

## 1. India's Under Trial Problem

### Topic: Polity and Governance

**In News:** India Justice report which analysed NCRB data has found out that Undertrials comprise 75% of India's prison population.



#### More on the Topic:

- The number of undertrials in prisons rose sharply in 2020 even as the number of convicts fell, resulting in undertrials accounting for over three-fourths of all those in jail, the highest proportion in at least a decade.
- The year 2020 showed a **significant decline of 2.6 lakh in the number of undertrials released on bail** compared to 2019.
- This could be due to lower access to the judiciary in 2020, as indicated by an overall decrease in the number of visits to courts from jails in many states.
- According to official data, **two of every three persons incarcerated in India have not yet been convicted of any crime**

#### Significance of Under Trial Problems:

- All of the Indian prisons has issues like Overcrowding, delayed medical attention, unhygienic conditions and malnutrition
- It is the responsibility of the State and the judiciary to ensure that they are only deprived of their liberty and are not exposed to any additional torture in the form of medical deprivation, unhygienic conditions, bad or inadequate food, etc.
- Yet, thousands are dying every year and the prison authorities are not made accountable.

#### Views of Law Commission:

- The Commission quoted based on an expert study that a majority of the arrests are for “very minor prosecutions.” **Over 60 per cent of arrests were unnecessary and such arrests accounted for 42.3 per cent of jail expenditure**
- According to the Prison Statistics of India, **the prison occupancy stands at 114 per cent.** The prisons have 53,009 officials to take care of 4,19,623 inmates which amounts to **one official per eight inmates**

#### Way Ahead:

- The Commission recommended to the government **amendments to the bail provisions** in the Criminal Procedure Code with emphasis on the early release on bail of undertrials.
- Undertrials who have completed **one-third of the maximum sentence for offences up to seven years be released on bail.**

- Those who are awaiting trial for offences **punishable with imprisonment of more than seven years, should be bailed out** if they have completed one-half of their sentence
- The Commission said **new legal provisions for remission** should be included to cover those undertrials who have already endured the full length of the maximum sentence

Source: TOI

## 2. Smile Programme

### Topic: Government Schemes

**In News:** Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment launched “SMILE” scheme

#### More on the Topic:

- The scheme keeps in mind the social security that is needed through multiple dimensions of identity, medical care, education, occupational opportunities and shelter. The Ministry has allocated Rs. 365 Crore for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The two sub-schemes of SMILE - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’ and ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’ - provide comprehensive welfare and rehabilitation measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

#### About the Schemes:

- ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’- includes various components.
- It provides **Scholarships for Transgender Students studying in IX and till post-graduation** to enable them to complete their education.
- It has provisions for **Skill Development and Livelihood under PM-DAKSH scheme.**



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 **Umbrella scheme** to provide welfare measures to:

- Transgender community
- People engaged in the act of begging

 **Allocation of ₹365 Crore** from 2021-26

 **Providing legal protection & social security**

- Through **Composite Medical Health** it provides a comprehensive package in convergence with PM-JAY **supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries** through selected hospitals.
- The Housing facility in the form of '**Garima Greh**' ensures food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, recreational activities and medical support etc. to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- The Provision of **Transgender Protection Cell** in each state will monitor cases of offences and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences.
- **The National Portal & Helpline** will provide necessary information and solutions to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging when needed.
- The sub-scheme - '**Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging**' will focus on **Survey and identification, Mobilisation, Rescue/ Shelter Home and Comprehensive resettlement.**

Source: PIB

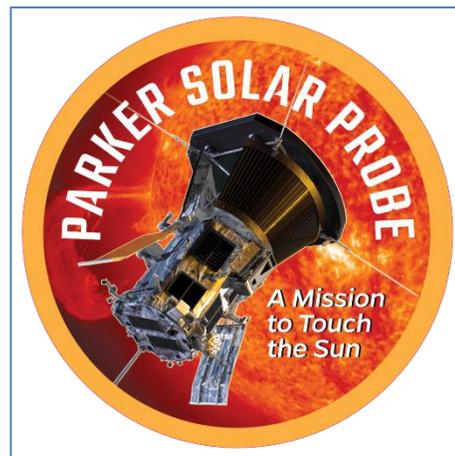
### 3. Parker Solar Probe

**Topic: Science and Technology**

**In News:** Stunning images snapped by NASA's Parker Solar Probe have given the very first visible light glimpse of Venus' red-hot surface, revealing continents, plains and plateaus on the inhospitable volcanic world.

**More on the Topic:**

- NASA's historic Parker Solar Probe mission will **revolutionize our understanding of the sun**, where changing conditions can propagate out into the solar system, affecting Earth and other worlds.
- Parker Solar Probe will travel through the sun's atmosphere, closer to the surface than any spacecraft before it, facing brutal heat and radiation conditions and ultimately providing with the closest-ever observations of a star.
- In order to unlock the mysteries of the sun's atmosphere, **Parker Solar Probe will use Venus' gravity during seven flybys** over nearly seven years to gradually bring its orbit closer to the sun.
- The spacecraft will fly through the sun's atmosphere as close as 3.9 million miles to the Sun's surface, well within the orbit of Mercury and more than seven times closer than any spacecraft has come before.



Source: Hindu

## 4. Intensified Mission Indradhanush

### Topic: Government Schemes

**In News:** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 virtually.

#### More on the Topic:

- Three rounds of IMI 4.0 have been planned to catch up on the gaps that might have emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The activity will be conducted in 416 districts across 33 states/UTs.
- Till date, ten phases of Mission Indradhanush have been completed covering 701 districts across the country.
- As of April 2021, during the various phases of Mission Indradhanush, a total of 3.86 crore children and 96.8 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated. The first two phases of Mission Indradhanush resulted in 6.7% increase in full immunization coverage in a year.
- The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched in 2018 by the Central Government with the objective of covering all children under the age of two and pregnant women for immunization who were not covered under the UIP.
- **The diseases covered under the mission are polio, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, hepatitis B, tetanus, meningitis, rubella, Japanese encephalitis and pneumonia.**
- The objective of Mission Indradhanush was to have a 90% coverage of the UIP in India by 2020 and sustain the same.

Source: The Hindu



## 5. EOS-04 - ISRO's first launch of 2022

### Topic: Science and Technology

**In News:** The Indian Space & Research Organization (ISRO) launched the EOS-04 Satellite on board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C52).

### More on the Topic:

- The 1,700kg EOS-04 is a radar imaging satellite capable of providing high-quality images under all weather conditions.
- It can be used to capture images for agriculture, forestry, flood mapping, soil moisture and hydrology. The satellite has a mission life of 10 years.
- EOS-04, which will be placed in a sun synchronous polar orbit of 529 km is a radar imaging satellite.
- One big advantage that radar imaging has over optical instruments is that it is unaffected by weather, cloud or fog, or the lack of sunlight. It can produce high-quality images in all conditions and at all times, making it suitable for surveillance.
- The spacecraft will also carry the INS-2DT technology demonstrator satellite, which has a thermal imaging camera and can help in the assessment of land and water surface temperatures apart from mapping vegetation.

### About Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the third generation launch vehicle of India. Its first successful launch was in October 1994.
- It is a four-staged launch vehicle with first and third stages using solid rocket motors and second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.
- It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.
- Besides, the vehicle successfully launched two spacecraft, Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 had later travelled to Moon and Mars respectively.



Source: PIB

## 6. Essential Religious Practice Test

**Topic: Polity and Governance**



**In News:** Essential religious practice test is in discussion related to whether Hijab is an essential part of Islamic religion.

### More on the Topic:

- The Supreme Court has devised a test known as ‘essential religious practice test’ to **determine what all practices are essential for religion**. It originated during the ‘**Shirur Mutt case**’ in 1954.

### Components of Essential religious practice test:

- **Identify practice central to religion:** The essential aspects of the religion are determined with reference to the doctrines of that religion itself. The role of the practice in the religion is determined.
- **Constitutional protection:** It will help courts decide which practices to be constitutionally protected and what not. It will ensure that courts decide if the practice needs to be banned or not.

### Freedom of religion in fundamental rights:

- Freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion is granted under Article 25(1) of the constitution.
- However, the state has powers to restrict the right on grounds of public order, decency, morality, health and other state interests.

### Criticism of the test:

- It has been criticized by legal experts as it pushes the court to delve into fields which it do not have expertise in like theological aspects.
- Legal experts have asked the courts to use the test to prohibit religious practices for public order rather than determine its essentiality in religion.

**Source: Hindu**

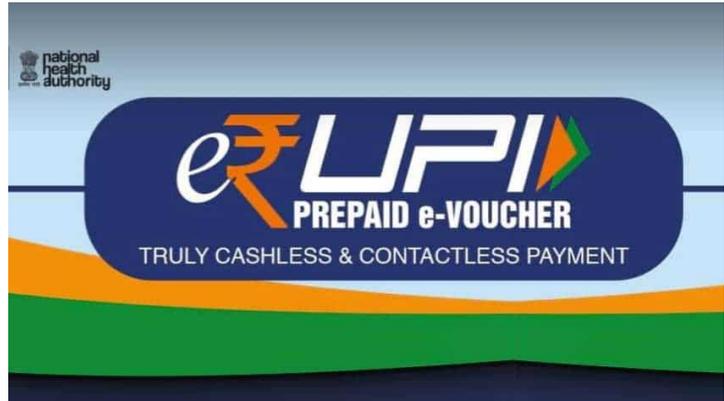
## 7. e- Rupee

### Topic: Indian Economy

**In News:** GOI has increased the cap on e-Rupee vouchers issued by the government to ₹1 lakh per voucher from ₹10,000 and allowed one voucher to be used multiple times until fully redeemed.

#### More on the Topic:

- **Launched by: National Payment Corporation of India.**
- It has been launched in August 2021 as a **cashless payment product**. e-Rupee vouchers allow users to redeem them **without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access at select merchants**.
- It will ensure **better digital delivery of benefits** of the central and state government schemes to the beneficiaries. Hence, it is likely to play a major role in strengthening direct benefit transfer (DBT) to citizens at the last mile, making it more transparent.
- Another advantage is that it works on basic phones and can be used by people who do not own smartphones or are in places that don't have an internet connection, thereby promoting offline payments.



Source: Hindu

#### MCQs:

1. Which of the following statement/s is/are true?

1. DNA is located only in the nucleus of cell.
2. It is single-strand helix having shorter chains of nucleotides.

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2



(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans d

**2. Who is the founder of The Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha?**

(a) Raja Rammohan Roy

(b) Dayananda Saraswati

(c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasaagar

(d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Ans a

**3. Who invented Neutron?**

(a) James Chadwick

(b) J. J Thomson

(c) Ernest Rutherford

(d) Louis Pasteur

Ans: a

**4. Which of the following statement/s are true?**

**1.Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a lentivirus, which is a sub-classification of the retrovirus.**

**2.HIV demolishes a particular type of WBC (White Blood Cells) and the T-helper cells.**

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans c

**5.Sambhar Lake is located at?**

(a) Tamilnadu

(b) Manipur



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(c) Rajasthan

(d) Uttrakhand

Ans: c

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