

# 1. National Family Health Survey

## Topic: Reports and Indices

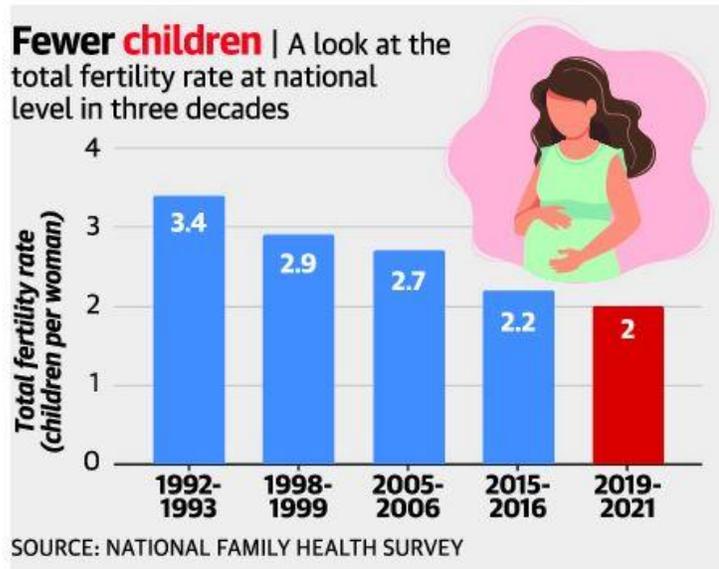
**In News:** The NFHS-5 National Report which lists progress from NFHS-4 (2015-16) to NFHS-5 (2019-21) has been released recently.

### More on the Topic:

- **Total Fertility Rate:** The Total Fertility Rate (TFR), an average number of children per woman, has further declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and 5.
- There are only five States in India which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1 — Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) Manipur (2.17).
- **Institutional Birth and Immunisation:** Institutional births having increased from 79% to 89% in India and in rural areas around 87% births being delivered in institutions and the same is 94% in urban areas.
- More than three-fourths (77%) children age 12-23 months were fully immunised, compared with 62% in NFHS-4.
- **Stunting:** The level of stunting among children under five years has marginally declined from 38% to 36% in the country since the last four years. Stunting is higher among children in rural areas (37%) than urban areas (30%) in 2019-21.
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** NFHS-5 shows an overall improvement in Sustainable Development Goals indicators in all States/Union Territories (UTs).
- **Obesity:** Compared with NFHS-4, the prevalence of overweight or obesity has increased in most States/UTs in NFHS-5. At the national level, it increased from 21% to 24% among women and 19% to 23% among men.
- **Sex ratio:** As per the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (2019-21), the sex ratio of the population (females per 1000 males) for the country was estimated as 1020.

### About National Family Health Survey:

- The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. Three rounds of the survey have been conducted since the first survey in 1992-93.
- **Each successive round of the NFHS has had two specific goals:**



- a) to provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes, and
- b) to provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. India's digital public infrastructure

**Topic: Economy**

**In News:** The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has endorsed India's Data Empowerment Protection Architecture (DEPA).

**More on the Topic:**

- DEPA is a **joint public-private effort** for an improved data governance approach.
- DEPA creates a **digital framework that allows users to share their data on their own terms through a third-party entity**, who are known as Consent Mangers (In India, Account Aggregators).
- **DEPA went live in the financial sector in 2020** under the joint leadership of the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI), and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

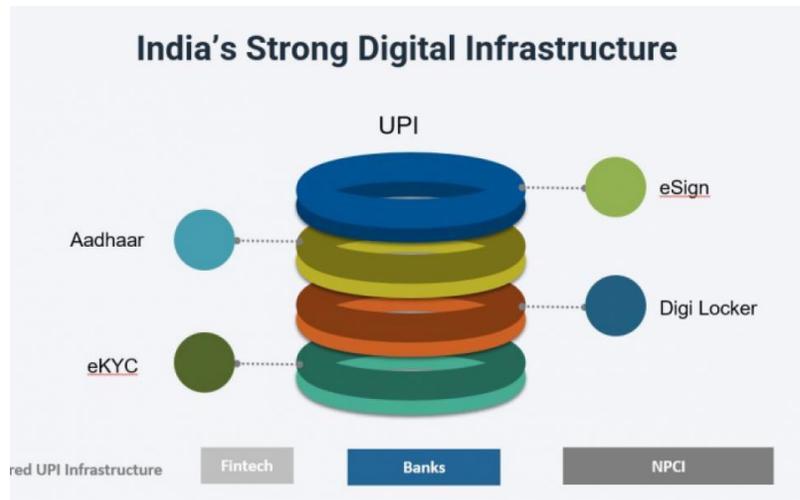
**DEPA services:**

- **Account Aggregators:** The RBI-supported Account Aggregator (AA) mechanism follows the DEPA model, which allows a user to access their financial data at one place.
- **Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN):** Another manifestation of DEPA has begun with the OCEN in the financial sector. OCEN allows a user to share their financial data from various sources, such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) return from the income tax system—to prove their creditworthiness without having to show assets.

**Indian Achievements Mentioned in the Report:**

- Several Indian innovations such as Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and vaccination platform CoWin, among others, have been emulated by several countries.
- Google wrote to the US Federal Reserve Board detailing the success of UPI-based digital payments in India and recommending that the Fed launch a new interbank real-time gross settlement service on the same lines.

**What is Digital infrastructure?**



- It is the collection of technological and human components, networks, systems, and processes that contribute to the functioning of an information system.
- These digital infrastructures often evolve into larger and more complex structures such as the Internet.

**About Digital Public Infrastructure:**

- The UN defines digital public goods as open source software, open data, open AI models, open standards and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable International and domestic laws, that do not harm and help in attaining the SDGs
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) solutions can improve the lives of citizens’ around the world by enabling digital inclusion.
- Successful governments have been able to harness these digital tools to address urgent challenges facing society.

**About BIS:**

- BIS is an **international financial organisation owned by 60 member central banks**, representing countries from around the world including India. It fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks.

Source: Indian Express

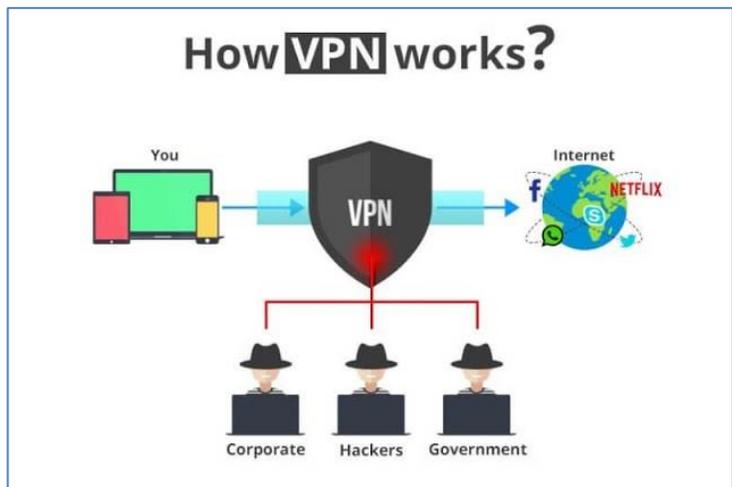
### 3.Virtual private network (VPN)

**Topic: Science and Technology**

**In News:** Cert-In, a wing of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had mandated VPN to maintain all customer data for five years.

**More on the Topic:**

- **Virtual private network:** Any and all devices connected to the internet are a part of a large network of computers, servers and other devices spread across the world.
- To identify each device connected to the internet, service providers globally assign a **unique address to each such device called the internet protocol address or IP address.**
- It is this IP address that helps websites, law enforcement agencies and even companies track down individual users and their accurate location.





- A virtual private network, when switched on, essentially creates a safe network within the larger global network of the internet and masks the IP address of the user by rerouting the data.
- Acting as a tunnel, a VPN takes data originating from one server and masks it in a different identity before delivering it to the destination server.
- In essence, a VPN creates several proxy identities for your data and delivers it safely without disturbing the content of the data.

#### **Why is anonymity or privacy so important for VPN providers and users?**

- The main reason why privacy or anonymity is important for both VPN service providers and users is that **it helps to avoid being tracked, mostly by websites and cybercriminals.**
- Since VPN masks the location of a device from everyone, it also prevents government and law enforcement agencies from accurately identifying the location.
- **VPN has also been of vital importance in countries that try to suppress dissent.** By using VPNs, dissidents are able to spoof their location and stay safe.

#### **What details does Cert-In want VPN service providers to keep and why?**

- Cert-In has asked VPN service providers to maintain for five years or longer details such as **the validated names of their customers, the period for which they hired the service, the IP addresses allotted to these users, the email addresses, the IP addresses and the time stamps** used at the time of registration of the customers.
- Cert-In also wants VPN service providers to maintain data such as the purpose for which the customers used their services, their validated addresses and contact numbers, and the ownership pattern of the customers.
- One of the main reasons that Cert-In provided for seeking these details is that **it will help to effectively trace anti-social elements and cybercriminals** indulging in various nefarious activities online.

#### **About CERT-In:**

- CERT-In is the **national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents** as and when they occur. The constituency of CERT-In is the Indian Cyber Community.
- **CERT-In was established in 2004** as a functional organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**Source: Indian Express**

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## 4. National Film Heritage Mission

### Topic: Science and Technology

**In News:** The World's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) is underway.

#### More on the Topic:

- The restoration project now awarded is set to commence in full swing at National Film Archive of India (NFAI).
- Launched in 2017, NFHM is the prestigious mission of Government of India, for **preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration of rich cinematic heritage of the country.**
- In addition to restoration, the National Film Heritage Mission also involves the on-going preservation processes of film condition assessment, preventive conservation and digitization.



#### National Film Archive of India:

- It was set up in 1964 as a media unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- The primary objective of the NFAI is to acquire and preserve the Indian cinematic heritage.

Source: Business Standard

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## 5. System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH)

### Topic: Government Schemes

**In News:** Defence Ministry recently introduced a portal, System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH), to directly transfer pension to pensioners.

#### More on the Topic:

- It aims to provide comprehensive services to defense pensioners.
- It promotes the Government's vision of 'Digital India', 'Direct Benefit Transfer



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

(DBT)' and 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

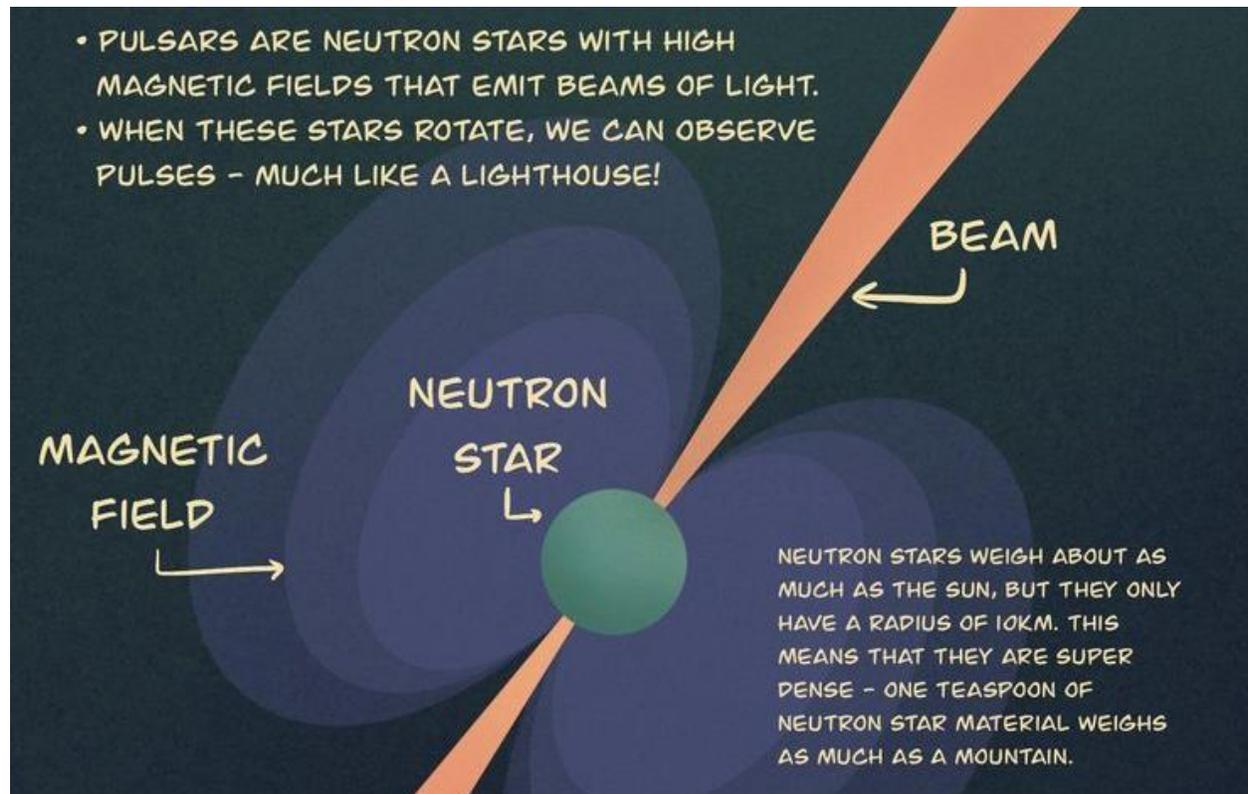
### How SPARSH works?

- It is an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.
- **This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts** of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- **A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners** to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints, if any.
- SPARSH envisages establishment of Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal.

Source: Business Standard

## 6. 'Black widow' system

Topic: Science and Technology



**In News:** Astronomers has identified new 'black widow' system with a cannibalistic pulsar.

**More on the Topic:**



- It is a unique system that consists of a **pulsar (rapidly spinning neutron star) that is circling and slowly consuming a smaller companion star**, just like the female black widow spider does to its mate, hence the name.
- Astronauts have previously identified about two dozen black widow binaries in the milky way galaxy but the newest candidate has the shortest orbital period yet identified.

**Source: Hindu**

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