

## 1. Childhood Immunization Dropped

**Topic: Health**



**In News:** WHO and UNICEF predicted a drop in routine childhood immunization during the worst pandemic period when lockdowns were in effect.

### More on the Topic:

- According to new data, the percentage of kids who have received three doses of a vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DPT) considered a key immunization tracking benchmark dropped 5 percentage points between 2019 and 2021 to 81%.
- The decline means that in 2021, 25 million kids missed one more doses of DPT vaccine, 2 million more than children who missed out in 2020 and 6 million more than in 2019.
- Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines recorded the highest numbers of zero-dose children.
- **India Specific Data:** Estimated 30 lakh children did not receive the first dose of DTP-1 vaccine in 2020, compared to 14 lakh in 2019. India was however, quick to prevent further backslide with catchup programmes like Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)-3.

### Reasons for Decline:

- Multiple factors are behind the decline, including **larger numbers of children living in conflict areas, increased misinformation about vaccines,** and COVID-19 related problems such as **reduced services and supply chain disruptions.**

### The Mission Indradhanush:

- The Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched by **the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)** on 25th December 2014 with the aim of expanding immunization coverage to all children across India.

- The Mission Indradhanush aims to cover all those children who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases.
- India’s Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) provide free vaccines against 12 life threatening diseases, to 26 million children annually.
- The Universal Immunization Programme provides life-saving vaccines to all children across the country free of cost to protect them against Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea. (Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine in select states and districts).

Source: Indian Express

## 2. The Two State Solution

Topic: International Relations





**In News:** US President Joe Biden this week expressed support for the two-state solution regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

**More on the Topic:**

- The two-state solution refers to an arrangement where Israeli and Palestinian states co-exist in the region.
- However, such a solution has not materialised over the decades.

**The Israel Palestine Conflict?**

- The land to which Jews and Palestinians lay claim to was under the Ottoman Empire and then the British Empire in early 20th century.
- Palestinian people the Arab people from the same area want to have a state by the name of Palestine in that area. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is over who gets what land and how it's controlled.
- Jews fleeing the persecution in Europe at the time wanted to establish a Jewish state on the land which they believe to be their ancient homeland. The Arab at the time resisted.
- **In 1917's Balfour Declaration**, the United Kingdom declared its support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Arabs resisted it which led to violence.
- **In 1923, the British Mandate for Palestine came into effect.** The document was issued by the League of Nations, the failed predecessor of the United Nations (UN).
- **In 1936**, after several rounds of violence between Jews and Arabs, **the Peel Commission**, set up by the UK government, recommended the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.
- **The final proposal was passed in November 1947. It called for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states**, with the city of Jerusalem governed by an international arrangement. This was rejected by the Arabs.
- **In May 1948, Israel declared its independence.** The Arab countries of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt invaded the newly-declared country immediately.
- When the war ended, Israel gained some territory formerly granted to Palestinian Arabs under the UN resolution in 1947.

**Why the two-state solution has not materialised by now?**

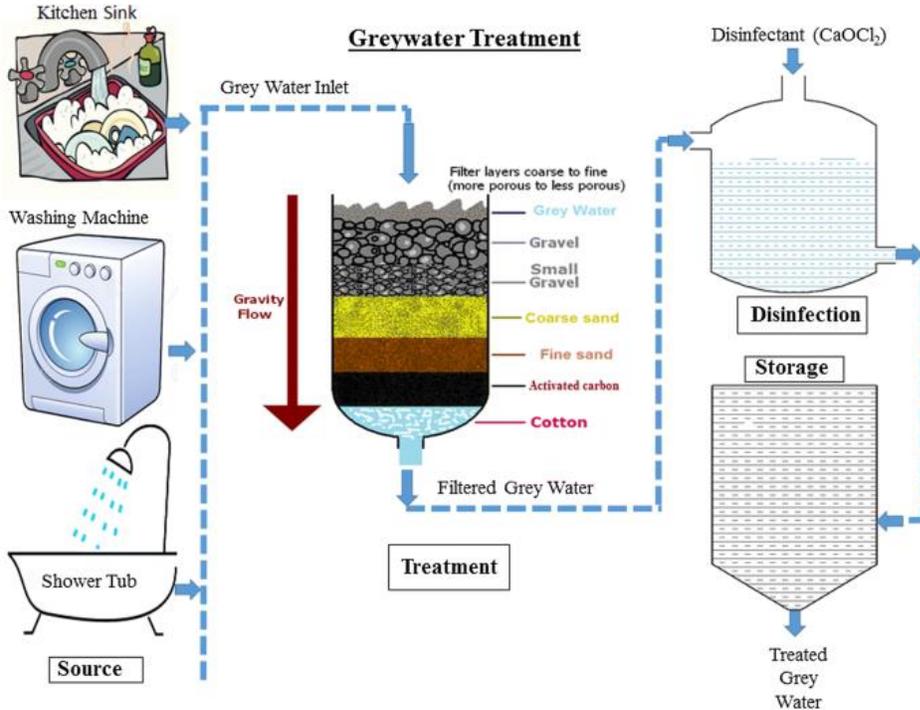
- There is no consensus as to **how to draw the lines dividing the two proposed states.**
- Both Israel and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital and call it central to their religion and culture. **Division of Jerusalem is a contentious issue.**
- **Settlement of refugees who fled during war** is also a bottle neck.

**Source: Outlook**

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### 3. Grey Water Management

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** 100% Saturation of Grey Water Management has been achieved in Pappankuzhi Village, Tamil Nadu.

**More on the Topic:**

- It is achieved with the coordinated efforts of community members and government representatives.
- About 42,000 litres of greywater are effectively treated each day in the hamlet by the system, which consists of community soak pits and individual residence soak pits with either horizontal or vertical type filters.
- Grey water management is a key component of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G) Phase II campaign of the Government of India.

**What is grey water?**

- **The waste-water that is not contaminated with urine or faeces is referred to as grey water.** This includes water that has been used for bathing, dishwashing, laundry and other household usages.

**Consequences of Mishandling Of Grey Water:**

- Unpleasant & dirty surroundings
- Health Implications a. Mosquitoes / Vector breeding: Spread of diseases

- Pollution of water bodies
- Loss of precious natural resource i.e. WATER.

**Benefits of addressing Grey Water Crisis:**

- **Saving on fresh water** use can significantly **reduce household water bills**, but also has a broader community benefit in **reducing demands on public water supply**.
- **Reducing the amount of wastewater entering sewers** or on-site treatment systems.
- **High nitrogen and phosphorus content** when used in irrigation can make a good nutrient or fertiliser source.

Source: Hindu

## 4. National Institute of Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2022

### Topic: Reports and Indices



**In News:** The results of the National Institute of Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2022, which ranks higher educational institutions across the country under various categories has been released recently.

#### More on the Topic:

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, is yet again the top higher educational institute in the country followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and IIT Bombay.
- Institutes are also ranked across seven subject domains, namely engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture and dental.

**New changes for next Year:**

- Accreditation and assessment shall be mandatory, and every Higher Education Institution need to be accredited. Self-declaration and transparency shall be basis of assessment and accreditation.
- By next yeargovernment will **unify institutional accreditation presently are done by NAAC and programme accreditation presently being done by NBA.**
- **Ranking on Innovation done earlier by AICTE will henceforth integrated with NIRF.** All institutions will be a part of the combined system of assessment, accreditation and rankings. Such a system will be transparent and objective.

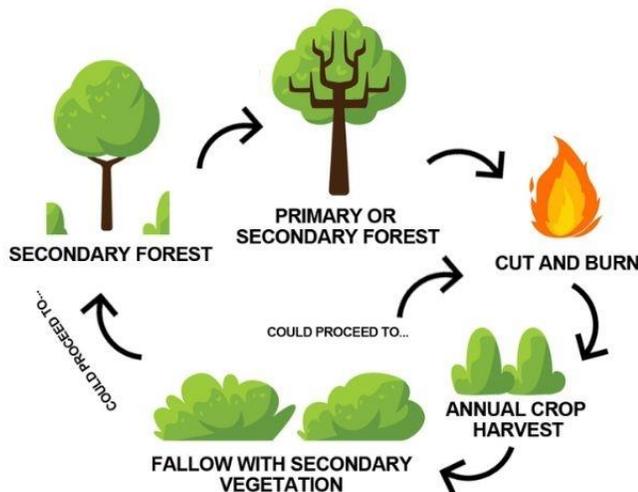
**Five Broad Categories of Parameters and Weightage:**

- Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)
- Research and Professional Practice (RP)
- Graduation Outcomes (GO)
- Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)
- Peer Perception

Source: Indian Express

## 5. Podu cultivation

Topic: Agriculture



**In News:** The Telangana government had decided to move landless, non-tribal farmers engaged in shifting cultivation (Podu) inside forests to peripheral areas in an effort to combat deforestation.

**More on the Topic:**



- According to government, People that anyone who wishes to give up podu farming and move out of the forest would be given land for free, along with additional benefits.
- Podu cultivation is a type of shifting cultivation that employs methods like slash and burns. This is extensively used by the tribes living in the forests of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

**India and Shifting Cultivation:**

- India has nearly 1.73 million hectares under shifting cultivation, where plots of land are cultivated temporarily and then abandoned for years so that the land becomes fertile again.
- An estimated 6.23 lakh families are involved in this activity, 90% of which is in the Northeast based on 2003 data.
- Jhum, Vevar and Dahiya, Deepa, Zara and Erka, Batra, Podu, Kumari, Kaman, Vinga and Dhavi are the other names of shifting cultivation practiced in India.

**Source: Business Standard**

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