RECRAFTING INDIA'S NUTRITION INITIATIVE

Context

- The article while highlighting the recently released fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-V) 2019-21 brings out the unfinished agenda and the slow rate of decline in undernutrition in India.

Malnutrition

- Malnutrition refers to **deficiencies, excesses or imbalances** in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients.

- The term malnutrition covers 2 broad groups of conditions - **under nutrition and overweight.**

- Undernutrition includes **stunting** (low height for age), **wasting** (low weight for height), **underweight** (low weight for age) and **micronutrient deficiencies or insufficiencies** (a lack of important vitamins and minerals).

- Overweight, obesity and diet-related non communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer.

Malnutrition in India

- Malnutrition in India has multiple dimensions like calorific deficiency, protein hunger and micronutrient deficiency.

- According to the NHFS-V data, child malnutrition (35.5% stunted, 67.1% anaemic) attributing to 68.2% of under-five child mortality is a major health issue being faced by India.

- The **Global Hunger Index** (GHI) 2022 also ranked India 107 out of 123 countries, dropping from the rank of 101 in 2021.

- GHI also reported that prevalence of **undernourishment** has also risen in India from 14.6% in 2018-2020 to 16.3% in 2019-2021.

Major causes of malnutrition in India

- Malnutrition is an ecological problem that does not occur alone. It accompanies **poverty, disturbed family structure, ignorance and despair.**

Government schemes to tackle malnutrition

- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme**: It was launched in 1975, aiming to provide food, preschool education, primary healthcare, immunization, health checkups and referral services to children under 6 years old and their mothers.

- **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**: It aims to improve nutrition levels among school children in addition to increasing enrolment, retention and attendance.

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**: It assured food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable by making access to food a legal entitlement.

- **Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**: It was launched in 2018 with the aim of accelerating anemia decline by one to three percentage points annually.

- **Poshan Abhiyaan/National Nutrition Mission**: It aims to reduce stunting, under nutrition and Anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

  o It also targets to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

  o It also put emphasis on **high impact essential nutrition-sensitive interventions**, improving coverage of maternal-child health services, access to water, sanitation, diversified diet and hygiene that indirectly impacts mother, infant and young child.

- **Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh**: It was launched to address the most undernourished hubs and develop mechanisms to check the nutritional security of villages.

JEEVAN PRAMAAN

Recently, the Jeevan Pramaan Patra have been disbursed by the Government using the network of Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks in the country.

 About:

- Jeevan Pramaan is **a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners**. Pensioners of **Central Government, State Government or any other**

Government organization can take benefit of this facility.

- The scheme was launched on November 10, 2014.
- In order to get this life certificate the individual drawing the pension is required to **either personally present oneself before the Pension Disbursing Agency** or have the Life Certificate issued by authority where they have served earlier and have it delivered to the disbursing agency.
- Using Jeevan Pramaan, a pensioner can **now digitally provide proof of his/her existence to authorities** for continuity of pension every year instead of requiring to present himself/herself physically or through a Life Certificate issued by specified authorities.
- The Digital Life Certificate facility is **not available to Remarried or Re-employed Pensioners**. They are required to submit the Life Certificate the conventional way to their Pension Disbursing Authority.

THE e SANJEEVANI INITIATIVE

Government-free telemedicine service, eSanjeevani has recently crossed another milestone by clocking eight crore teleconsultations.

About:

- It is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution, launched by the then Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India, in 2009.
- **Created by:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Mohali, is the creator of eSanjeevani.
- **Two modules of eSanjeevani:**
  - **eSanjeevani AB-HWC:** The doctor-to-doctor telemedicine platform, being implemented at all the Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) in the country under Ayushman Bharat (AB) Scheme of Government of India.
  - It was rolled out in 2019.

o **eSanjeevani OPD:** It is the Patient-to-Doctor remote consultation services rolled out in 2020 amid the first lockdown imposed to fight Covid-19 pandemic, while the Outpatient Departments (OPDs) in the country were closed.

▪ The initiative is a contactless and risk-free modality that enables delivery of health services to the citizens in the confines of their homes free of cost.

▪ The C-DAC is working towards adding another innovative feature in eSanjeevani OPD that will enable roll out of National OPDs on eSanjeevani OPD, to offer remote health services to patients in any part of the country.

WORLD SOIL DAY 2022

December 5 is observed as the World Soil Day (WSD).

About:

- It aims to highlight the value of healthy soil and to promote the sustainable management of soil resources.

- In 2014, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) declared December 5 as 'World Soil Day'.

- The day was chosen as it coincides with the birthday of Thailand's king, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who led the programme and made it happen.

- Theme: "Soils: Where food begins".

WHAT IS THE KARNATAKA-MAHARASHTRA BORDER DISPUTE?

In News:

- The Maharashtra-Karnataka border row escalated into violence after vehicles from both states were attacked and defaced in Belagavi and Pune, respectively.

Historical Background:

- The Maharashtra and Karnataka boundary dispute has its origins in the reorganisation of states along linguistic lines via the **State Reorganisation Act, 1956**.
  - This Act, which took effect from 1 November, 1956, divided states on linguistic lines.
- Since its creation on May 1, 1960, Maharashtra has claimed that 865 villages, including **Belagavi** (then Belgaum), **Carvar** and **Nipani**, should be merged into Maharashtra.
- Karnataka, however, has refused to part with its territory.

Mahajan Commission:
- On October 25, 1966, the Centre constituted the Mahajan Commission headed by the then Supreme Court **Chief Justice Meher Chand Mahajan**, at the insistence of Maharashtra.
- **Commission's recommendations –**
  - While rejecting Maharashtra's claim over Belagavi (then Belgaum), the commission recommended 247 villages/places, including Jatt, Akkalkote and Solapur, to be made part of Karnataka.
  - It also declared 264 villages /places, including Nippani, Khanapur and Nandagad, to be made part of Maharashtra.
- However, the **commission's report was outrightly rejected by Maharashtra**. Meanwhile, **Karnataka saw the commission ruling in its favour**.

Present status of the dispute:
- Both Karnataka and Maharashtra reckon that the complex issue will not be resolved politically, and requires a legal solution.
- In 2004, the Maharashtra government filed a petition in the Supreme Court, staking claim over Marathi-speaking villages in Karnataka, which contested the claim.
- Meanwhile, Karnataka changed the name of Belgaum to Belagavi and made it the second capital of the state.
- The issue has been pending before the Supreme Court since 2004.

Why has the dispute resurfaced recently?

- Two weeks ago, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde convened a meeting in Mumbai to review the status of the border dispute.

- He deputed two senior ministers to coordinate and pursue the border row, both on the legal front and politically.

- **Karnataka's response –**

  o A day later, in Bengaluru, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced grants for all Kannada schools in Maharashtra.

  o He also said that the Karnataka government was thinking of staking claim over 40 villages in Jatt taluka in Maharashtra's Sangli district.

- This prompted Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to assert that the government would "not let a single village go to Karnataka".

- Maharashtra had decided to send ministers to visit Belagavi on December 6 to hold discussions with various organisations and people.

- The proposed visit, however, was postponed after the Karnataka government urged them not to send the delegation.

ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY 2022

Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on December 7 every year.

About:

- It aims to honour the martyrs, veterans, and serving personnel of the Indian military.

- The day has been marked every year since 1949 to celebrate the valiant efforts undertaken by military personnel to safeguard the country's borders and raise funds to ensure their and their family's well-being.

- It aims to raise donations for the welfare of the Armed Forces Staff.

- It is observed to enable more public participation in Armed Forces.

History:

- The Defense Minister's Committee on August 28, 1949, created the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.
- In 1993, the Defense Ministry of India amalgamated all relevant welfare funds, including funds for war victims, the Kendriya Sainik Board Fund, the ex-welfare servicemen's fund, and other units, to establish the Armed Forces Flag Day fund.

ChatGPT

Recently an artificial intelligence tool called ChatGPT was released on the internet.

About:

- The tool has been developed by **OpenAI, a research institute founded in 2015.**
- This tool 'knew' every topic under the sun; it could answer questions and carry on a conversation.
- This tool interacts with humans in natural language and is impressive because aside from answering general queries, it has many other functions.
- **ChatGPT is much more than a chat bot.**
  - For example, you can ask it to write a program or even a simple software application.
- It can also do creative tasks such as writing a story. It can explain scientific concepts and answer any question that needs factual answers.

Language Model:

- ChatGPT is what is called a **Language Model, rather than a chat bot.**
- A language model is a software that prints out a sequence of words as output that are related to some words given as input with appropriate semantic relation; in practical terms, it means that it can perform tasks like answering questions and carrying on a conversation with humans.
- It is often used in **natural language processing (NLP) applications**, such as speech recognition, automatic translation, and text generation.

- **There are a few other language models like:**
  - **BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) from Google.**

Standard Techniques:

- The accuracy of ChatGPT or any language model can be measured using standard techniques.
- One such technique is **"Recall-Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation" or the ROUGE metric** which compares ChatGPT's output of content against a standard expected content and measures the overlap as success percentage.
- For language models like GPT that are also used in translation, another metric called the **BLEU metric (Bilingual Evaluation Under Study) is employed**; this metric compares overlap in translated content with a standard translation.

Neural Network:

- It is also a neural network.
- A neural network can be thought of as a large network of computers that can fine tune its output of words based on the feedback given to it during stages of training: this training process and the technology together are called **Reinforcement Learning**.
- The input data is typically huge corpus of text.

OpenAI:

- OpenAI is a research institute and company that focuses on developing artificial intelligence technology in a responsible and safe way.
- It was founded in 2015 by a group of entrepreneurs and researchers, including Elon Musk, Sam Altman, and Greg Brockman.

CALLING NAME PRESENTATION (CNAP)

Recently, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a consultation paper seeking comments about the potential introduction of a Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) feature.

About:

- The feature would provide an individual with information about the calling party **(similar to 'Truecaller' and 'Bharat Caller ID & Anti-Spam').**

- The idea is to ensure that telephone subscribers are able to make an informed choice about incoming calls and curb harassment by unknown or spam callers.

What is its purpose?

- Existing technologies present the number of the calling entity on the potential receiver's handset.

- Since subscribers are not given the name and identity of the caller, they sometimes choose not to answer them believing it could be unsolicited commercial communication from unregistered telemarketers. This could lead to even genuine calls being unanswered.

- Additionally, there have been rising concerns about robocalls (calls made automatically using IT-enabled systems with a pre-recorded voice), spam calls and fraudulent calls.

- **Truecaller's '2021 Global Spam and Scam Report'** revealed that the average number of spam calls per user each month in India, stood at 16.8 while total spam volumes received by its users were in excess of 3.8 billion calls in October alone.