

### ISRO EYEING 200<sup>th</sup> SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF RH-200 SOUNDING ROCKET IN A ROW

#### **In News:**

- Soon, the ISRO hopes to accomplish a remarkable feat - the 200th consecutive **successful** launch of the **Rohini RH-200** sounding rocket.
- According to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC, Thumba, near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala), the 3.5-meter-tall RH-200, a trusted member of the Rohini sounding rocket family used by the ISRO for atmospheric studies, has completed 198 consecutive successful flights.

#### **Sounding Rockets:**

- Sounding rockets are one or two stage solid propellant rockets **used for probing the upper atmospheric regions and for space research.**
  - Sounding in the rocket context is equivalent to "**taking a measurement**".
- They also serve as easily affordable platforms **to test or prove prototypes of new components or subsystems** intended for use in launch vehicles and satellites.
- With the establishment of the **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)** in 1963 at Thumba (a location close to the magnetic equator), there was a quantum jump in the scope for aeronomy and atmospheric sciences in India.
- The launch of the first sounding rocket (**American Nike-Apache**) from Thumba in 1963, marked the beginning of the Indian Space Programme.
- After that, two-stage rockets imported from **Russia** (M-100) and **France** (Centaure) were flown.

#### **Indian Sounding Rocket Programme:**

- ISRO started launching **indigenously made sounding rockets from 1965** and experience gained was of immense value in the mastering of **solid propellant technology.**
- **In 1975**, all sounding rocket activities were consolidated under the **Rohini Sounding Rocket (RSR) Programme.**

- **Rohini** is a series of sounding rockets developed by the ISRO for meteorological and atmospheric study.
- These sounding rockets are capable of carrying payloads of 2 to 200 kgs between altitudes of 100 to 500 kms.
- RH-75 (with a diameter of 75mm) was the **first truly Indian sounding rocket**, which was followed by RH-100 and RH-125 rockets.
- The ISRO **currently uses** RH-200, RH-300 Mk-II and RH-560 Mk-II rockets, which are launched from the TERLS and the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The sounding rocket program served as the foundation for **ISRO's launch vehicle technology**.

### News Summary:

- **RH-200** (the '200' in the name refers to the rocket's diameter in mm) is a two-stage rocket capable of reaching a height of 70 kms while carrying scientific payloads.
- **The 199th launch** (from Thumba) will happen on October 7 during the World Space Week celebrations.
- **The 200th** will take place either towards the end of October or the beginning of November.

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### JHULAN GOSWAMI

**India's fast bowling great Jhulan Goswami retired after the third One Day International (ODI) game against England at Lord's.**



#### About:

- Jhulan Goswami is an Indian former international cricketer.
- She was born in 1982 in West Bengal.
- She is a right-arm medium fast bowler and right-handed batter.

She is regarded as one of the greatest and fastest women bowlers of all time.

- She played 204 ODI matches, taking 255 wickets, and holds the record for taking the most number of wickets in Women's One Day International cricket till date.
- She is a recipient of Arjuna Award (2010) and Padma Shri (2012).

## RULES OF CRICKET

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has come up with a host of changes in the rules on playing conditions of cricket.



### About:

- The changes will come into effect on October 1.
- The ICC Chief Executives' Committee has ratified the recommendations from the Men's Cricket Committee, led by former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly.
- The practice of 'mankading'— a batter being run out by the bowler while backing up too far from the non-striking end — has been destigmatised. It has been moved from the section on Unfair Play to the one on Run Out.
- Hybrid pitches which are made of natural grass (predominantly) and artificial fibre could now be used for ODIs and T20Is, for both men and women if both the rival teams agree.
- Other changes include the banning of the use of saliva to polish the ball. The ban had already been in place, as a temporary measure, following the COVID-19 outbreak.

## WORLD'S LARGEST ENCYCLOPAEDIC SANSKRIT DICTIONARY

After several years, the doors of the scriptorium and the editorial room of the prestigious Encyclopaedic Sanskrit Dictionary at Pune's Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute in Pune were opened for students and the general public.



### About:

- The year of completion of this gigantic dictionary project, which commenced in 1948, remains unknown. But the final word count is estimated to touch 20 lakh and would be the world's largest dictionary of Sanskrit.

- Linguist and Sanskrit Professor SM Katre, founder of India's oldest Department of Modern Linguistics in Deccan College, conceived this unique project in 1948 and served as the dictionary's first General Editor. It was later developed by Prof. AM Ghatage.
- The Project, **KoshaSHRI**, under which the website for online access of the Dictionary will be made, also consists of a customised software which is presently under testing and development.

## MANKADING

Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma ran out England's Charlie Dean standing outside the crease at the non-striker's end at Lord's on September 24, triggered an outrage that has traditionally accompanied incidents of "Mankading" in the sport.



### About:

- The term comes from the name of the legendary former Indian cricketer Vinoo Mankad. In 1947, when India were playing a series in Australia, Mankad dismissed opposition batsman Bill Brown twice by taking off the bails at the non-striker's end before releasing the ball.
- In March this year, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodian of the Laws of Cricket, accepted Mankading as a normal mode of running out the non-striker, removing it from Law 41 (Unfair play) and clubbing it with Law 38 (Run out).

## BATHUKAMMA

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted everyone, particularly the Nari Shakti of Telangana on the auspicious occasion of Bathukamma.



### About:

- This festival is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri in Telangana.
- 'Bathuku' means the life and Amma means the Mother. On a

whole, it is a festival to worship the 'Life Giver', the universal energy - Goddess Shakti.

## Celebrations:

- Bathukamma is made up of seven concentric layers of flowers that are arranged in a pyramid shape. The arrangement signifies the mother goddess.
- As it is a festival of women, they dance around it singing Bathukamma Paatalu (i.e. songs praising Bathukamma).
- The Goddess is worshipped for the nine days and on the tenth day of the celebration, the goddess is immersed in the local waters after performing the rituals.

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## SWACHH TOYCATHON

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry will launch Swachh Toycathon, a unique competition to make toys from waste.



## About:

- The competition will be open to individuals and groups to bring forth innovation in toy designs using dry waste.
- It will focus on efficient designs that can be replicated at a larger scale, and toys that comply with minimum safety standards.
- The competition will be hosted on MyGov's innovate India portal. Center for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar is the knowledge partner for the initiative.

## National Action Plan for Toys 2020?

- It was introduced to promote the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys with the objective of establishing India as a global Toy hub.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with 14 Ministries of Central Government is currently implementing various aspects of the National Action Plan for Toys.



## AT 844, SEX RATIO AT BIRTH WORST IN UTTARAKHAND; BEST IN KERALA WITH 974

### In News:

- According to the Registrar General of India's (RGI) Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020, Uttarakhand has the worst (844) sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males) at birth in the country and Kerala has the best (974).
- According to the recently released report, India has achieved a significant milestone in further lowering child mortality rates.

### About the Sample Registration System (SRS):

- SRS in India is **one of the largest demographic surveys** in the world covering about 8.2 million sample population.
- It is **carried out by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India**.
  - Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India is a **permanent department** under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
  - The office was founded in **1961** for arranging, conducting and analysing the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India.
  - The position of Registrar is usually held by a civil servant holding the rank of Joint Secretary.
- It is conducted with an **objective of providing reliable annual estimates** of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and various other fertility and mortality indicators through an **SRS Statistical Report**.
- SRS (a joint effort of the Central and State Governments) has been **servicing as the main source of information on fertility and mortality** both at the State and National levels, from 1971 onwards.
- **The SRS Statistical Report includes** data on population composition by broad age groups, sex and marital status.
- The indicators in this report are brought out **for India and bigger States or UTs** (with population 10 million and above) **separately for rural and urban areas**.

## The Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020:

### • About:

- The present Report contains data on **fertility and mortality indicators** for the year 2020 for India and bigger States or UTs.
- The estimates are segregated by residence and also by gender, wherever required.

### • Key highlights of the report:

#### ○ Sex ratio at birth:

- The overall sex ratio at birth in the country increased to **907** in 2018-20 (907 in the rural and 910 in the urban areas) from 904 in 2017-19.
- The ratio **may reflect the number of pre-natal sex determinations and female foeticide cases.**
- Meanwhile, **Uttarakhand's** sex ratio fell four as it had stood at 848 in the last RGI report for the 2017-2019 period.
- Kerala (973) and Uttarakhand (853), respectively, had the highest and lowest sex ratios at birth in **rural areas.**
- **In urban areas**, the sex ratio at birth ranged from 975 in Kerala to 821 in Uttarakhand.
- Five generations have passed since the skewed sex ratio at birth in Uttarakhand, **but 70% of women still lack access to family wealth, higher education and health resources.**
- Within their own families, women are still passively conditioned to accept themselves as "second-class citizens."
- The ability to make decisions, speak out without fear and develop as a responsible, productive global citizen has waned.

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## CARRY OUT SOCIAL AUDIT OF MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME BY NOV 30: CENTRE TO STATES, UTS

### In News:

- The Central Government has directed the States and Union Territories to carry out the social audit of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in every district by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## About Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme was started in India on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995 as ‘National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)’.
- It was renamed as ‘National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools’ in October 2007, also known as the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme.
- The current version of the programme, renamed PM Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM Poshan in 2021.
- Under the scheme, hot cooked meal per day is provided to all children (studying in Class I to VIII) enrolled in government schools, local body schools, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC), maktabas and madrasas supported under the **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**.

## Objectives of Mid-Day Meal Scheme:

- To increase the enrolment in the schools of the children who belong to disadvantaged sections of the society.
- To increase the attendance of the children in government and government-aided schools.
- To retain the children studying in class I to VIII.
- To give nutritional support to the children studying in the elementary stage, especially in the drought-affected areas.
- To address hunger and malnutrition and improve socialisation among castes.

## Features:

- Every school should have a hygienic cooking infrastructure for hygienically cooked mid-day meals.
- The mid-day meals are to be served only on the school premises on all working days of the school.
- The headmaster or headmistress is entitled to utilise the school funds on account of mid-day meal fund exhaustion.
- Quality items with **AGMARK** are procured for cooking the mid-day meals in the schools.



- AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Ministry of Agricultural & Farmers Welfare.
- **Food allowance** is provided to the children when the cooked meals cannot be provided because of unforeseen circumstances in the following manner:
  - Quantity of the food grains according to the entitlement of a child, and
  - Cooking cost prevailing in the respective state.

### Calorie intake:

- The calories intake prescribed per child per school day is as follows:

Calorie Intake	Primary School	Upper Primary School
Energy	450 calories	700 calories
Protein	12 grams	20 grams

### Implementation and Funding:

- Each State/UT has to set up State Steering-cum Monitoring Committees (SSMCs) at the State, District and Block level to oversee the implementation of this scheme, including establishing a mechanism to maintain the quality and nutritional standards of the meals.
- This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
  - Hence, the cost is shared between the Centre (60%) and States (40%).
  - Sharing is 90:10 for the Northeastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, while the Centre bears 100% of the costs in UTs without legislature.
- Concerned Ministry: Ministry of Education

### Benefits of Social auditing:

- It creates awareness among beneficiaries about the scheme,
- It empowers public/beneficiaries to hold the government accountable,
- It addresses problems and identify bottlenecks at the grassroots level so that strategic approach may be adopted for effective implementation of the scheme and
- It also helps in popularizing and strengthening the scheme at the grassroots level.