

## National Family Health Survey- 5

### ❖ Context

- Recently, the **National Report of the NFHS-5** was released by the Union Health Ministry.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The report comprises **detailed information on key domains of population, health and family welfare and associated domains** like fertility, maternal and child health, infant and child mortality etc.
- **Objective of NFHS:** To provide **high-quality data on health & family welfare & emerging issues** in this area.
- **Conducted by:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)**, Mumbai, as the nodal agency for the surveys.
- **Previous NFHS:**
  - NFHS-1 - 1992-93.
  - NFHS-2 - 1998-99.
  - NFHS-3 - 2005-2006.
  - NFHS-4 - 2014-2015.

### ❖ Key Findings of the Report

- **Total Fertility Rates (TFR):** It **declined from 2.2 to 2.0** at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5.
  - There are **only five States in India, which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1.** Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) Manipur (2.17).
- **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR):** It has **increased substantially from 54% to 67%** in the country.

### • **Institutional Birth:**

- It has **increased substantially from 79% to 89%** in India. In **rural areas around 87% births are delivered in Institutions** and the same is **94% in urban areas.**

### • **Immunization:** More than three-fourths (**77%**) children aged **12-23 months were fully immunized**, compared with 62 percent in NFHS-4.

### • **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):**

- NFHS-4 estimated it to be 919 in 2015-16.
- NFHS-5 estimates that since then **SRB has increased to 929.**

### • **Stunting:**

- The level of stunting among children under 5 years has **marginally declined from 38 to 36%** for India since the last four years.
- Stunting is higher among children in rural areas (37%) than urban areas (30%) in 2019-21.

### • **Obesity and Tobacco Use:**

- Nearly a **fourth of all women and men** are overweight or obese (BMI = 25.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- More than a **third of men (38 per cent) were reported to be using some kind of tobacco.**

### • **Financial Inclusion of Women:** The prevalence of women having a bank or savings account has **increased from 53% to 79% in the last 4 years.**

## UN Security Council and Nuclear Suppliers' Group

### ❖ Context

- Recently, **France reiterated its commitment to support India's bid for permanent membership** in a reformed UN Security Council (UNSC) and India's entry into the **Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG).**

### ❖ About UNSC

- The UNSC is **one of the six principal organs** of the United Nations (UN) charged with ensuring international peace and security **established by UN charter in 1945.**
- **Recommend the admission of new UN members** to the General Assembly and approve any changes to the UN Charter.
- **Headquarter: New York.**
- **Members: 15 members:** The **five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.** The United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom are its members **with veto power. India, for the 8th time, has entered the UNSC** as a non-permanent member last year (2021) and will stay on the council for two years i.e 2021-22. Each year, the **General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term.** The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis. The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

### ❖ About NSG

- **About:** It is a **voluntary, non-legally binding association** of major countries that trade in nuclear material. NSG has **no formal link to the UN**, but its activities contribute to the UN's efforts in the field of non-proliferation and export controls.
- **Formation:** The NSG was **created in 1974.**
  - **India's 1974 Pokhran nuclear test was a trigger**, as it arguably demonstrated that certain non-weapons specific technology could be turned to weapons development.
- **Members:** It currently has **48 participants.**
  - **Signatories to the NPT can join the NSG.**
  - **NSG works on the basis of consensus**, i.e any decision needs to be ratified by all member countries.
  - India being a non-NPT signatory would normally not be considered for participation.

### Face to Face Centres

## Virtual Private Networks (VPN)

### ❖ Context

- **Computer Emergency Response Team or Cert-In**, a wing of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has recently issued a new directive that mandates VPN service providers must maintain all customer data for five years.

### ❖ What is VPN

- All devices connected to the internet are a part of a large network of computers, servers and other devices spread across the world.
- To identify each device connected to the internet, service providers globally assign a unique address to each such device called the **internet protocol address or IP address**.
- A VPN, when switched on, essentially creates a **safe network within the larger global network** of the internet.
- It takes data originating from one server and **masks the IP address** of the user by **rerouting** the data.
- In essence, a VPN, acting as a tunnel, **creates several proxy identities for user data** and delivers it safely without disturbing the content of the data.
- Thus, it **maintains privacy or anonymity**, by helping the user to avoid being tracked.

### ❖ Cert-in Directive

- Cert-In has asked VPN service providers to maintain **for five years or longer** details such as:
  - Validated names of their customers.
  - Period for which they hired the service.
  - IP addresses allotted to these users.
  - email addresses.
  - IP addresses and the time stamps used at the time of registration of the customers.
  - Purpose for which the customers used their services.
  - Validated addresses and contact numbers.
  - Ownership pattern of the customers.

### ❖ Purpose

- To effectively **trace anti-social elements and cybercriminals** indulging in various nefarious activities online.
- To **prevent incitement or commission of any cognisable offence** using computer resources or for handling of any cyber incident which may lead to any disturbance in the sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order.

## News in Between the Lines

### Principle Of 'Res Judicata'



### ❖ Context

- The **Gauhati High Court** has ruled that the principle of 'res judicata' is applicable to **Assam's Foreigners Tribunals**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The principle bars reopening of the same issue by the same parties once a ruling has been made.
- The bench has ruled that once a person has been declared Indian in the foreigners tribunals, they cannot be brought to the tribunal a second time and declared a foreigner.
- The court invoked a May 2019 order by the **Supreme Court (Abdul Kuddus vs Union of India)** to arrive at its judgement.

### ❖ Amina Khatoun vs State of Assam 2018

- The recent judgement cleared the air on a 2018 Gauhati High Court order in the Amina Khatoun vs State of Assam case.
- The court had then adjudicated that the principle of 'res judicata' did not apply to the foreigners' tribunals since they were only quasi-judicial bodies and not full-fledged courts.
- The Gauhati High Court, in its latest order, found the 2018 judgement to be "no more a good law" and "as such, cannot be relied upon anymore".

### ❖ Context

- The **Ministry of corporate affairs (MCA)** has issued the **Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Amendment Rules, 2022**.

### ❖ About The Recent Amendment

- The amendment mandates that companies seeking investments follow the government's foreign direct investment (FDI) norms relating to investors from countries with which India shares a land border.

### FDI From Bordering Countries

## Face to Face Centres





- No offer of any securities is to be made to an entity or a national of a country which shares land border with India, unless **prior approval has been obtained from the Indian government as per Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules**, and is submitted along with the private placement offer-cum-application letter.
  - The move puts the **onus of compliance on the recipient of investments**.
- ❖ **About The 2020 Order**
- The government in 2020 directed that all FDI from border countries would be subject to prior government approval through the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Amendment Rules.
  - The purpose is **to curb the opportunistic takeovers during the pandemic**.

## Monkeypox



- ❖ **Context**
- Health authorities in the **United Kingdom** have confirmed a case of monkeypox in an individual who recently travelled to that country from **Nigeria**.
- ❖ **About The Disease**
- It is a rare viral infection whose symptoms are similar to smallpox, although less severe.
  - The monkeypox virus is an **orthopoxvirus**, which is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox, and vaccinia virus, which was used in the smallpox vaccine.
- **Transmission:**
- It is a **zoonotic disease** that is transmitted from infected animals to humans.
  - **Human-to-human transmission** is, however, **limited**. The longest documented chain of transmission is six generations, meaning the last person to be infected in this chain was six links away from the original sick person.
  - **Transmission**, when it occurs, can be **through contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or on internal mucosal surfaces**, such as in the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.
  - According to WHO, it does not spread easily between people and the **overall risk to the general public is very low**.
- **Occurrence:**
- First discovered in **1958** following two outbreaks of a pox-like disease in colonies of monkeys kept for research — which led to the name 'monkeypox'.
  - The first human case was recorded in **1970** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** which has the **largest incidence** of the infection in the world. It occurs in **Central and West Africa**, often in proximity to tropical rainforests. The infection has been detected in **squirrels, Gambian pouched rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys**.
  - According to the WHO, 15 countries on four continents have so far reported confirmed cases of monkeypox in humans.
  - In **2017, Nigeria experienced the largest documented outbreak**, 40 years after the last confirmed case.
- **Symptoms:**
- Fever, headache, muscle aches, back ache, and exhaustion.
  - causes the lymph nodes to swell (**lymphadenopathy**) which smallpox does not.
- **Treatment:**
- No safe, proven treatment yet.
  - The WHO recommends supportive treatment depending on the symptoms.
- **Vaccination:**
- **Vaccination against smallpox** (vaccinia vaccine) **demonstrated about 85% effectiveness** in preventing monkeypox.
  - Prior childhood smallpox vaccination may result in a milder disease course.

## Hathi Mitras

- ❖ **Context**
- **Chhattisgarh** forest department has started a new initiative to prevent man-elephant encounters and conflict.

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### ❖ Key Highlights

- The **residents of villages** affected by human-elephant conflict are engaged by the state forest department to **dedicatedly track elephants, warn people about their movement and send updates** in a Whatsapp group created for the purpose. These residents, known as Hathi Mitras, track elephants through the help of fresh dung and foot prints.

### ❖ Background

- India's 27,000 elephants often run into trouble with its burgeoning human population. The situation is especially worrisome in **Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh**. The elephants started crossing into Chhattisgarh in 1988 from Jharkhand, then a part of undivided Bihar, in search of suitable habitats. The movement became regular from 1995 onwards. Hence, **the central and northern parts of the state** witness an escalation of casualties and crop damages. Today, there are about 275-320 elephants in the state.

## Pangolin



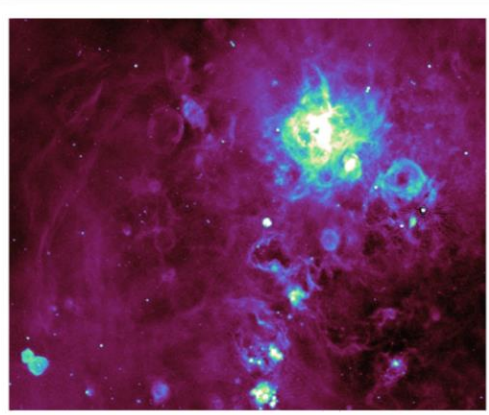
### ❖ Context

- A pangolin is giving a tough time to forest officials in the Nahargarh Biological Park near Jaipur in captivity, after its rescue from the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. The **endangered mammal has refused to accept any food** given by the park staff and is mostly spending time in a burrow which it has dug out for itself.

### ❖ About Indian Pangolin

- **Physical Characteristics:** Indian Pangolin is a **large anteater covered by 11-13 rows of scales** on the back. A terminal scale is also present on the lower side of the tail of the Indian Pangolin, which is absent in the Chinese Pangolin.
  - It has **thick scaly skin**.
  - It is **nocturnal** and rests in deep burrows during the day.
- **Distribution:** Out of the eight species of pangolin, the **Indian Pangolin and the Chinese Pangolin are found in India**.
  - **Indian Pangolin is native to the Indian subcontinent.**
  - The Indian pangolin has been recorded in **various forest types, including Sri Lankan rainforest and plains to middle hill levels.**
  - It **inhabits grasslands and secondary forests**, and is well adapted to dry areas and desert regions, but prefers more barren, hilly regions
- **Food:** It is an **insectivore feeding on ants and termites.**
- **Threats:** It **is hunted for meat and used in traditional Chinese medicine.**
  - Pangolins are among the **most trafficked wildlife species** in the world.
- **Protection Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Indian Pangolin: Endangered.
    - Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered.
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Both these species are listed under Schedule I.
  - **CITES-** Appendix I.

## Pulsar



### ❖ Context

- Recently, Astronomers have confirmed that **an object they thought was a distant galaxy is actually the brightest extra-galactic pulsar ever seen.**

### ❖ About Pulsar

- Pulsars are **highly magnetized spinning neutron stars** that form from the collapsed remnants of exploded stars.
- As pulsars spin, **they release a stream of radio waves from their poles** — a 'pulse' that **can be detected using radio telescopes.**
- Astronomers use pulsars to test theories of gravity and to look for evidence of gravitational waves. **The new pulsar, called PSR J0523-7125**, is about 50,000 parsecs from Earth, in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), and is quite different from most known pulsars.

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