

One in every 36 infants still dies before first birthday in India: Data

(GS Paper 2, Social Justice)

Why in news?

- Despite the decline in infant mortality rate over the past few decades, one in every 36 infants still dies within the first year of their life in India.

What is Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)?

- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which is widely accepted as a crude indicator of the overall health scenario of a country or a region, is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region.

Key Findings:

- According to the new data released by the Registrar General of India, the **present level of IMR (28 infant deaths per thousand live births, for the year 2020) is less than one-fourth as compared to 1971** (129 infant deaths per thousand live births).
- In the last 10 years, the IMR has witnessed a decline of about 36 per cent and the IMR at the all-India level has declined from 44 to 28 in the last decade.
- The corresponding decline in rural areas is 48 to 31, and for urban areas it is from 29 to 19, thereby exhibiting about 35 per cent and 34 per cent decadal decline respectively.

Concerns:

- However, despite the decline in the IMR over the last decades, one in every 36 infants die within first year of their life at the national level (irrespective of rural-urban).
- In 2020, the maximum IMR has been reported for Madhya Pradesh (43) and the minimum for Mizoram (3).

What is the birth rate?

- Birth Rate is a crude measure of fertility of a population and is a crucial determinant of population growth. It gives the number of live births per thousand population in a given region and year.

Birth rate:

- The birth rate at the all-India level has declined drastically over the last five decades from 36.9 in 1971 to 19.5 in 2020.
- The rural-urban differential has also narrowed over these years. However, the birth rate has continued to be higher in rural areas compared to urban areas in the last five decades.
- Birth rate has declined by about 11 per cent in the last decade, from 21.8 in 2011 to 19.5 in 2020. The corresponding decline in rural areas is 23.3 to 21.1 (about 9 per cent decline), and for urban areas it is from 17.6 to 16.1 (about 9 per cent decline).

National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller campaign

(GS Paper 1, Culture)

Why in news?

- Recently, National Summit on Developing Sustainable & Responsible Tourist Destinations was launched in New Delhi.
- It was organized by Ministry of Tourism, in partnership with United Environment Program (UNEP) and Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI).

Tourism & Environment:

- Tourism and Environment share a Special Relationship. Their interaction with each other is a two-way process.
- On the one hand **environmental resources constitute one of the basic ingredients of tourism**. The natural and manmade setting form the tourism products which the tourist enjoys, live in, and relax.
- On the other hand, the close and direct relationship between visitors, host communities and local environment creates a sensitive situation, whereby tourism can be both very damaging but also very positive for sustainable development.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has further forced the tourism sector to shift its focus to resiliency, sustainability and interconnectedness among diverse stakeholders in the sector.



Swadesh Darshan:

- The Ministry of Tourism with the objective to provide experience to the tourists launched Swadesh Darshan Scheme and has till now sanctioned 76 Projects.
- With the learnings of this scheme, the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has now been revamped as **Swadesh Darshan 2.0**.

Sustainable tourism:

- The idea of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 is to undertake holistic development with the vision to develop Sustainable and Responsible Tourist Destinations.
- Through the Swadesh Darshan2.0 sustainable and responsible tourism practices will be implemented in various projects and initiatives.
- The Scheme will encourage adoption of principles of sustainable tourism including environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability.

Way Forward:

- State tourism policies should recognise sustainability principles and the Sustainable Development Goals in their vision and strategic direction for tourism.

Corbevax approved by DCGI as a heterologous COVID-19 booster

(GS Paper 3, Science and Tech)

Why in news?

- Hyderabad-based Biological E. Limited (BE)'s COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) as a heterologous COVID-19 booster dose.

What is a heterologous booster?

- A heterologous booster is when the third dose is different from the earlier doses.



Details:

- It has been approved as a heterologous COVID-19 booster dose to individuals aged 18 years and above after 6 months of administration of primary vaccination (two doses) of Covaxin or Covishield vaccines for restricted use in emergency situations.
- Corbevax is the first such vaccine in India to be approved as a heterologous COVID-19 booster.

Clinical trials& outcome:

- Recently, BE furnished its clinical trials data to the DCGI, who after a detailed evaluation and deliberations with Subject Experts Committee, granted their approval for administering Corbevax vaccine as a heterologous booster dose to people who have already taken two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin,.
- It added that BE's clinical trial data showed that Corbevax booster dose provided **significant enhancement in immune response** and good safety profile required for an effective booster.
- The study indicated that the booster dose of Corbevax **increased the neutralising antibody titers in the Covishield or Covaxin groups** significantly when compared to placebo.

WHO's EUL:

- Biological E hasn't received World Health Organisation's emergency use listing for the jab.
- WHO's EUL procedure assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and is a prerequisite for COVAX vaccine supply.
- It also allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approval to import and administer COVID-19 vaccines.

About Corbevax:

- Corbevax is entirely developed and manufactured by Biological E. Limited in association with Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine as a recombinant protein sub-unit vaccine against COVID-19.

Mumbai International Film Festival 2022

(GS Paper 1, Culture)

Why in news?

- Recently, the awards of the Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films was presented by the Governor of Maharashtra at the valedictory ceremony held at the Nehru Centre, Mumbai.



Competitors:

- 18 documentary films from Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Panama, South Korea and UK, besides India were in the International Competition section of MIFF 2022

List of Winners:

Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary Film:

- The **Dutch documentary film “Turn Your Body to the Sun”** that tells the incredible story of a Soviet Prisoner of War, has won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary Film at MIFF 2022.
- The Award carries a Golden Conch, a Certificate and cash prize of Rs 1 million (Rs 10 lakhs).

Best Short-fiction:

- In the Short Fiction category, **Malayalam film ‘Saakshatkaaram’** shares the Silver Conch award with **GudmundHelsmsal’s ‘Brother Troll’** a film from Faroe Islands of Denmark.
- The awards carry a Silver Conch, a certificate and cash prize of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, to be shared equally between the director and the producer.

Best Animation Film:

- ‘Prince in a Pastry Shop’ directed by Polish filmmaker Katarzyna Agopsowicz, won the Silver Conch for Best Animation Film in International Competition category.
- The award carries a Silver Conch, a certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs, to be shared equally between the director and the producer.

Most Innovative / Experimental Film’:

- ‘Closed to the Light’ directed and produced by Italian film maker Nicola Piovesan won the ‘PramodPati - Most Innovative / Experimental Film’ in this edition.
- Nicola Piovesan will get Rs.1, 00,000 cash prize along with a trophy and certificate.

Part II: National Competition Awards

- ‘Admitted’ directed by Ojaswnee Sharma won the Silver Conch award for Best Documentary Film (above 60 minutes) in National Competition section.
- ‘Screaming Butterflies’ directed by Assamese Director Aimee Barua and produced by Mala Barua won the **Silver Conch award for Best Documentary Film** (below 60 minutes) in National Competition section.
- ‘GeruPatra’ directed by Shristipal Singh won the **Silver Conch for ‘Best Short Fiction Film’** (upto 45 minutes) in National Competition section.
- ‘Kandittundu (Seen It)’ directed by AdithiKrishnadas has been awarded the **Silver Conch for Best Animation Film** in National Competition section for its subtly hilarious take on the fantasy folklore of Kerala.

DadasahebPhalkeChitranagari Award for Best Debut Director ‘

- DadasahebPhalkeChitranagari Award for Best Debut Director at MIFF 2022 has been awarded to BimalPoddar for his film ‘Radha’.
- The award carries a trophy, certificate and prize money of Rs. 1 lakh.

IDPA Award for Best Student Film:

- IDPA Award for Best Student Film at MIFF2022 has been awarded to ‘Megha’, the Bengali film directed by Rishi Bhaumik.
- The award carries a trophy, certificate and prize money of Rs. 1 lakh.

Cairn to power Mangala pipeline via solar panels

(GS Paper 3, Infrastructure)

Why in news?

- Cairn Oil & Gas, a unit of mining giant Vedanta Ltd., will convert a pipeline that ships crude oil from its Rajasthan oilfields to Gujarat to solar power by 2025.



Key Highlights:

- Cairn will **convert the power source for the Mangala pipeline to solar** from coal-fired grid power.
- It will install solar rooftop PVs in all the 36 Above Ground Installations (AGIs) along the pipeline by 2025.

Mangala pipeline:

- This pipeline is the **world’s longest**, continuously heated and insulated pipeline that runs from oilfields of Rajasthan to refineries in Gujarat, traversing 705 km.

Way Forward:

- In line with its commitment to reduce carbon footprint, Cairn is cutting dependence on more polluting sources of power and setting an important precedent in the industry.

- The goal is to make world's longest, continuously heated and insulated hydrocarbon-carrying pipeline a greener and more efficient resource.

World Environment Day 2022

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- Led by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated on June 5 every year to raise awareness about degrading environmental conditions and to encourage people globally to take positive environmental actions, to help create a better future.
- The year 2022 marks the 50th WED.



Theme:

- The theme for 2022 is 'Only One Earth.'
- This was **also the slogan for the 1972 conference in Stockholm**, where the annual global event was first instituted on June 5.

Background:

- The idea of 'World Environment Day' was first introduced at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment - also known as the Stockholm conference in 1972.
- The conference had become the first world to have 'environment' on its agenda. Along with the day, the conference saw the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme.
- First held in 1973, the day is a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually.

How it will be celebrated in India?

- On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Centre is set to launch a global initiative called 'LiFE Movement'.
- The movement was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow.
- PM Modi will host a session on 'crafting a conscious planet' with Sadhguru.

