

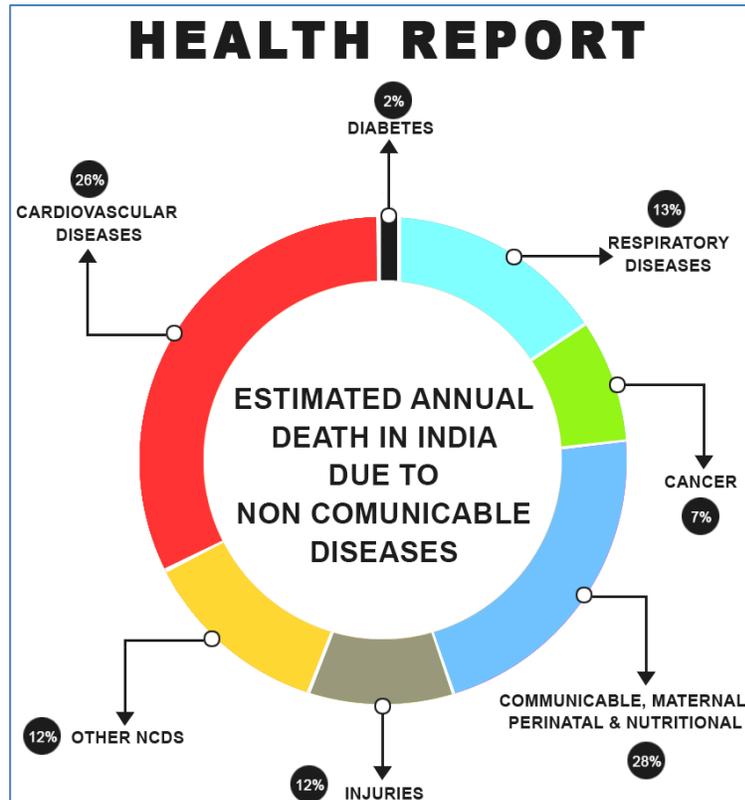
1. India's Health Statistics

Topic: Governance

In News: According to health and family welfare minister, India's doctor-population ratio is 1:834, assuming 80 per cent availability of registered allopathic doctors and 565,000 Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and homeopathic doctors.

More on the Topic:

- Human Resource:** This includes 2,340,501 registered nurses and midwives and 1,000,805 nurse associates. The nurse-population ratio in the country at present is 1.96 nurses per 1,000 population.
- The Department of Health and Family Welfare has been making consistent efforts to increase public health spending.
- The budget allocation for the Department has increased by 50.5 per cent to Rs 71,269 crore in 2021-22, from Rs 47,353 crore in 2017-18.
- Disease burden:
- Healthcare Infrastructure:** At present, India's health care system consists of a mix of public and private sector providers of health services.
- Networks of health care facilities at the primary, secondary and tertiary level, run mainly by State Governments,
- provide free or very low cost medical services. There is also an extensive private health care sector, covering the
- entire spectrum from individual doctors and their clinics, to general hospitals and super speciality hospitals.
- Budget Spending:** The public expenditure on health sector remains a **dismal show of only around 1.4% of the GDP.**
- The investment in health research has been low with a modest rate of 1% of the total public health expenditure.**



- There has been a **stark rise in the out-of-pocket expenditure** (6.9% in rural areas and 5.5% in urban areas – OOP in proportion to monthly expenditure).
- This led to an increasing number of households **facing catastrophic expenditures** due to health costs.
- **Disease Burden:** While communicable diseases contribute 28% of the entire disease burden, non-communicable diseases (60%) show ample rise and injuries at (12%) now constitute the bulk of the country's disease burden.

About National Health Policy 2017:

- The main objectives of the National Health Policy 2017 are as following: To achieve **Universal Health Coverage** by assuring the availability of free, comprehensive primary health care services, ensuring improved access and affordability, of quality secondary and tertiary care, achieving a significant reduction in out of pocket expenditure due to health care costs.
 - **To make a predictable, efficient, patient-centric, affordable and effective health care**
 - Bringing in **healthy and vital private sector contribution.**
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- Establishing a **strong regulatory framework** to include regulation of clinical establishments, professional and technical education, food safety, medical technologies, medical products, clinical trials, research and implementation of other health-related laws.

Source: Indian Express

2. Sovereign Debt

Topic: Economy

In News: Global government debt is set to rise 9.5% this year to a record \$71.6 trillion, driven by the United States, Japan and China.

More on the Topic:

- Governments across the world have ramped up borrowing since the Covid-19 pandemic erupted two years ago, as they tried to shield their economies from the fallout.
- Among large, developed economies, Germany saw the biggest increase in percentage terms, with its debt rising by 15%, almost twice the average global pace.
- **Projections:** 137 countries will borrow an equivalent of \$10.4 trillion in 2022, **an estimated 30 percent lower than 2020.** But the overall figure is one-third higher than average borrowing between 2016 and 2019.
- Despite an economic recovery, **borrowing will stay elevated** because of high debt rollover requirements and war in Ukraine.



- Rollover risk is a risk associated with the **refinancing of debt**. Rollover risk is commonly faced by countries and companies when a loan or other debt obligation (like a bond) is about to mature and needs to be converted, or rolled over, into new debt.

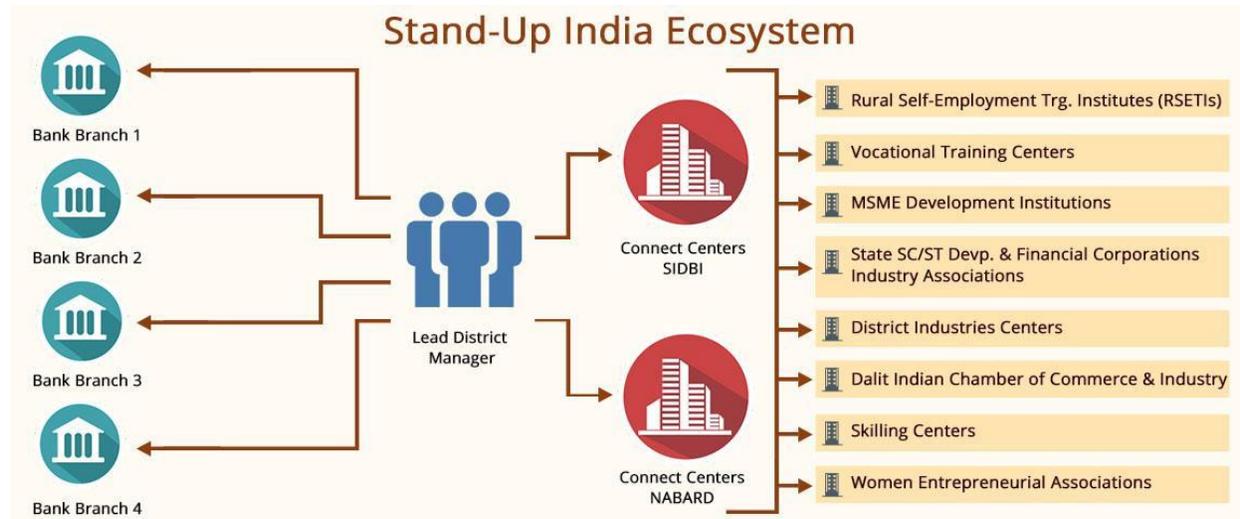
About Sovereign Debt:

- Sovereign debt is issued by a country's government to borrow money. Sovereign debt is also known as government debt, public debt, and national debt.
- Sovereign debt presents some unique risks not present in other types of lending.
- Several private agencies often rate **the creditworthiness of sovereign borrowers and the securities they issue**.
- Countries with **stable economies and political systems** are typically viewed as better credit risks, allowing them to borrow on more favorable terms.
- Sovereign debt **may be owed to foreigners or to the country's own citizens**, and can be denominated in the domestic currency as well as foreign ones.
- Governments take on sovereign debt by issuing bonds, bills or other debt securities, or by taking out loans from other countries and multilateral organizations like the International Monetary Fund.

Source: Indian Express

3. Stand Up India Scheme

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: Sixth anniversary of the Stand-Up India scheme is being celebrated recently.

More on the Topic:

- Stand Up India Scheme was launched in April 2016 **to promote entrepreneurship at the grass-root level of economic empowerment and job creation**.
- The scheme is anchored by **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India**.

- This scheme seeks to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to the **underserved sector of people such as SCs, STs and Women Entrepreneurs.**
- The objective of this scheme is **to facilitate bank loans between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore** to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield enterprise.
- The offices of SIDBI and NABARD shall be designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC).

Significance of the Scheme:

- Scheme has helped **nurture entrepreneurship amongst marginalised sections of the population** such as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and women facing significant hurdles due to lack of advice/mentorship as well as inadequate and delayed credit for setting up greenfield enterprises.

Source: PIB

4. Jagjivan Ram

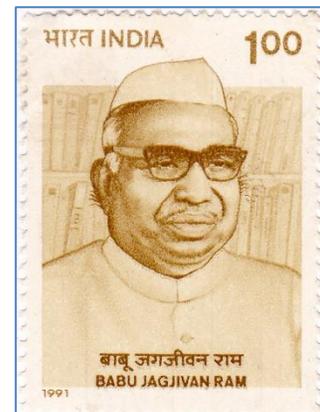
Topic: Personalities in News

In News: 115th birthday of freedom fighter and veteran leader Babu Jagjivan Ram was celebrated recently.

More on the Topic:

- Jagjivan Ram, often known as Babuji, was a Dalit icon who battled for the rights of the disadvantaged.
- He was instrumental in the **foundation of the All India Depressed Classes League** in 1935, an organisation dedicated to attaining equality for untouchables.
- During the 1971 India-Pakistan war, **he served as Minister Of defence.** Between 1977 and 1979, Babu Jagjivan Ram was also the Deputy Prime Minister.
- During his two tenures as Union Agriculture Minister his **contribution to the Green Revolution** in India and modernising Indian agriculture, especially during 1974 drought is remembered.

Source: Indian Express



5. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has filed a notice against ICICI Bank in favour of four minor orphans who were asked to repay the loan amount taken by their parents succumbing to COVID-19.

More on the Topic:

- NCPCR is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- NCPCR was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The Commission's Mandate is **to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective** as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Under the CPCR Act, The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

Source: Hindu



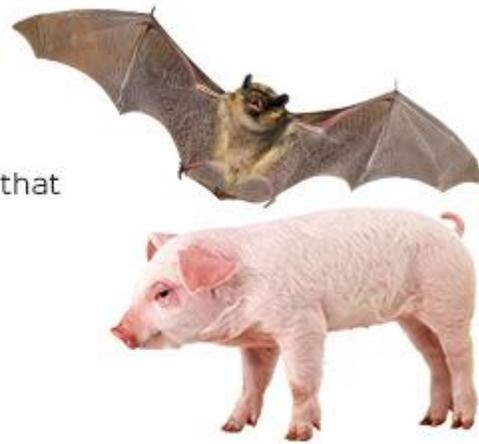
6. Nipah Virus

Topic: Environment and Ecology

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **NIPAH VIRUS**

Nipah Virus (NiV) infection is a zoonotic disease that can affect both animals and humans

- NiV was discovered in Malaysia in 1998
- Fruit bats are the primary hosts of NiV



HOW NiV GETS TRANSMITTED



PRIMARY HOST: FRUIT BATS

Consumption of fruits contaminated by infected bats (and birds)



Transmission can also take place through direct contact with **infected pigs**.



Direct physical contact with **infected people** can also transmit the infection.

In News: Scientists at Pune's Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Virology were able to detect the presence of IgG antibodies against Nipah virus infection (NiV) in 51 bats that were captured from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

More on the Topic:

- Nipah virus (NiV) is one of the priority pathogens with a pandemic potential. Though the spread is far slower than SARS-CoV-2, case fatality is the biggest concern.
- The fruit bats of genus Pteropus are identified to be the main reservoir of the Nipah virus causing annual outbreaks in **Malaysia, Bangladesh and other countries in South-East Asia including India**.
- However, three incidences of NiV infections in humans in Kerala which is far distant from the known "Nipah belt" in consecutive years with no identified intermediate animal host or confirmed mode of entry into human population warrants the heightened need of constant surveillance of NiV in bats, animals and humans.
- Analysis of NiV N gene sequences from the new hotspots in Kerala also suggested the **presence of a new genotype independently evolving in southern India**.
- Hence, knowledge of the distribution and movement patterns of bat species that act as the reservoir hosts of Nipah virus was **necessary to identify the regions at risk, and possible events of spillover**.

About Nipah Virus:

- The Nipah virus is a type of **RNA virus in the genus Henipavirus**. The spread of the virus is rapid and fatal. The mortality rate with infected patients is as high as 70%.



- Nipah Virus is **an airborne transmission infection** and can affect those who come in direct contact with contaminated bodies such as pigs or bats carrying the virus.
- The Nipah Virus **can survive in the bat's body without causing disease**, allowing it to jump to susceptible mammals like humans or pigs when bats come in contact with them.
- **Infected bats shed the virus through excreta and secretions.** Human-to-human transmission has also been documented.
- NiV is also capable of **causing disease in pigs and other domestic animals.**
- Direct contact with pigs is the prime mode of transmission of the virus in humans.
- The human infection presents as **an encephalitic syndrome** marked by fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma, and potentially death.
- Currently, **there are no vaccines for both humans and animals.** Intensive supportive care is given to humans infected by Nipah virus.

Source: Hindu
