

1. PRO-ACTIVE GOVERNANCE AND TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION.

(PRAGATI)

Context: The Prime Minister chaired his **thirtieth interaction through PRAGATI** - the ICT-based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

- ▶ This was also the first PRAGATI meeting in the new term of the Union Government.

About PRAGATI:

- ▶ It is a **multi-purpose and multi-modal platform** that is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- ▶ **Agencies involved:** It has been designed in-house by the PMO team with the help of National Informatics Center (NIC).

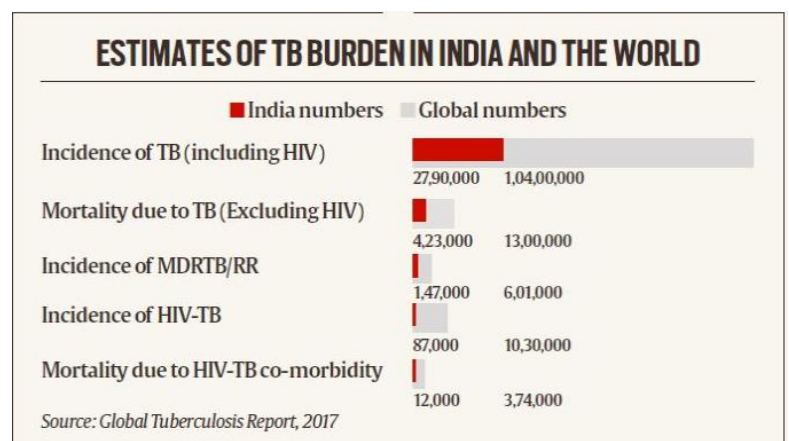
Key Features:

- ▶ It is a **three-tier system** (involving PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States);
- ▶ PM will hold a monthly interaction with the Government of India Secretaries and Chief Secretaries through Video-conferencing enabled by data and geo-informatics visuals;
- ▶ Issues to be raised before the PM are picked up from the available database regarding Public Grievances, on-going Programs and pending Projects.

2. VPM1002 AND IMMUVAC

Context: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines.

- ▶ The total number of deaths because of TB (excluding HIV) was 4,23,000, and the incidence of HIV-TB was 87,000 per year.



- ▶▶ India contributes to 27 per cent of the global TB burden; the highest share globally.
- ▶▶ **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 **Immuvac or 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.

3. SINGAPORE CONVENTION

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA)** resulting from mediation by the Republic of India scheduled to be held at **Singapore** on 7th August, 2019.

Benefit:

- ▶▶ Signing of the Convention will boost the confidence of the investors and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**.

Features:

- ▶▶ The Convention provides a uniform framework for the **enforcement of international settlement agreements** resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements.
- ▶▶ The Convention defines **two additional grounds** upon which a court may, on its own motion, refuse to grant relief.
- ▶▶ Those grounds relate to the fact that a dispute would not be capable of settlement by mediation or would be contrary to public policy.

4. ISRO TECHNICAL LIAISON UNIT (ITLU)

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow, Russia.

Objective:

- ▶▶ It will **enable effective technical coordination for timely interventions** on diversified matters with Russia and neighbouring countries for realization of the programmatic targets of ISRO.

Implementation Strategy:

- ▶▶ The ITLU Moscow office would be managed by an ISRO Scientist/Engineer designated as “Counsellor (Space)” on deputation, deputed from ISRO and supported by a staff locally sourced.
- ▶▶ The process is planned to be completed within six months from the date of approval.

Benefits:

- ▶▶ ISRO will be able to collaborate with Space agencies/industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes.
- ▶▶ ISRO’s **Gaganyaan programme** requires development of some of the key technologies and establishment of specialized facilities, which are essential to support life in space.

5. SHAWALA TEJA SINGH TEMPLE

Context: Pakistan opens 1000-year-old Shawala Teja Singh temple in Punjab for worship after 72 years

About:

- ▶▶ The Shawala Teja Singh temple, located in Dhaarowal locality, some 100-km from Lahore, is more than 1,000 years old.
- ▶▶ Built by Sardar Teja Singh, it is dedicated to Hindu deity Shiva, in Sialkot in Pakistan's Punjab province.

6. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL(NCDC):

Context: Ministry of Health inaugurates a new laboratory complex and new **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)** building on the occasion of **110th Annual Day of NCDC**

About NCDC:

- ▶▶ It is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- ▶▶ It was **established in July 1963** for research in epidemiology and control of communicable diseases and to reorganize the activities of the Malaria Institute of India
- ▶▶ It was previously known as **National Institute of Communicable Diseases**.

