

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION,  
EMPOWERMENT ETC****India TB Report 2019**

The Union Health Ministry released the India TB Report 2019.

**Key highlights of report:**

- There was a 16% increase in the number of TB cases in 2018 as compared to the previous year. 21.5 lakh TB cases were notified to the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in 2018.
- India accounted for a quarter of the Global TB burden with an estimated 27 lakh new cases in 2018.
- Of the total notifications, 25% (5.4 lakh) cases were from the private sector; a 40% increase over last year.
- Among the notified, treatment was initiated for about 19.1 lakh cases (90%) across both public and private sectors.
- The majority of the affected individuals (89%) were in the age group 15-69.
- Uttar Pradesh accounted for 20% of all notifications (187 cases/lakh population).
- Odisha witnessed a decline in the number of notified cases from over 67,000 in 2017 to 50,244 in 2018, or about 25%. Odisha was the only such state; the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands too witnessed a drop.
- The two UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh had the highest number of notified patients per lakh population, at 417 and 468, respectively. Their rates of notification are higher because people from many other parts of India get notified from these UTs.
- TB is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among people living with HIV, and HIV co-infection rates among incident TB patients is estimated to be 3% — 86,000 HIV-associated TB patients are emerging annually. 11,000 people with HIV die every year due to TB.

**GEOGRAPHY****2I/BORISOV**

According to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the second interstellar object has been officially detected in our solar system.

**About:**

- Name: In 2I/Borisov, I stands for "interstellar", and 2 for being the second interstellar object ever discovered, after 'Oumuamua, which was detected in October 2017. The name Borisov honors its discoverer, Crimean amateur astronomer Gennady Borisov.
- Significance: 2I/Borisov is the first observed interstellar comet and second observed interstellar Object, after ' Oumuamua.
- Journey: The comet is currently inbound towards the Sun, and will reach its closest approach (perihelion) on December 8 at a distance of 300 million kilometres (190 million miles) - about twice the average distance of Earth from the Sun.
- Features: It's between 2 and 16 kilometres in diameter. its chemical composition is similar to the Solar System's long-period comets that originate in the distant Oort Cloud, rather than the short-period comets that come from closer in

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****'Voluntary Code Of Ethics' By Social Media Platforms**

Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp have agreed to follow the "voluntary code of ethics" in all future elections, including the upcoming Maharashtra and Haryana assembly polls.

**About:**

- Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) on behalf of its members has agreed to observe the "Voluntary Code of Ethics" during all future elections including the ongoing General Elections to the Haryana & Maharashtra legislative assemblies.

- The code, which was derived to act against paid advertisements that violate norms set by the Election Commission, came into force on March 20 in the last Lok Sabha polls. During the last Lok Sabha polls, social media platforms took action on 909 violative cases reported by the EC.
- This was the for the first time internet-based companies voluntarily adopted the norms for online poll campaign.

The key features of “Voluntary Code of Ethics” are as follows:

- No political campaign will be allowed to be run on social media platforms in the last 48 hours before polling ends. This period is referred to as “silence period” to allow voters take a considered decision without the heat and dust of campaign on whom to vote.
- Social Media platforms will voluntarily undertake information, education and communication campaigns to build awareness including electoral laws and other related instructions.
- Social Media platforms have created a high priority dedicated grievance redressal channel for taking expeditions action on the cases reported by the ECI.
- Social Media Platforms and ECI have developed a notification mechanism by this ECI can notify the relevant platforms of potential violations of Section 126 of the R.P. Act, 1951 and other electoral laws.
- Platforms will ensure that all political advertisements on their platforms are pre-certified from the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees as per the directions of Hon’ble Supreme Court.
- Participating platforms are committed to facilitate transparency in paid political advertisements, including utilising their pre-existing labels/disclosure technology for such advertisements.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**

### **CARICOM**

Prime Minister Modi met with the leaders of the CARICOM group of countries on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Key highlights of meeting:

- It was the first-ever meeting of PM Modi with CARICOM leaders in a regional format.
- PM Modi announced a USD 14 million grant for community development projects in the CARICOM and another 150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related projects.
- He also announced the setting up of the Regional Center for Excellence in Information Technology in Georgetown, Guyana and the Regional Vocational Training Center in Belize.
- It was decided to set up a Joint Task Force to expeditiously look into possible areas of cooperation and identify the way forward.

Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

- Membership: The grouping has 15 members-states and 5 associate members.
- Established in: 1973.
- What is it? It is an economic and political community that works jointly to shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.
- Secretariat: Georgetown, Guyana.

### **Quad and G-4 Meet**

The foreign ministers of the Quad countries - India, US, Australia and Japan - met on the sidelines of the UNGA meeting on 27th September 2019. The group is seen as a regional counterweight to China and has only met at the Joint or Assistant Secretary level since 2017. The latest meeting is seen as an upgrade by at least three levels.

- The Ministers met to discuss cooperation on counter-terrorism, mentoring, assistance in disaster relief, airtime security, cooperation, development, finance and cybersecurity efforts etc.
- The Quad countries were “resolute” in their view of the centrality of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in South East Asia.

- The notion of ASEAN centrality broadly refers to the group of countries being at the centre of security and strategic frameworks for the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Quad

- The Quadrilateral security dialogue or Quad was first mooted by the Japanese Prime Minister in 2007.
- However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China).
- Australia is worried about China's growing interest in its land, infrastructure and politics and influence on its universities.
- In the last decade, Japan believes that China has tried to bully it on several territorial issues.
- China has border disputes with India. China is also blocking India's path into the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- A weakened US sees the coalition as an opportunity to regain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India has been hesitant about the Quad, in part because it does not want to isolate China and because it has had a history of staying clear of security alliances.
- Members of the Quad, barring Australia, are currently engaged in the annual Malabar exercises – military exercises that started between India and the U.S. in 1994 and became trilateral (with Japan) in 2015.
- India has not permitted Australia to participate in these exercises, concerned about what message it would send to China, which is wary of the exercise.

### **INDIAN ECONOMY**

#### **Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)**

The task force on direct tax code (DTC) has recommended abolishing dividend distribution tax (DDT) with a view to promote investment.

#### About:

- Dividends paid by a domestic company are subject to dividend distribution tax (DDT) at 15 per cent of the aggregate dividend declared, distributed or paid.
- The effective rate is 20.35 per cent, including a 12 per cent surcharge and a 3 per cent education cess.

#### View of the task force on direct tax code (DTC):

- It has recommended abolishing DDT with a view to promote investment.
- According to it, DDT is a surrogate tax and it hinders foreign direct investment inflows. Also, there are hardly any revenue loss by removing DDT, since it will be offset by the taxes paid by shareholders.
- The panel favours replacing DDT with a classical system of taxation under which dividend receipts be declared as normal income.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**

#### **Dermatoglyphics Multiple Intelligence Test (DMIT)**

Doctors in India have questioned the effectiveness of Dermatoglyphics Multiple Intelligence Test (DMIT), by calling it “medical palmistry”.

#### About:

- Dermatoglyphics is an analysis of fingerprint patterns. Dermatoglyphics originates from two Greek words i.e. Derma (Skin) and Glyphe = Curve.
- Multiple Intelligence is a scientific Method of understanding Brain Lobes and its usages.
- So, Dermatoglyphics Multiple Intelligence Test (DMIT) is a combined study of Brain Lobes, 9 Multiple Intelligence and Human Psychology with the help of fingerprints. In the test, the unique fingerprints and dermal ridge patterns of individuals are studied.

- DMIT is a popular test used on school children as a “scientific” study of fingerprints patterns and human brain lobes to determine the “intrinsic potential in a child”.

Arguments by proponents of DMIT:

- The companies that offer DMIT services note that the test enables parents to develop an effective way to interact with their child, based on his or her inborn communication style.
- The test claims to allow users to help pick a proper way towards selecting a career for your child.
- As for adults, DMIT claims to reveal to them the strength they possess, and guide them to perform better at work.

Arguments against:

- The Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) has now urged schools and parents to stay away from “such ill-found practices”.
- It is because, there is no scientific evidence of this test being useful for measuring or accessing intelligence and brain lobe functioning or predicting future behaviour.
- Any child’s IQ and his abilities are governed by a number of factors, including genetic, dietary and environmental factors.

**Kalam Centre For Science And Technology (KCST)**

DRDO and Central University of Jammu signed a MoU to set up Kalam Centre for Science and Technology.

About:

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence and Central University of Jammu (CUJ) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST) at the university.
- The main objective of the MoU is to facilitate multidisciplinary directed basic and applied research and technology development in the field of Computational System Security and Sensors.

**First Indigenous Fuel Cell System**

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About:

- The system has been developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries.
- It has been developed under India’s flagship program named “New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI).”
- The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products for further use; amounting to greater than 70% efficiency, which otherwise may not be possible by other energy sources.
- The Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology.
- This development would replace Diesel Generating (DG) sets and help reduce India’s dependence on crude oil.
- In the field of clean energy, Fuel Cell distributed power generation systems are emerging as promising alternative to grid power. It carries immense national importance in terms of non-grid energy security.

**PRELIMS SPECIFIC- DAYS, AWARDS, INDICES ETC**

**Right Livelihood Award**

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, was among four people named as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award. She shares the award with Brazilian indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa of the Yanomami people, Chinese women's rights lawyer Guo Jianmei and Western Sahara human rights defender Aminatou Haidar.

About:

- The annual Right Livelihood Award was created in 1980 by Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull.
- It honours courageous people and organisations offering solutions to the root causes of global problems, that the prize founder, felt were being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.
- Unlike most other international prizes, the Right Livelihood Award has no categories.
- It is usually shared by four Recipients, but may vary from year-to-year.
- This year, The four laureates will received a cash award of 1 million Swedish crowns (\$103,000) each. Not always all Laureates receive a cash award. Often an Honorary Award is given to a person or group whose work the Jury wishes to recognise but who is not primarily in need of monetary support.
- It is Presented annually in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Although it is promoted as an "Alternative Nobel Prize", it is not a Nobel prize and does not have any organizational ties to the awarding institutions of the Nobel Prize or the Nobel Foundation.

**World Tourism Day**

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has chosen India as the host country to observe World Tourism Day 2019.

- The theme for this World Tourism Day is ‘Tourism and Jobs: A better future for all’.
- It is celebrated every year on September 27 around the world.
- The purpose of World Tourism Day (WTD) is to foster awareness among the international community on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.
- The event seeks to address global challenges outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlight the contribution the tourism sector can make in reaching these goals.

United Nations World Tourism Organisation

- The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations Specialised Agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- It was established in 1975 with headquarters at Madrid, Spain.
- UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism’s socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts.

**World Digital Competitiveness Ranking**

India has jumped four places from 48th place in 2018 to 44th rank in 2019 in World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR).

- The country has improved overall in all factors -- knowledge, technology and future-readiness -- as compared to the previous year's ranking.
- The biggest improvement is in the technology sub-factor level, holding the first position in telecommunications investment.
- Top Countries: The US was ranked as the world's most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore in second place.
- Largest Jump: The largest jump in the overall ranking was registered by China, moving from 30th to 22nd, and Indonesia, from 62nd to 56th.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**A clear vision, backed by definite plans, gives you a tremendous feeling of confidence and personal power.**

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. India does not have a deficit of laws and rules, in fact we have too much of them.**

**Critically examine.**

Ans

The existence of obsolete and inconvenient laws is a major hindrance in the exercise of smooth administration in India. Such laws are often not required, either discriminate, or are simply nonsensical in the present times.

- There remain a large number of legislations that may have been relevant to the social, economic and legal conditions of the time of their introduction, but have lost consonance with society now. Laws related to sedition (section 124A of IPC) and defamation (sections 499 and 500) are some of the examples.
- Similarly, the Official Secrets Act can legally withhold any information from public disclosure under the often dubious garb of national security.
- Factories Act and Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are seen as major impediments to labour reforms in India, with stringent penal provisions for defaulters, and constraints on hiring and firing.
- Multiple regulatory bodies like SEBI, RBI deriving powers from different laws on the same matter has increased inter departmental conflicts on question of their jurisdiction benefiting offenders.
- Environment laws related to water, forest governance, environmental protection, air, biodiversity laws are indicative of poor environmental governance.
- The government has taken several measures to repeal or amend such obsolete laws
- P.C. Jain Commission (1998) recommended the withdrawal of a large body of legislation, and also noted that as many as 253 Acts which were identified earlier for withdrawal still remained in the practice.
- The 20th Law Commission of India in its 248th Report recommended for a repeal of 72 obsolete laws.
- The Government has scrapped off around 1200 obsolete and archaic laws and has identified around 1800 more for the repeal.
- Not only removal of obsolete laws is required, but consolidation of multiple laws is needed. Codification of multiple labour laws into four codes: wages, social security, industrial safety & welfare, and industrial relations is a step in the right direction.
- Similarly, implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has reduced the number of indirect taxes in an attempt to unify the Indian market.

**Conclusion**

- Simplification and removal of obsolete laws is not only beneficial for ease of doing business, improving transparency and efficiency but also for faster resolution of pending cases.
- Although the archaic legislations need rationalisation, the availability of large number of laws atleast provide wider area for resolution of various conflicts. For example, even though marital rape is not defined under the Indian Penal Code, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 addresses the concerns of the victims of marital rape.
- Nevertheless the laws must be in conformity with the needs of the present. With the change in pace of time, law should also change. Famous Jurist Georg Friedrich Puchta had once said “Law grows with the growth and strengthens with the strength of people.”

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS

1. With reference to the 'World Tourism Day', consider the following statements:
  1. The theme for World Tourism Day-2019 was 'Tourism and Jobs: A better future for all'.
  2. It is organized annually by the World Travel & Tourism Council.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) **1 only**
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. What is '2I/Borisov', recently seen in news?
  - (a) **Second interstellar object that has been officially detected in our solar system.**
  - (b) First-ever simulated space warfare exercise.
  - (c) New all-sky-survey satellite launched by Israel.
  - (d) A first-line HIV drug recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO).
3. With reference to Right Livelihood Award, consider the following statements:
  1. Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg was among four people named as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award 2019.
  2. It honours courageous people and organisations offering solutions to the root causes of global problems, that the prize founder, felt were being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) **Both 1 and 2**
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. With reference to 'voluntary code of ethics by Social media platforms' recently released in India, consider the following statements:
  1. No political campaign will be allowed to be run on social media platforms in the last 48 hours before polling ends.
  2. This period is referred to as "silence period" to allow voters take a considered decision without the heat and dust of campaign on whom to vote.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) **Both 1 and 2**
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), consider the following statements:
  1. It is an economic and political community which was established in 2010.
  2. Recently Prime Minister of India announced the setting up of the Regional Center for Excellence in Information Technology in Georgetown, Guyana.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) **2 only**
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. With reference to the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System, consider the following statements:
  1. The system has been developed by the DRDO.
  2. It has been developed under India's flagship program named

“New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only  
(b) **2 only**  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. With reference to Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT), consider the following statements:
1. The task force on direct tax code (DTC) has recently recommended abolishing dividend distribution tax (DDT) with a view to promote investment.
  2. Dividends paid by a domestic company are subject to dividend distribution tax (DDT) at 15 per cent of the aggregate dividend declared, distributed or paid.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) **Both 1 and 2**  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. According to India TB Report 2019, which of the following was the only state to witness a decline in the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis (TB) in 2018?
- (a) Bihar  
(b) Gujarat

(c) Madhya Pradesh

(d) **Odisha**

9. With reference to the Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST), consider the following statements:

1. It will be established at the University of Delhi.
2. The main objective is to facilitate multidisciplinary directed basic and applied research and technology development in the field of Computational System Security and Sensors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) **2 only**

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. With reference to the Dermatoglyphics Multiple Intelligence Test (DMIT), consider the following statements:

1. Dermatoglyphics is an analysis of fingerprint patterns.
2. It is a popular test used on school children as a “scientific” study of fingerprints patterns and human brain lobes to determine the “intrinsic potential in a child”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) **Both 1 and 2**

(d) Neither 1 nor 2