

2019



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1. International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Why in News?

On 3rd December 2019, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated.

Significance

- The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution.
- It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.
- **Theme for 2019:** Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda.

2. World Malaria Report

Why in News?

Recently, the World Malaria Report 2019 was released by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

- Globally, there were 228 million cases of malaria in 2018, down from 251 million cases in 2010.
- More than 85% of the global malaria deaths in 2018 were concentrated in the 20 countries of WHO's African region and India.
 - Pregnant women and children are the most vulnerable to malaria.

Key Findings

- Seven states account for about 90% of the burden of malaria cases in India. These are:
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Jharkhand
 - Chhattisgarh
 - West Bengal
 - Gujarat
 - Odisha
 - Madhya Pradesh.
- India has made the **largest absolute reductions** among the countries that share 85% of the malaria burden.
 - Compared to 2017, India reported 2.6 million fewer cases in 2018.
- Incidence of **P vivax malaria** (the second most common form of the disease) was the highest in India, which accounts for 47% of all cases in 2018.

Steps taken by Indian Government

- **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22):**
 - The Strategic Plan gives year wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria.

- It is based on the National Framework for Malaria Elimination 2016 which is in line with the WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has established '**Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India)**' which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.
- **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)** is the central nodal agency for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases (VBDs) i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India.

3. UNDP Accelerator Lab

Why in News?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched Accelerator Lab in India to work on tackling pollution.

- The project was launched in collaboration with the government's Atal Innovation Mission and will look to solve issues through innovative solutions.

Accelerator Lab

- The Accelerator Lab is an innovative new initiative by the UNDP, State of Qatar and the Federal Republic of Germany to find 21st century solutions to today's complex new challenges.
- India's Accelerator Lab will be part of a network of 60 global labs covering 78 nations, that will test and scale new solutions to global challenges like climate change and inequality.
- These Labs will identify grassroots solutions together with local actors and validate their potential to accelerate development.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- It is a flagship **national innovation initiative** of the Government of India under the NITI Aayog.
- The initiative aims to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- Six major initiatives of AIM:
 - Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) - Creating a problem-solving mindset across schools in India.
 - Atal Incubation Centers - Promoting world-class start-ups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
 - Atal New India Challenges - Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
 - Mentor India Campaign - A National Mentor network in collaboration with the public sector, corporations, and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.

- Atal Community Innovation Center - To promote community-centric innovation and ideas in the unserved /underserved regions of the country including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- ARISE - To promote innovation and research in the MSME industry.

UNDP

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's **global development network**.
- UNDP was established in 1965 by the General Assembly of the United Nations.
- It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries.
- The UNDP Executive Board is made up of representatives from 36 countries around the world who serve on a rotating basis.
- It is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations.
- UNDP is central to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), a network that spans 165 countries and unites the 40 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other bodies working to advance the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

4. YuWaah Youth Skilling Initiative

Why in News?

Recently the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the 'YuWaah' Generation Unlimited in India. It is a national partnership of committed stakeholders to expand socio-economic opportunities for India's young people, especially those from marginalised groups.

Generation Unlimited

- **Generation Unlimited** is a global multi-sector and multi-stakeholder alliance created by UNICEF to meet the needs of expanded education, skill development and employment opportunities for young people aged 10-24 years - age group of **YuWaah**.
- Its key mission is to promote access to foundational, transferable skills for youth inside and outside formal education systems.
 - To guide youth to market opportunities (career guidance, mentorship, internships, apprenticeships) and facilitate the integration of career guidance in school education.
- **Aim:**
 - Modernise secondary education and training to build the skills young people need for productive lives and work.

- Increase and improve the number of quality work opportunities available to youth.
- Foster entrepreneurship as a mindset and a livelihood for young people.
- Collaborate with youth as problem-solvers and engage citizens to help create the world they want.

UNICEF

- It is an agency of the United Nations (UN) devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.
- UNICEF was established in 1946 as **International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF)** by **UN Relief Rehabilitation Administration** to help children affected by World War II.
- UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations in 1953.
 - Its name was shortened to the United Nations Children Fund, but it is still referred to as UNICEF.
- The agency is guided by the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989**.
 - India ratified the CRC in 1992.
- UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965 for “promotion of brotherhood among the nations”.
- The headquarters is located in New York City, USA.

5. Fundamental Duties

Why in News?

Recently, the government has been making a pitch for fundamental duties.

Fundamental Duties

- Ten Fundamental Duties were incorporated in **Part IV-A** of the Constitution by the **Constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976**.
- These rights were included upon the recommendation of the **Swaran Singh Committee**.
- Fundamental Duties are described under **Article 51-A**. One more fundamental duty was added by the **86th Amendment in 2002**.
- These are statutory duties, **not enforceable by law**, but a court may take them into account while adjudicating on a matter.
- The concept of Fundamental Duties is taken from the **Constitution of erstwhile USSR**.

Significance of Fundamental Duties

According to Mahatma Gandhi the very performance of a duty secures us our right. He held that *“Satyagraha was born, for I was always striving to decide what my duty was.”*

- Fundamental Rights serve as a reminder to the citizens that while enjoying their rights, they should also be conscious of duties they owe to their country, their society and to their fellow citizens.
- They serve as a source of inspiration for the citizens and promote a sense of discipline and commitment among them.
- They create a feeling that the citizens are active participants in the realisation of national goals.
- They help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law.
- Democracy cannot establish deep roots in society until the citizens don't complement fundamental rights with their fundamental duties.
- Universally, great emphasis has been laid on citizens' duties. Article 29(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "*Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*"



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