INDIA'S ROADMAP TO A HEALTHY NATION BY 2047

Key Pillars for a Healthy India:

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through primary healthcare:**
    - **Financial and service goals:** UHC aims to ensure financial protection and extensive service coverage.
    - **Resource allocation:** Higher public financing is essential, with a focus on central and state budgets.
    - **Health workforce:** Immediate efforts must address the shortage of highly skilled doctors by training technology-enabled frontline workers and allied health professionals.

- **Ayushman Bharat as a template for transformation:** Key components -
    - Upgraded primary care architecture.
    - Financial protection for vulnerable groups.
    - Enhanced health infrastructure.
    - Integration through digital health technology.

- **Digital Health Mission:** Vital for epidemiological intelligence, programme monitoring, and system integration.

Data-Driven Decision-Making for a Healthy India:

- **Disaggregated and integrated data systems:**
    - **Local-level insights:** Data must be available at district and block levels for informed, resource-efficient, and equity-driven actions.
    - **Epidemiological transition:**
        - Rising burden of **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) and mental health disorders requires accurate tracking of trends and risk factors.

- While the integrated disease surveillance programme (**IDSP**) provides data on some infectious diseases through sentinel sites, **the rapid rise in zoonotic diseases calls for extensive and real-time surveillance data**.

- **Advanced surveillance systems:**
  - **Infectious diseases:** Real-time surveillance for infectious diseases, including zoonotic threats. **Big data analytics** will need to be at the heart of infectious disease surveillance.
  - **Techniques:** Wastewater surveillance and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) monitoring must become routine.
  - **One Health Approach:** Integration of data across human, animal, and environmental health systems to tackle climate-related health threats.

Conclusion:

- India's journey toward a healthy and productive population by 2047 requires i**mmediate and sustained efforts.**

- By 2025, a digitally integrated, data-driven, and universally accessible healthcare system must take root, propelling the nation toward its health goals.

WORLD EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL OUTLOOK

- It provides a detailed analysis of the state of global labour markets, highlighting key trends and challenges.
- It explores issues such as the slowdown in labour market recovery, the persistence of youth unemployment, and the widening global jobs gap.

Key highlights of the Report:

- In 2024, global employment grew in line with the labour force, keeping the unemployment rate steady at 5%.

- Geopolitical tensions, the rising costs of climate change and unresolved debt issues are the challenges before the recovery and the reasons for putting labour markets under pressure.

- The labour force participation rates have dropped in low-income countries while increasing in high-income nations, mainly among older workers and women, the report pointed out.

- The report urged member countries:

- To boost productivity, invest in skills training, education and infrastructure to support economic growth and job creation.

- Expand social protection: provide better access to social security and safe working conditions to reduce inequality.

Use private funds effectively: low-income countries can harness remittances and diaspora funds to support local development

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

- It was established under Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

- It is aimed at specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.

- Initially established in 2006 with 8 Battalions, the NDRF has now expanded to 16 Battalions, drawn from the CAPF, viz Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal and Assam Rifles.

- It is a multi-skilled and highly specialist force capable of dealing with all types of natural and man-made disasters like Floods, Cyclone, Earthquakes, Landslides, Building-collapse, Trains and road accidents etc.

- The strategic deployment of NDRF resources, characterized by "proactive availability" and "pre-positioning" during imminent disaster situations, has proven instrumental in mitigating damages caused by natural calamities across the country.

- It has been very active in responding to natural disaster under multi-lateral and bi-lateral agreement at International level.

- The NDRF teams responded during triple disaster (Earthquake, Tsunami and Radiation Leakage) of Fukushima, Japan in 2011 and during Earthquake in Nepal in 2015.

- It functions under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and is headed by a Director General.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

- It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.

- It has introduced the concept of stakeholder capitalism.

- It engages organizations and leaders through dialogue, debate and commitments for action in the service of building more future-ready, resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies.

Evolution:

- It was originally known as the European Management Forum.

- Events such as collapse of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate mechanism and the Arab-Israeli War saw the Annual Meeting expand its focus from management to economic and social issues.

- Later, the organisation introduced a system of membership for 1,000 leading companies of the world.

- In 1987, the European Management Forum formally became the World Economic Forum and sought to broaden its vision to include providing a platform for dialogue.

- In 2015 it was formally recognised as an international organization by the Swiss Federal Council.

  Funding: The WEF is largely funded by its partnering corporations. These are generally global enterprises with annual turnover greater than $5 billion.
- Reports published by the World Economic Forum: Global Competitiveness Report, Global Information Technology Report, Global Gender Gap Report, Global Risks Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report, Global Enabling Trade Report.
- It has headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and offices in New York and San Francisco in the United States, in Beijing, China and in Tokyo, Japan.

Davos meeting: Davos brings together some 3,000 participants (including paying members and selected invitees), among whom are investors, business leaders, political leaders, economists, celebrities and journalists, for up to five days to discuss global issues across 500 sessions.

HOW IS TRAI AND THE GOVT. COMBATING SPAM?

What is Blockchain Technology (BCT)?

- Blockchain is a type of decentralised database in which transactions are recorded with an immutable cryptographic signature called a **hash**.
- This decentralised database is managed by multiple participants and it is known as **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**.
- The goal of blockchain is to allow digital information to be recorded and distributed, but not edited.
- In this way, **a blockchain is the foundation for immutable ledgers, or records of transactions that cannot be altered, deleted, or destroyed**.
- Blockchains are best known for their crucial role in cryptocurrency systems, such as Bitcoin, for maintaining a secure and decentralized record of transactions.

Difference Between Typical Database and BCT:

- The key difference between a typical database and a blockchain is how the data is structured.

- A database usually structures its data into tables, whereas a blockchain, like its name implies, structures its data into chunks (blocks) that are strung together.

- This data structure inherently makes an irreversible time line of data when implemented in a decentralized nature.

Applications of BCT:

- Money transfer, Lending, Insurance, Secure personal information, Voting, Government scheme benefits, Securely share medical information, Artist royalties, etc.

Effectiveness of Measures:

- **Successes**:
  - Reduction in spam communications from legitimate businesses complying with regulations.
  - Enhanced traceability of commercial messages through blockchain and sender ID systems.

- **Challenges**:
  - The dynamic nature of spam, with scammers constantly evolving tactics.
  - Rise in **fraudulent calls** and financial scams, especially from disposable numbers.
  - Difficulty in enforcing regulations on international spam traffic.

Way Forward:

- **Expanded AI Integration**:
  - Scale up AI-based spam detection across all telecom providers for real-time monitoring and identification.

- **Stronger Penalties**:
  - Impose stricter penalties on violators to deter spam operations.

A SURGE IN RADICAL GOVERNMENTS, THE HOPE OF DEMOCRACY

- The **trajectory of global reactions to Islamic radicalism highlights a stark pattern**: legitimacy and engagement appear conditional on power consolidation by these groups.
- The **cases of Afghanistan in 2021, Syria in 2024, and the recent developments in Bangladesh exemplify this trend.**
- Amid these developments, **it is important to examine these scenarios, emphasising the broader implications for regional stability and international relations.**

A Case Study in Legitimising Radical Regimes: The Taliban and Afghanistan

- **The U.S. and Global Powers' Response**
  - The **withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan culminated in a chaotic handover**, highlighted by the deadly suicide bombing at Kabul airport, killing 13 U.S. troops and many Afghan civilians.
  - The **logistical mishap of leaving $7.1 billion worth of U.S. military equipment behind further compounded the situation**, raising concerns about these resources being used to bolster Taliban control.

- **The Irony of International Cooperation**
  - The **cooperation extended to the Taliban by the Troika Plus (U.S., China, Russia, and Pakistan) starkly contrasted with the preceding efforts to marginalise India's role in Afghanistan.**
  - In the weeks leading to the Taliban's takeover, **this coalition sought to exclude India from discussions on Afghanistan's future.**
  - However, **events took an ironic turn when India assumed the presidency of the UNSC** in August 2021, just as the Taliban seized power.
  - This **position allowed India to influence UNSC Resolution 2593**, which emphasised that Afghan soil should not be used for terrorist activities.

The Case of Syria and Bangladesh

- **Syria: A Recurrent Pattern**
  - The **toppling of Bashar al-Assad in 2024** by Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, leader of Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS), **mirrors the Taliban's ascent.**
- **The Bangladesh Conundrum**
  - The **collapse of Sheikh Hasina's government and the subsequent rise of an interim military-led administration under Muhammad Yunus have reintroduced Islamic radical group**s into the political mainstream.
  - **India's strategic interests in Bangladesh are at stake**. Over the past 16 years, bilateral relations have flourished, driven by Sheikh Hasina's secular governance.

Implications for Global Governance

- **Erosion of International Norms**
  - The **normalisation of regimes like the Taliban and Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) undermines the principles of international law** and governance.
- **Empowerment of Extremist Groups**
  - The **legitimisation of radical groups following their rise to power sends a clear message to other extremist organisations**: achieving control through violence or authoritarianism can yield international acceptance.
- **Human Rights as a Bargaining Chip**
  - The **sidelining of human rights in favour of diplomatic engagement has left vulnerable populations**, women, minorities, and dissenters, at the mercy of oppressive regimes.

Conclusion

- **The cases of Afghanistan, Syria, and Bangladesh illustrate a troubling global trend: the selective legitimisation of Islamic radical groups** based on their grip on power.
- **This approach not only undermines efforts to combat extremism but also destabilises regions** already fraught with tensions.

PALAMU TIGER RESERVE

- It is located on the western side of the Latehar district on the Chhotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand.
- The reserve forms part of the Betla National Park.
- It is one of the first nine tiger reserves created in the country at the inception of 'Project Tiger'.
- It is the first reserve in the world in which a tiger census was carried out as a pugmark count as early as 1932 under the supervision of J.W. Nicholson.
- It has a total area of 1,014 sq. km. with a core area of 414 sq. km. and a buffer area of 600 sq. km.
- The terrain is undulating, with valleys, hills, and plains.
- Three rivers, namely North Koyal, Auranga, and Burha, flow through the valleys of the Palamau Tiger Reserve.
- The area is drought-prone with Burha being the only perennial river.
- The geological formation consists of gneiss and includes granite and limestone.
- The reserve is very rich in minerals like Bauxite and Coal.

Vegetation:
- It is primarily dominated by the Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous, Sal Forest and its associates.
- Smaller patches of Northern tropical Moist Deciduous forests exist too in the Reserve.

Flora: Shorea robusta, Acacia catechu, Madhuca indica, Terminalia tomentosa, Butea monosperma, Pterocarpus marsupium, Anogeisus latifolia, Indigofera pulchela, etc.

Fauna: The keystone species are Tigers, Elephants, Leopards, Grey Wolf, Gaur, Sloth Bear, Four-horned Antelope, Indian Ratel, Indian Otter, and Indian Pangolin.