



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

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GENERAL STUDIES-3

Higher Prevalence of Mental Disorders in South India

Why in news?

- Recently, a study by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative was published in the Lancet Psychiatry.

Key points:

- This is the first comprehensive estimate of disease burden due to mental disorders and their trends in every state of India from 1990.
- The study divided States into three categories on the basis of their Socio-Demographic Index (SDI), i.e low, medium and high SDI States.
- The SDI is a composite measure of per-capita income, mean education and fertility rate in women younger than 25 years and is calculated on a scale of one.
- The study utilised all accessible relevant data from India over the past three decades and reports that mental disorders are the leading cause of non-fatal disease burden in India and their contribution to the total disease burden is increasing.

Most Common Mental Disorder

- Depression and anxiety disorders are the commonest mental disorders in India. Their prevalence is increasing and is relatively higher in the southern states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh) and in females.
- Depression accounted for 33.8% of all mental disorder DALYs in India in 2017, followed by anxiety disorders (19%), idiopathic developmental intellectual disability (10.8%) and schizophrenia (9.8%).
- The contribution of mental disorders to the total disease burden in India in terms of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) increased from 2.5% in 1990 to 4.7% in 2017.
- DALY is the sum of total years of life lost and years lived with disability. One DALY is at least one lost year of 'healthy' life.

Statistics:

- Roughly one in seven Indians or 197 million people suffered from mental disorders of varying severity in 2017.
- These include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, idiopathic developmental intellectual disability, conduct disorders, and autism.
- High SDI Group: Prevalence of depressive disorders was highest in Tamil Nadu. Anxiety disorders were found to be more common in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra in the high SDI State group

Innovative IAS & KAS Coaching Centre

No. 37, 1st Floor, Next to SBI Bank, Ganganagar, RT Nagar, Bengaluru - 32

Mobile: 9880088777 / Ph: 080 - 40977456



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- Middle SDI Group: Prevalence of depressive disorders was highest in Andhra Pradesh. Anxiety disorders were found to be more common in Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and West Bengal in the middle SDI State group.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)

Why in News?

- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) has achieved its target of creating Urban India Open Defecation Free (ODF).

Key Points:

- Urban areas of 35 states / UTs have become ODF and certified through third-party verification.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched various initiatives to make SBM-U a successful project. Some of them include,
- ODF, ODF+ and ODF++ Protocol:
- Norms under ODF: No visible faeces shall found in the environment and every household, as well as public/community institutions, should be using safe technology option for disposal of faeces.
- Norms under ODF+: Not a single person should be defecating and/or urinating in open. All community and public toilets should be properly maintained and cleaned.
- Norms under ODF++: Proper treatment and management of faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated. There should be no discharge or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.
- Water + Protocol: It is designed to ensure that no untreated wastewater is discharged into the open environment or water bodies.
- Star rating protocol for Garbage free cities: It is based on 12 parameters which follow a SMART framework – Single metric, Measurable, Achievable, Rigorous verification mechanism and Targeted towards outcomes.

As on date, 4 cities namely, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Mysuru (Karnataka) have been certified as 5-star cities.

ECO club programme

Why in News?

- The first annual meeting of the State Nodal Agencies implementing the National Green Corps Ecoclub programme was recently organized by the Environment Ministry's Education Division in collaboration with the GEER Foundation (Gujarat). It was held from 20th-21st December 2019 in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Best Ecoclub Award at national level were also awarded to the students of the Ecoclub from Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Telangana who secured First, Second and Third position respectively.



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Key Points:

Environment Education Awareness and Training

- In the fiscal year 1983-84, the Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) as the central sector scheme.
- It aims to promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment.
- Its objectives are achieved through the implementation of four programmes:
 - National Green Corps (NGC),
 - National Environment Awareness Campaign,
 - Seminars/Workshops, and
 - National Nature Camping Programme.

Under these programmes, financial assistance is provided to various organisations for undertaking activities and awareness campaigns for the protection of environment in the country.

General studies-2

Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth (CCIG)

Why in news?

- The newly-formed Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth (CCIG) held its first meeting to discuss issues related to the slowdown in the economy.

Key points:

- The meeting also discussed about the slowing GDP growth to 4.5% (a six-year low) as investment, exports and consumption have declined in the country.
- Alongside CCIG, a Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development was also constituted in response to rising unemployment in the country.
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey had shown the overall unemployment rate to be 6.1% during 2017-18.

Cabinet Committees

- Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- These Rules emerge out of Article 77(3) of the Constitution, which empowers the President to make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government, and for the allocation among Ministers.
- These committees are of two types—standing and ad hoc. The standing Cabinet Committees are of a permanent nature while the ad hoc Cabinet Committees are of a temporary nature.
- The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific

functions assigned to them. He can add or reduce the number of committees.

- The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.

Prelims facts:

Kondareddy tribe

- It is one of the most backward tribal groups in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- They inhabit on both the banks of the Godavari River (East and West Godavari districts), in the hilly-forest region of Khammam (Telangana) and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh).
- They live in the interior forest areas largely cut-off from the mainstream. Traditionally, they were shifting cultivators and recently, some of them have adopted settled agriculture and horticulture
- Collection of non timber forest products and basket-making supplement the sources of their livelihood.
- Their mother tongue is Telugu with a unique accent.
- KondaReddis have also been recognized as Primitive Tribal Group (now Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)
- The KondaReddis are known for their eco-friendly practices such as use of household articles made of bamboo, bottle gourd, and seed.

Chillai-Kalan

- Chillai-Kalan, a traditional 40-day long period of extreme cold in Kashmir, began on December 21 and will continue till January 31 followed by Chillai-Khurd and Chillai-Bachha.
- Chillai-Khurd (small cold), a 20-day long period which starts from January 31 to February 19.
- Chillai-Bachha (baby cold), a 10-day long period follows which occurs between February 20 and March 2.
- As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), the period mostly remains wet as the upper part of the Kashmir Valley receives heavy snowfall and the minimum temperature drops considerably.
- During this period, water bodies like lakes, rivers and streams get frozen with a thick layer of ice.

Oxygen parlour

- In a unique initiative to battle rising air pollution in cities, Indian Railways has opened an 'Oxygen Parlour' at Nashik railway station in Maharashtra. The initiative seeks to provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters.
- It has been set up by Indian Railways in collaboration with Airo Guard, a one of the leading consultancies in field of plant nurseries based in Nashik. The objective behind setting up Parlour is to expand this initiative to every railway station as well as every home.



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- There are nearly 1500 plants in Oxygen Parlour, so, these plants can directly and effectively bring down the pollution in the air at the railway station and allow the people to breathe cleaner air.
- Concept: The concept of Oxygen Parlour is based on recommendation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1989, NASA had conducted a study in which they identified some plants that better absorb the 5 most harmful pollutants from air. It is these plants which have been mostly planted in the Parlour as they can clean the air in an area of 10X10 feet around them.

Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)

- The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) test fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) successfully. The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- The missile was tested in its deployment mode. It intercepted a target in mid-air meeting the mission's objectives successfully. The entire launch was monitored by Range radar systems, ground telemetry systems and electro optical tracking system.
- The weapon system of the missile that was tested has active array battery surveillance radar, automated command and control system, active array battery multifunction radar. The system is mounted with 2 radars that provide 360-degree coverage.
- The missile was also designed with single stage propulsion, a navigation system with 2-way data link that were developed by DRDO.
- The QRSAM is a missile developed by DRDO along with Bharat Electronics Limited for the Indian army. In 2007, the proposal of QRSAM was launched as a replacement for Osa-AK and Kvadrat missile systems. The first testing of QRSAM was conducted in 2017.
- Previously, the QRSAM missile testing was conducted in August 2019.

Agreement in fisheries

- The department of fisheries (GoI), NABARD and Tamil Nadu Government signed an agreement to implement Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF). The tripartite agreement set a total of Rs 7522 crores to address the infrastructure requirement of fisheries sector.
- The fund includes setting up of berth facilities for safe landing for number of fishing vessels. It will also be used to increase fish production, stimulate fisheries related economic activities, and to boost economic activities in the region. The projects are to be implemented in the southern coasts of Tamil Nadu. The funding will also be used to augment deep sea fishing, cage culture and promote exports in the future.
- NABARD provides concessional financing to fisheries infrastructure facilities through state governments under FIDF. It is the Nodal Loaning Entity of the fisheries department. It also supports fisheries under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)