



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

09th December 2019

General studies -3

1. Measles outbreaks continue unabated: WHO

Why in News?

The report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) on behalf of the Measles and Rubella Initiative.

Key points:

- Children under the age of five accounted for most of the 1,40,000 people who died from measles in 2018, according to new estimates released in the report.
- Data released by WHO has noted that measles cases more than doubled in 2018 compared to 2017. While final data for 2019 is not yet available, reports indicate that the number of measles cases continues to be dangerously high.
- The number of children killed in the preceding years by a preventable disease is proof that measles anywhere is a threat to children everywhere. When children go unvaccinated in significant numbers, entire communities are at risk.

Measles and rubella:

- Measles is a highly contagious virus and spreads rapidly in unvaccinated children, causing symptoms from rash to blindness, pneumonia to death.
- Rubella virus is the primary cause of congenital rubella syndrome leading to abortions and children born with birth defects of heart, eye, and brain.
- Both measles and rubella can be prevented by a highly-effective Measles-Rubella (MR)

The campaign in India:

- India initiated one of the world's largest measles-rubella campaign to eliminate measles and control rubella in the country.
- By November 2019, more than 324 million children and adolescents between 9 months to 15 years of age have been vaccinated with one dose of MR vaccine.

2. 2.3 million Children in India unvaccinated for measles

Why in news?

The report published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

Key points:

- In 2018, measles caused an estimated 10 million cases and 1,42,000 deaths globally, according to the report.
- The estimated cases and deaths are much more than what countries have reported to the



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

World Health Organization and UNICEF. The number of measles cases reported in 2018 was only 3,53,000.

- The first dose of measles vaccine was introduced as part of the national immunization program in the 1990s in India. Based on the WHO's recommendation to administer a second dose to prevent infection and death in 90-95% of vaccinated children, India introduced the second dose from 2010 onwards. India was one of the last countries to add a second dose of measles vaccine as recommended by the WHO.

Concerns:

- There were nearly 70,000 cases of measles in India in 2018, the third-highest in the world. In 2019, over 29,000 confirmed cases have been reported to the WHO.
- Measles can be prevented through two doses of vaccination. But the number of children who are not vaccinated against measles is alarmingly high in six countries. At 2.3 million, India has the second-highest number of children who are not vaccinated against measles.
- According to the MMWR report, in 2018, 19.2 million children globally worldwide did not receive the first dose through routine immunization services.
- In 2017, 2.9 million children in India under one year of age had not been vaccinated with the first dose, according to UNICEF. In one year, the number of unvaccinated children in India had reduced from 2.9 million to 2.3 million. The corresponding reduction in the case of Nigeria has been much more — from nearly 4 million unvaccinated children in 2017 to 2.4 million in 2018.
- In India, the first dose of measles vaccine is given at nine-12 months of age and the second dose is given at 16-24 months of age through the national immunization program. But it appears that millions of children in India do not receive measles vaccine through routine immunization activities.
- The WHO recommends 95% coverage using two doses of measles vaccine to prevent outbreaks. Though vaccine coverage with first and second dose has increased globally since 2000, it has not reached anywhere near 95%. In 2018, only 86% of children globally received the first dose through routine immunization. In the case of the second dose, the coverage globally is just 69%

General studies-2

1. Citizenship Bill to be tabled today

Why in News?

- Introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha.

Key points:

- The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, by wanting to grant citizenship to illegal non-Muslims (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

- The Bill proposes that all such migrants will be eligible for citizenship if they came to India before December 31, 2014, and all pending legal cases pertaining to citizenship-related matters against them will stand abated.
- The Bill says the six non-Muslim communities “shall not be treated as illegal migrants” for violating provisions of the Passport Act, 1920, or the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- The Bill reduces the mandatory requirement of continuous stay in India from 12 years to five years for “many persons of Indian origin including persons belonging to the minority community from the neighbouring countries” who are unable to produce proof of their Indian origin and are forced to apply for citizenship by naturalization under Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Concerns :

Citizenship based on religion:

- The statement of objectives and reasons of the Bill says, “The constitutions of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh provide for a specific State religion. As a result, many persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian communities have faced persecution on grounds of religion in those countries. Some of them also have fears about such persecution in their day-to-day life where the right to practice, profess and propagate their religion has been obstructed and restricted. Many such persons have fled to India to seek shelter and continued to stay in India even if their travel documents have expired or they have incomplete or no documents.”
- If the Bill is passed, it will be the first time that citizenship will be provided on the basis of religion.
- There are doubts regarding the longevity of the act given that a judicial review is imminent since it appears to violate Article 14 of the Constitution which grants the right to equality.

Concerns in North-East India:

- Several groups in Assam and the other Northeast states are protesting against the legislation as it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord, 1985, according to which all illegal immigrants, irrespective of religion, who entered India after March 24, 1971, were to be detected and deported.
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, published on August 31, was updated as per the Accord. More than 19 lakh persons, out of the total 3.29 crore applicants, were excluded from the final NRC.
- The Bill says the amendments will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura which are included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland that are protected by the Inner Line Permit (ILP).
- The government has maintained that it would address all apprehensions of the States about the changes in their demography, language, and culture due to this Bill.



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

2. States may put Centre on mat on GST

Why in News?

- The upcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting on December 18, 2019.

Key Points;

The shortfall in collection:

- The government had budgeted for ₹6,66,343 crore in GST collections for the financial year 2019-20, of which only about 50% has been collected so far, with just three months to go for the financial year to end.
- The Centre had targeted ₹1,09,343 crore compensation cess collections, of which it has so far collected ₹64,528 crores.
- The Centre had written to all the States voicing concerns that due to the lower GST collections, the compensation cess might not be enough to pay for losses arising out of the tax system.
- The government's argument is that since rates kept changing, the GST collection has not been what was projected.

Delay in releasing GST compensation to states:

- Several States, including Rajasthan, Kerala, Delhi, Punjab, and West Bengal, have not received the dues for several months.
- They have publicly urged the Centre to transfer pending compensation payments.
- Since GST is a destination-based tax, certain producer States are suffering owing to the delay and inadequate compensation.
- Many States had to incur debts to meet the expenses predicated on GST compensation monies.

States' Demands:

- Some states are demanding that the cut-off date for ending compensation to the States be moved from 2021-22 to 2026-27.
- The states have raised the opinion that the Centre should raise the cess, if needed, to compensate the States and continue to compensate the States for the funds' shortfall incurred on introducing GST.
- The government of Punjab has even said that it may take the matter to the Supreme Court if the Centre does not release the dues. Before that, the GST Council which has a dispute redressal mechanism for any disputes among the members of the council needs to be given a chance to address the concerns.

Prelims facts:

1. The International Day of Anti-Corruption

The International Day of Anti-Corruption is marked by the United Nations every year on December 9 since 2003. This year the day is being marked by the organization all over the world on the following



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

theme

Theme: United Against Corruption

The 2030 Agenda forms the backbone of the campaign.

Sustainable Development Goal

Ending corruption is important to achieve SDG 16 and 17. The SDG 16 insists on “Promote peace, justice and strong institutions”. It insists on anti-corruption targets. The goal 16.4, insists on reducing illicit financial and arms flow. The Goal 16.5 insists on reducing bribery on all forms and 16.6 says that it is essential to create transparent institutions at all levels.

Significance

According to the United Nations, every year 1 trillion USD is paid as bribe and 2.6 trillion USD is stolen annually. It is more than 5% of global GDP. The United Nations Development Programme says that the funds lost to corruption are 10 times the amount spent in official development assistance.

2. Santhali Language

- MP Sarojni Hembram from Odisha for the first time spoke in a tribal language called Santhali. She raised the matter of public importance during the zero hour. Also, Srimati Sarojini demanded Bharat Ratna for Pundit Raghunath Murmu, the Santhali scholar who introduced OlChiki script for the language in 1925.

Santhali Language

- The language is predominantly spoken by the North Mundari Group of the Austroasiatic-Munda family. The language is spoken in parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Odisha and also in Nepal and Bangladesh. The OlChiki script for the language was created by Raghunath Murmu in 1925.
- Schedule 8 of the Constitution
- Santhali language was included in the Schedule 8 of the constitution through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment act, 2003. Along with the language, 3 other languages were included namely Maithili, Bodo, Dori.
- In 2017, Shika Mandi became the first Indian to host a show in Santhali language.

3. Panel pulls up 19 States for tyre disposal

- India discards about 100 million tyres every day and only a fraction of it is recycled. India is also responsible for 6% of the global tyre waste, according to a 2017 report by environmentalist group Chintan.
- India is also a recipient of used tyres from Australia and the U.K., which are sent for



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

recycling and disposal.

- The National Green Tribunal in 2014 prohibited used tyres from being burnt in the open or being used as fuel in brick kilns, because of the toxic emissions. Pyrolysis was recommended as an acceptable mode.
- More than 40% of tyre pyrolysis units were not complying with rules, the NGT observed in April 2019, after it sought a report from the CPCB.
- Tyre pyrolysis refers to a technique of breaking down used tyres in the absence of oxygen. Shredded tyres, at temperatures between 250° C and 500° C, produce liquid oil and gases.
- While this is considered a safer technique than burning tyres, pyrolysis leaves fine carbon matter, pyro-gas and oil as residue and the inadequate management of these by-products poses health risks.

4. The name's Bond, Bharat Bond

- Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) will be a basket of bonds issued by central public sector enterprises/undertakings or any other government organization bonds. It will invest in a portfolio of bonds of state-run companies and other government entities. The Bharat Bond will be tracking the Nifty Index. Bharat Bond ETF will have a fixed maturity of three and ten years and will trade on the stock exchanges.
- Bharat Bond ETF is India's first corporate bond exchange-traded fund, comprising the debt of state-run companies.
- This will allow retail investors to buy government debt. It will help deepen the bond market and allow retail investors an opportunity to participate in it.

5. Kannadigas to get priority in the private sector

- The Karnataka government has amended rules directing industrial establishments that have taken any support from the government to give priority to Kannadigas in jobs on the shop floor in 'C' and 'D' category of employees.
- It has been done by revising rules governing recruitment in industries under the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules 1961.
- The industries getting incentives from the government must provide 100 percent reservation in their blue-collared jobs and those not availing any benefits are required to accord priority to Kannadigas.
- The revised rules also empower the state to intervene if private companies fail to implement the rules in letter and spirit.
- Andhra Pradesh recently passed legislation that made it mandatory for existing and upcoming industries in the state to reserve 75 percent jobs for locals, despite the 50 percent cap on reservation prescribed by the Supreme court.
- Questions are bound to be raised against this move as to whether the rule violates Article 19



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

of the Constitution.

6. Dutch, Danish heritage in Hooghly gets an ASI push

- The western banks of the Hooghly [Ganga] had anchored different colonial settlements, including the French, Portuguese, Danish, Dutch and British.
- The French architecture in Chandannagar and the Portuguese structures at Bandel are well known.
- The Dutch settlement in the area started as early as 1656, a couple of years before the Mughal king Aurangzeb ascended the throne. They started the trade of cotton, indigo, and spices. Not many of the Dutch monuments are found today as they were demolished after the British took control of the region



ICC IAS

Daily News Analysis

Innovative IAS & KAS Coaching Centre

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

Mobile: 9880088777 / Ph: 080 - 40977456