable and critical age groups.
  - The Strategy also aims to assist in achieving the targets identified as part of the Sustainable Development Goals related to nutrition and health.

#### **Conclusion**

- Despite the decrease, India has one of the highest burdens of malnutrition in the world.
- The Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been converged to form the 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' (Mission Poshan 2.0), which seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Its implementation should be expedited.

### **PRELIMS**

#### **1. Irrational Freebies**

**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Supreme Court bench said it will see to what extent it can or cannot intervene to stop political parties from distributing irrational freebies.

#### **More about the news**

- The Supreme Court had issued notice to the Centre and Election Commission of India on the plea against freebies offered by the state parties.
- The standpoint of Election Commission of India (ECI):
  - ECI said it has no power to regulate the same or take action against parties making such poll promises.
  - ECI stated that offering freebies before or after the election is a policy decision of political parties.
  - Financial viability of these policies and their adverse effects on the economic health of the state is a question that has to be considered and decided by the voters.
  - ECI also stated that it cannot regulate state policies and decisions which may be taken by the winning party when they form the government.
- The Centre did not file any response in the matter.

#### **Action taken by ECI to avoid such scenarios**

- Model code of conduct guidelines have been framed by ECI after consultation with recognised political parties.
- The promises made in manifestos are not enforceable under election law.

- However, the ECI had advised all the recognised political parties to submit a declaration along with copies of the manifestoes.
- Also to see that the promises made therein are in consonance with the Model Code of Conduct.
- ECI is of the opinion that without enabling provisions in the law, de-registration of political parties will be an overreach of powers.

**What are Freebies?**

- There is no such thing as a freebie in economics because ultimately somebody has to bear the cost of the supposedly free giveaways.
- The concept is popularly known as “There’s No Such Thing as a Free Lunch”.
- It means that everything has to be paid for by taxes if not today then tomorrow.
- When governments dole out gifts, citizens have to pay for them. It isn’t always the rich who pay.
- Often the poor pay for the gifts, as governments collect taxes on everything from matchboxes to diamonds.
- But it affects the way people vote.

**2. Prevention Of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**

**CONTEXT:** Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the core amendments made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

**More about the news**

- **About:**
  - Over 240 petitions were filed against the amendments in which the challengers claimed to violate personal liberty, procedures of law and the constitutional mandate.
  - The verdict came on an extensive challenge raised against the amendments introduced to the 2002 Act by way of Finance Acts.
- **Issues cited by the court:**
  - The Act gives the government and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) virtually unbridled powers of summons, arrest, and raids.
  - It makes bail nearly impossible while shifting the burden of proof of innocence on to the accused rather than the prosecution.
  - Court made it clear that the State has a compelling interest in imposing stringent bail conditions for economic offences.
- **Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR):**
  - The Court also said an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) cannot be equated with an FIR, and that supplying an ECIR in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory.
  - It is enough if ED, at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such arrest.

**About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002**

- **About:**
  - It was enacted in January 2003 and the Act along with the Rules framed thereunder has come into force with effect from 1st July 2005.
  - The Parliament enacted the PMLA as a result of international commitment to sternly deal with the menace of money laundering of proceeds of a crime having transnational consequences and on the financial systems of the countries.
- **Objectives:**
  - The PML Act seeks to combat money laundering in India and has three main objectives:
    - To prevent and control money laundering
    - To confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money; and
    - To deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.
  - The Act also proposes punishment under section 4.

**3. Draft Policy Document on Blue Economy**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is finalising a National Policy on the blue economy for the country.

**More about the news**

- **About:**
  - A draft policy framework on India’s Blue Economy had been prepared.
  - The policy envisages the optimal utilisation of all sectors of the maritime domain, from living and non-living resources to tourism and ocean energy for the sustainable development of coastal areas.
- The document contains key recommendations on the following dimensions:
  - A national accounting framework for the blue economy and ocean governance;
  - Coastal marine spatial planning and tourism priority;
  - Marine fisheries, aquaculture, and fish processing;
  - Manufacturing, emerging industries, trade, technology, services, skill development;
  - Logistics, infrastructure, and shipping;
  - Coastal and deep-sea mining and offshore energy; and
  - Security, strategic dimensions, and international engagement.
- **A National Blue Economy Advisory Council** has been proposed to be set up.

- It will have the secretaries of relevant ministries and departments as members and include chief secretaries/principal secretaries of the coastal states and representatives from industry.

**What is Blue Economy?**

- According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the:
  - "Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem."
- **European Commission** defines it as:
  - "All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts."

**Significance of India's Blue Economy**

- **India's blue economy:**
  - It is a subset of the national economy comprising the entire ocean resources system and human-made economic infrastructure in marine, maritime, and onshore coastal zones within the country's legal jurisdiction.
- **Coastal states and islands:**
  - With some 7,500 kilometres, India has a unique maritime position. Nine of its 29 states are coastal, and it's geography includes 1,382 islands.
- **Ports and Exclusive Economic Zone:**
  - There are nearly 199 ports, including 12 major ports that handle approximately 1,400 million tons of cargo each year.
  - Besides, India's Exclusive Economic Zone of over 2 million square kilometres has a bounty of living and non-living resources with significant recoverable resources such as crude oil and natural gas.
- **Coastal settlements:**
  - The coastal economy sustains over 4 million fisherfolk and coastal communities.

**4. UN Peacekeeping**

**CONTEXT:** Recently, two BSF personnel who were part of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were among five people killed during a protest in an eastern town near the border with Uganda.

**About the recent killing and MONUSCO**

- **MONUSCO:** This protest in Butembo was part of a week-long call for demonstrations and agitations against the UN mission called MONUSCO.
  - In the MONUSCO mission India is the second largest troop contributor, with 2000 personnel, after Pakistan.
  - The main command-and-control hub of MONUSCO is located in Goma, DRC.

**Background on United Nations Peacekeeping**

- **1948:** The U.N. began its Peacekeeping efforts in 1948 when it deployed military observers to West Asia.
  - The Peacekeeping mission's role was to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.
- **Joint effort:** The U.N. Peacekeeping mission is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support, and aims to assist host countries to transition from situations of conflict to peace.
- **Aim:** U.N. Peacekeepers provide security as well as political and peace building support to conflict-ridden countries.
- **Coverage:** There are approximately 81,820 personnel serving on 13 peace operations led by UNDP in four continents currently.
  - This represents a nine-fold increase since 1999.
- **Contribution:** A total of 119 countries have contributed military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping.
  - Currently, 72,930 of those serving are troops and military observers, and about 8,890 are police personnel.
- The three basic principles that guide U.N.'s Peacekeeping missions are:
  - Consent of the parties
  - Impartiality
  - Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate

**India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping**

- **History of India's contribution:** India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping began with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in the 1950s, where India's mediatory role in resolving the stalemate over prisoners of war in Korea led to the signing of the armistice that ended the Korean War.
  - The UN entrusted the Indian armed forces with subsequent peace missions in the Middle East, Cyprus, and the Congo.
  - India also served as Chair of the three international commissions for supervision and control for Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos established by the 1954 Geneva Accords on Indochina.
- **Contribution:** India has a long history of service in UN Peacekeeping, having contributed more personnel than any other country.
  - More than 2, 53,000 Indians have served in 49 of the 71 UN Peacekeeping missions established around the world since 1948.
- **Fifth highest contributor:** currently there are around 5,500 troops and police from India who have been deployed to UN Peacekeeping missions, the fifth highest amongst troop-contributing countries.
- **Force Commanders:** India has also provided, and continues to provide, eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions.
  - India also had the honour of providing two Military Advisers.
- **Role of women in Indian Peacekeeping**
  - In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN Peacekeeping Mission.

- The Formed Police Unit in Liberia provided 24-hour guard duty and conducted night patrols in the capital Monrovia, and helped to build the capacity of the Liberian police.
- Medical care as part of India's Missions
  - In addition to their security role the members of the Indian Formed Police Unit also organised medical camps for Liberians, many of whom have limited access to health care services.
  - Medical care is among the many services Indian Peacekeepers provide to the communities in which they serve on behalf of the Organisation.
  - Indian veterinarians serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) stepped up to help cattle herders who were losing much of their stock to malnutrition and disease in the war-torn nation.
  - The Hospital by India in Goma, operational since January 2005 has 90 Indian nationals including 18 specialists.
- UN Medals of Honour
  - The Indian contingent in the Upper Nile region has all received UN Medals of Honour.
- Trust Fund on sexual exploitation
  - India was the first country to contribute to the Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse which was set up in 2016.

### 5. Google's Street View Feature

**CONTEXT:** Recently, Google announced the launch of its popular 'Street View' feature in India – after failing to bring the experience to India at least twice in the past decade following security concerns raised by government agencies over collection of data.

#### Street View Feature

- **About:**
  - It allows users to view panoramic and street-level 360 degree views of a particular place.
- Google has partnered with two Indian firms – mapping solutions provider Genesys International and Tech Mahindra.
  - As per the National Geospatial Policy, 2021, local companies can collect such data and foreign firms can licence the data from Indian entities to serve their customers in the country.
- The India launch marks the first time in the world that Street View is being brought to life completely by local partners.
- **Coverage:**
  - Street View will be available on Google Maps with fresh imagery licensed from local partners covering over 1,50,000 km across ten cities in India, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.
- **Significance:**
  - Street View will help people navigate and explore new corners of the country and the world in a more visual and accurate way, enabling them to fully experience what it's like to be in these places, right from their phone or computer.

#### **ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Explain the evolution of Collegium System for the appointment and transfer of judges in India. (150 words)**

#### **Introduction**

Collegium is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other senior most judges of the court. A High Court collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.

#### **Body**

##### **Evolution of the Collegium System:**

**FIRST JUDGES CASE:** In S.P. Gupta Vs Union of India, 1981, the Supreme Court by a majority judgment held that the term "consultation" used in Articles 124 and 217 was not "concurrence" – meaning that although the President will consult judiciary, his decision was not bound to be in concurrence with them. The judgment tilted the balance of power in appointments of judges in favour of the executive. This situation prevailed for the next 12 years.

**SECOND JUDGES CASE:** In The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association Vs Union of India, 1993, a nine-judge Constitution Bench overruled the decision in S P Gupta case, and devised a specific procedure called 'Collegium System' for the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary. Ushering in the collegium system, the court said that the recommendation should be made by the CJI in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues and that such recommendation should normally be given effect to by the executive.

**THIRD JUDGES CASE:** In 1998, President K.R. Narayanan issued a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court over the meaning of the term "consultation" under Article 143 of the Constitution (advisory jurisdiction). In response, the Supreme Court laid down that the recommendation should be made by the CJI and his four senior-most colleagues, instead of two.

#### **Conclusion**

The collegium system is blamed for tussle between the judiciary and the executive, the slow pace of judicial appointments and lack of transparency. The earlier attempt at replacing this by the National Judicial Appointments Commission was declared unconstitutional by the judiciary. Thus, there is a need to reform the system of appointment and transfer of judges while ensuring the independence of the judiciary.

#### **MCQs**

- 1) Consider the following statements about Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA):
  1. It was enacted in January 2003 and the Act along with the Rules framed thereunder has come into force with effect from 1st July 2005.

2. The Parliament enacted the PMLA as a result of international commitment to sternly deal with the menace of money laundering of proceeds of a crime having transnational consequences and on the financial systems of the countries.
3. It envisages the designation of one or more courts of sessions as Special Court or Special Courts to try the offences punishable under PMLA.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 and 2 only      b. 2 and 3 only      c. 1 and 3 only      **d. 1, 2 and 3**
- 2) Consider the following statements regarding Election Commission of India:
1. The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
2. The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 only      b. 2 only      **c. Both 1 and 2**      d. Neither 1 nor 2
- 3) Consider the following statements regarding Enforcement Directorate:
1. The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
2. It is under Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The prime objective of the Enforcement Directorate is the enforcement of two key Acts of the Government of India namely, the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA).  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 and 2 only      b. 2 and 3 only      **c. 1 and 3 only**      d. 1, 2 and 3
- 4) Consider the following statements about National Family Health Survey 5:
1. In India number of stunted and underweight children under 5 years has reduced.
2. Meghalaya has the highest number of stunted children followed by Bihar.
3. Bihar has the highest number of underweight children.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 and 2 only      b. 1 and 3 only      c. 3 only      **d. All are correct.**
- 5) Consider the following statements about Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar:
1. It is a 75 days-long coastal clean-up campaign for cleaning at least 75 beaches along the Indian coast.
2. It started July 5, 2022, and will culminate on September 17, 2022, on 'International Coastal Clean Up Day'.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 only      b. 2 only      **c. Both 1 and 2**      d. Neither 1 nor 2
- 6) Consider the following statements regarding Cryptojacking
1. It is a cyber-attack wherein a computing devices are hijacked and controlled by the attacker to illicitly mine cryptocurrency.
2. It always involves stealing money from the victim's cryptocurrency wallet.
3. It causes damage to computers or victims' data.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 and 2 only      b. 1 and 3 only      **c. 1 only**      d. 1, 2 and 3
- 7) Consider the following statements regarding India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)
1. It is India's first bullion exchange.
2. The Jewellers eligible to import gold through IIBX are notified by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
3. Only Indian citizens can participate on the exchange after registering with the IFSCA.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
**a. 1 and 2 only**      b. 2 only      c. 1 and 3 only      d. 1, 2 and 3
- 8) Consider the following statements regarding Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
1. The Act empowers the Enforcement Directorate to summon, produce documents and investigate anyone it considers necessary.
2. Under the Act, the burden of proving the proceeds of crime are untainted property, shall be on the accused.
3. Not showing the Enforcement Case Investigation Report (ECIR) to the accused is a violation of fundamental rights under Article 22.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
**a. 1 and 2 only**      b. 2 and 3 only      c. 1 and 3 only      d. 1, 2 and 3
- 9) Consider the following statements with respect to the Family Planning Vision, 2030
1. The teenage childbearers has increased over the past decade.
2. India has witnessed an impressive improvement in contraceptive use over the past decade.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 only      **b. 2 only**      c. Both 1 and 2      d. Neither 1 nor 2
- 10) Consider the following statements
1. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) led aid for trade flows is particularly meant for the Least Developed Economies.
2. India had received the highest aid for trade in 2020 from the developed countries.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
a. 1 only      b. 2 only      **c. Both 1 and 2**      d. Neither 1 nor 2