

## VPM1002' and MIP Vaccines for TB

**Context:** ICMR launches third phase trial for adult anti-TB vaccine

- ✚ **India has the highest number of TB cases** in the world and aims to **eliminate TB by 2025**.
- ✚ ICMR is undertaking this first vaccine clinical trial after the BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades ago
- ✚ Two vaccines- '**VPM1002' and MIP** had been shortlisted for the phase III trial among the healthy household contacts of a sputum smear positive patient
- ✚ While the neonatal BCG vaccination is partially efficacious at protecting infants and young children, particularly from the most severe consequences of TB disease
- ✚ The **WHO End TB Strategy** aims at a 95 per cent reduction in TB mortality and a 90 per cent reduction in TB incidence **worldwide by 2035**
- ✚ **About TB:**
- ✚ Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease usually caused by **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (MTB) bacteria**.
- ✚ Tuberculosis generally **affects the lungs**, but can also affect other parts of the body.
- ✚ Tuberculosis is **Spread through the Air** when people who have active TB in their lungs cough, spit, speak, or sneeze.

## APOLLO 11 MISSION

**Context:** The anniversary of one of the most important launches of all time is on July 16, 2019. Tuesday marks 50 years since the launch of the Apollo 11 mission.

### About APOLLO 11 mission:

- ✚ Apollo 11 was the **Fifth Crewed Mission of NASA's Apollo program**.
- ✚ It was the spaceflight that first landed humans on the Moon.
- ✚ Commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin, both American, landed the Apollo Lunar Module
- ✚ It was launched by a Saturn V rocket from Kennedy Space Center on Merritt Island, Florida
- ✚ The Apollo spacecraft had three parts:

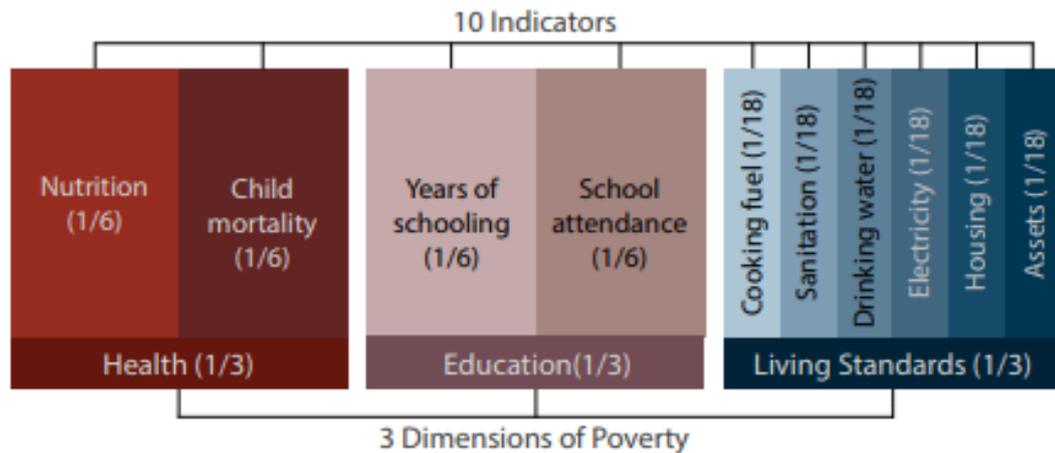


- ▶▶ A command module
- ▶▶ A service module
- ▶▶ A lunar module

## MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI)

**Context:** About 1.3 billion people are 'multi-dimensionally poor', says UN report

### About MPI:



- ✚ It is released by the **Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative and the United Nations Development Programme.**
- ✚ It uses different factors to determine poverty beyond income-based lists.
- ✚ It replaced the previous Human Poverty Index
- ✚ It is an international **measure of acute multidimensional poverty** covering over 100 developing countries.
- ✚ It defines poor not only on the basis of income, but on other indicators, including poor health, poor quality of work and the threat of violence
- ✚ The MPI assesses poverty at the **Individual Level.**
- ✚ If someone is deprived in a **third or more of ten** (weighted) indicators, the global index identifies them as **'MPI poor'**
- ✚ The number of poor people in India fell by more than 271 million within ten years
- ✚ Among states, **Jharkhand had the greatest improvement**, with Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Nagaland only slightly behind.
- ✚ However, Bihar was still the poorest state in 2015- 16, with more than half of its population living in poverty.
- ✚ In 2015-16, the four poorest states – **Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh** – were home to 196 million multidimensional poor people – over half of all the people living in multidimensional poverty in India.

## 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World'- UN Report

**Context:** A UN report has said, more than 821 million people suffered from hunger worldwide last year.

- ✚ It is the third year in a row that the number has risen.

### Report Highlights:

- ✚ The report named, '**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World**', produced by the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization** and other UN agencies, including WHO, was released on June 15, 2019
- ✚ It noted that the number of people without enough to eat had risen from 811 million in 2017
- ✚ The report said, after decades of decline, malnutrition began to increase in 2015, mainly because of **climate change and war**.
- ✚ Reversing the trend is one of the **2030 targets of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals** which aim to improve the planet and its people.

## JALYUKTA SHIVAR ABHIYAN

**Context:** Jalyukta Shivar key for Maharashtra, but still has a long road ahead

### About Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan:

- ✚ Jalyukta Shivar is the flagship programme of the **Maharashtra government** launched in **December 2014**.

#### Aim:

- ✚ It aims to make 5,000 villages **free of water scarcity**.

#### Objectives:

- ✚ The scheme **targeted drought-prone areas** by improving water conservation measures in order to make them more water sustainable.
- ✚ Under the scheme, decentralised water bodies were installed at various locations within villages to **enhance the groundwater recharge**.
- ✚ Besides, it also proposed to strengthen and rejuvenate water storage capacity and percolation of tanks and other sources of storage.
- ✚ Dedicated committees were formed to assist in construction of watersheds like **farm ponds, cement nullah** bunds alongside rejuvenating the existing water bodies in the villages.
- ✚ A mobile-app developed by the **Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC)** for quick monitoring of the scheme is functional in this respect.

## NEW LIZARD SPECIES: INDRASAURUS WANGI



**Context:** A Team of researches has discovered a new specimen of a microraptor with the remains of a nearly complete lizard preserved in its stomach.

### About Indrasaurus Wangi:

- ✚ The Lizard is unlike any previously know from the Cretaceous period and represents a new species: **Indrasaurus wangi**.
- ✚ The name Indrasaurus was inspired by a Vedic legend in which Hindu God Indra was swallowed by a dragon during a great battle.
- ✚ The Lizard was also named after **Prof. Wang Yuan** from the Institute of vertebrate Palaeontology and palaeoanthropology of the Chinese academy of sciences.
- ✚ The New Lizard had teeth unlike any other previously known from the Jehol Biota.
- ✚ The Jehol Biota includes all the Living Organisms of north-eastern China Between 133 and 120 million years ago.

## SEVA BHOJ SCHEME

**Context:** Recently, **Ministry of Culture** launched a new scheme “**Seva Bhoj Yojna**”.

### About Scheme:

- ✚ It is a central **sector scheme** to **reduce financial burden of Charitable Religious Institutions**.

- ✚ It envisages reimbursing the CGST and IGST of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide
  - ▶▶ Food
  - ▶▶ Prasad
  - ▶▶ Langar
  - ▶▶ Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to Public/Devotees.
- ✚ It is applicable to all Charitable Religious Institutions such as
  - ▶▶ Temples,
  - ▶▶ Gurudwara,
  - ▶▶ Mosque,
  - ▶▶ Church,
  - ▶▶ Dharmik Ashram,
  - ▶▶ Dargah, Monasteries etc. which follows following norms:
- ✚ Which have been in **existence for preceding five years** before applying for financial assistance/grant.
- ✚ Which have been **distributing** free food, langar and prasad to public for at least **past three years** on the day of application.
- ✚ Which serve free food to at least **5000 people in a Month**

## ORCHIDS

**Context:** According to the **first comprehensive survey**, India is home to 1,256 species of orchids

- ✚ **Orchids of India:** A Pictorial Guide, a publication detailing all the species of India was unveiled earlier this month by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

### Key highlights:

- ✚ The 1,256 species or taxa of orchids belong to 155 genera and 388 species are endemic to India.
- ✚ Out of 388 species, one-third (128) **endemic species** are found in **Western Ghats**.
- ✚ The publication points out that **Kerala has 111 of these endemic species while Tamil Nadu has 92 of them**
- ✚ Among the 10 bio geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the **richest in species concentration** followed by **North east, the Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau and Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- ✚ The **highest number** of orchid species is recorded from **Arunachal Pradesh** with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal.

- ✚ Among the 10 bio geographic zones of India, **the Himalayan zone is the richest** in terms of orchid species followed by Northeast, Western Ghats, Deccan plateau and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### About Orchids:

- ✚ Marked by **extremely beautiful flowers** with unique shape and ornamentation, orchids have complex floral structure that facilitates biotic cross-pollination and makes them evolutionarily superior to the other plant groups.
- ✚ Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms:
  1. Epiphytic
  2. Terrestrial and
  3. Mycoheterotrophic
- ✚ About 60% of all orchids found in the country are epiphytic, 447 are terrestrial and 43 are mycoheterotrophic.
- ✚ The entire orchid family is listed under **Appendix II of CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.

