



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 27-01-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Deep Ocean Mission

### **GS-2**

2. Death Penalty
3. National Health Mission
4. World Health Organization

### **GS-3**

5. Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

## **Deep Ocean Mission**

### **Syllabus: GS-1: Geography - Oceanography**

#### **Context:**

- India is gearing up to deploy its first human-operated underwater submersible as part of the Deep Ocean Mission, according to Union Minister of State for Science and Technology.

#### **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**

- **What it is:**
  - Ambitious program by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to explore deep-sea resources, develop marine technologies, and support India's blue economy.
- **Launched in:**
  - **2021** under the **Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC)** framework.

#### **Aims of the Mission**

- **Technological Development:**
  - To develop advanced deep-sea exploration technologies.
- **Resource Identification and Utilization:**
  - Harness critical underwater resources like **polymetallic nodules, sulphides, and rare metals**.
- **Marine Biodiversity:**
  - Study and conserve marine ecosystems for **sustainable fisheries**.
- **Blue Economy Contribution:**
  - Innovate and build knowledge to support India's economic growth through oceanic resources.



## Key Features

- **Samudrayaan and Matsya6000:**
  - **Matsya6000:**
    - India's first crewed submersible designed to operate at **6,000 meters depth**.
    - Focus on exploring polymetallic nodules and rare resources.
- **Technological Advancements:**
  - Development of underwater mining systems like **Varaha**, operational at depths of **5,270 meters**.
- **Ocean Climate Change Services:**
  - Establishing advisory systems for **monitoring ocean climate changes**.

- **Marine Biodiversity Conservation:**
  - Studying and conserving unique **underwater ecosystems**.
- **Renewable Energy and Freshwater Harvesting:**
  - Utilizing ocean resources for **energy production** and **water needs**.
- **Marine Biology Station:**
  - Developing a **state-of-the-art research station** for advanced studies in marine biology.

### Significance

- Strengthens India's position in **marine research and exploration**.
- Supports sustainable development aligned with India's **Blue Economy** objectives.
- Enhances India's self-reliance in deep-sea technologies and resource management.

## **Death Penalty**

### Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity –Laws and Policies.

#### Context:

- CBI Moves Calcutta High Court Seeking Death Penalty For RG Kar Rape Convict.

#### Arguments in Favor of the Death Penalty

- **Retribution and Justice:**
  - Justice requires proportional punishment; those committing the most heinous crimes deserve the severest penalty.
  - The death penalty serves as retribution, ensuring the punishment fits the crime, especially in cases of murder or brutal crimes.
- **Deterrence:**
  - The fear of death may discourage potential criminals from committing heinous crimes.
  - Advocates argue that execution sets an example, signaling society's intolerance of extreme offenses.
- **Closure for Victims' Families:**
  - It provides a sense of finality and justice to the victims' families, helping them cope with the loss and trauma.

➤ **Spiritual Rehabilitation:**

- The period before execution can lead to reflection, remorse, and spiritual redemption for the offender.
- Thinkers like Thomas Aquinas believed the death penalty allowed offenders to expiate their sins before facing divine judgment.

➤ **Moral Responsibility:**

- Society has a duty to protect innocent lives by removing individuals who are proven to pose a significant threat.

**Arguments Against the Death Penalty**

➤ **Ineffectiveness as a Deterrent:**

- Statistical evidence does not conclusively prove that the death penalty reduces crime rates.
- Crimes like rape and murder often occur in emotionally charged or irrational moments, where consequences are not considered.

➤ **Risk of Executing the Innocent:**

- Judicial systems are fallible, and mistakes can lead to the irreversible execution of innocent individuals.
- Amnesty International argues that this risk can never be entirely eliminated.

➤ **Morality of Retribution:**

- Critics see the death penalty as vengeance disguised as justice, undermining ethical principles of humanity and forgiveness.
- Retribution as a justification is considered regressive by modern standards of criminal justice.

➤ **Global Trends Against the Death Penalty:**

- Over 170 countries have abolished or imposed moratoriums on capital punishment, reflecting an international shift toward rehabilitation over execution.
- Developed nations largely favor life imprisonment as a more humane alternative.

➤ **Failure to Address Root Causes:**

- Death penalties do not address the underlying causes of crime, such as socio-economic inequality, lack of education, or mental health issues.
- Crimes like rape have persisted despite the introduction of harsher penalties (e.g., Sec. 376A of IPC in India).

➤ **Lack of Rehabilitation:**

- The death penalty denies offenders the opportunity for reform and reintegration into society, which should be a core objective of justice systems.

➤ **Erosion of Human Rights:**

- Capital punishment is viewed as a violation of the right to life and dignity, core principles upheld by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Crimes Resulting in the Death Penalty under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS)**

**1. Sexual Offences**

➤ **Rape Resulting in Death or Vegetative State (Section 66 BNS):**

- Rigorous imprisonment for a minimum of 20 years, extendable to life imprisonment or death penalty.

➤ **Gang Rape of a Minor (Section 70(2) BNS):**

- Life imprisonment for the entirety of natural life or death penalty.
- Fine imposed to cover the medical and rehabilitation expenses of the victim.

➤ **Punishment for Serial Offenders (Section 71 BNS):**

- For repeat convictions under sections related to rape or gang rape, life imprisonment or death penalty.

**2. Homicide**

➤ **Murder (Section 103 BNS):**

- Punishment of death or life imprisonment along with a fine.
- **Group Murder (5 or more individuals):** Death penalty or life imprisonment.

➤ **Murder by a Life Convict (Section 104 BNS):**

- Punishment of death or life imprisonment.
- Reference: **Mithu v. State of Punjab (1983)** – Mandatory death penalty ruled unconstitutional.

➤ **Providing False Evidence Leading to Innocent Person's Death (Section 230(2) BNS):**

- Death penalty or life imprisonment for the individual who fabricated false evidence.

### 3. Abetment and Attempted Murder

- **Abetting Suicide of Minors or Vulnerable Persons (Section 107 BNS):**
  - Death penalty or life imprisonment.
- **Attempted Murder by Life Convict Causing Injury (Section 109(2) BNS):**
  - Death penalty or life imprisonment.

### 4. Acts of Terrorism and War

- **Terrorist Activities Leading to Death (Section 113(2)(a) BNS):**
  - Death penalty or life imprisonment along with a fine.
- **Waging or Supporting War Against the Government (Section 147 BNS):**
  - Death penalty or life imprisonment, with a fine.
- **Abetting Mutiny (Section 160 BNS):**
  - Death penalty or life imprisonment for individuals assisting mutiny.

### 5. Crimes Involving Abduction or Dacoity

- **Kidnapping or Abduction with Intent to Kill or Ransom (Section 140(2) BNS):**
  - Death penalty or life imprisonment, with a fine.
- **Dacoity Resulting in Murder (Section 310(3) BNS):**
  - Death penalty, life imprisonment, or rigorous imprisonment for at least 10 years, with a fine.

### Key Highlights

- The BNS prescribes the death penalty for crimes of extreme gravity involving murder, sexual violence, terrorism, and abetment leading to death.
- Provisions emphasize rehabilitation and justice for victims, with fines contributing to their welfare.
- The law incorporates judicial precedents like **Mithu v. State of Punjab**, ensuring constitutional safeguards.

### Conclusion

The debate over the death penalty revolves around a conflict between justice and humanity. Proponents view it as a necessary tool for retribution and deterrence, while opponents question its morality, effectiveness, and risk of irrevocable harm to innocent individuals. The trend globally is moving toward abolition, emphasizing rehabilitation, but in countries like India, it remains an option for the gravest crimes under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

## **National Health Mission**

### **Syllabus: GS-2: Social Sector – Health**

#### **Context:**

- The Central Government in its 2021-24 assessment report presented to the Union Cabinet on January 22, 2025 highlighted the achievements of NHM.

#### **NHM's Background and Evolution**

- **Launched:** 2005 as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to address rural healthcare challenges.
- **Expanded:** In 2012, it was restructured to include the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), creating the umbrella **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- **Objective:** To ensure affordable, equitable, and quality healthcare for all, focusing on vulnerable populations.

#### **Key Components of NHM**

- **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A):** Improving maternal and child health outcomes.
- **Health Systems Strengthening:** Building infrastructure, enhancing governance, and training healthcare workers.
- **Non-Communicable and Communicable Disease Control:** Targeting both infectious and lifestyle-related diseases.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Supporting facilities and staff for effective service delivery.

#### **NHM Achievements (2021-2024)**

##### **Expansion of Healthcare Workforce**

- Increased healthcare workers from **2.69 lakh (2021-22)** to **5.23 lakh (2023-24)**.
- **Community Health Officers (CHOs):** Enhanced primary healthcare delivery with over 1.38 lakh CHOs deployed.

##### **Reduction in Mortality Rates**

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** Declined by **83%** since 1990.
- **Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR):** Dropped to **32 (2020)** from **45 (2014)**.
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Reduced to **28 (2020)**.
- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** Achieved a replacement level of **2.0 (2020)**.



### Disease Elimination and Control

- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Incidence and mortality reduced significantly (237/100,000 to 195; mortality 28 to 22 by 2023).
- **Malaria:** Cases and deaths reduced by 13.28% and 3.22%, respectively (2021 vs. 2020).
- **Kala-Azar:** Target of <1 case per 10,000 achieved by 2023.

### Vaccination Drive

- **Measles-Rubella Campaign:** 34.77 crore children vaccinated with 97.98% coverage.
- **COVID-19:** Administered **220+ crore vaccine doses** by March 2024.

### Specialized Health Initiatives

- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan:** 1.56 lakh volunteers supported 9.40 lakh TB patients.
- **Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP):** 62.35 lakh dialysis sessions for 4.53 lakh patients.
- **Sickle Cell Anemia Mission:** Screened **2.61 crore individuals** in tribal regions.

### Digital Health Innovations

- **U-WIN Platform:** Real-time vaccination tracking operational in **65 districts** by FY 2023-24.

### Infrastructure Growth

- **National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS):** 7,998 public health facilities certified.
- **Primary and Referral Healthcare:** 24x7 services in **12,348 PHCs** and **3,133 FRUs**.
- **Mobile Medical Units (MMUs):** Expanded to **1,424 units**, aiding remote healthcare delivery.

### India's Progress Towards SDGs

- **Aligned with SDG 3:** NHM's efforts have accelerated India's progress toward achieving **health-related U.N. Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly in reducing maternal and child mortality, well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

## **World Health Organization**

### **Syllabus: GS-2: International Events and Organisations.**

#### **Context:**

- President Donald Trump decided to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Reason:** Allegations of bias within WHO, specifically favoring China.
- **Timing:** Initiated soon after his inauguration and finalized with a 12-month timeline for withdrawal, alongside stopping financial contributions.

#### **Reasons Cited by Donald Trump**

- Accusation of **mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Claims that WHO is "owned and controlled by China," despite U.S. being its largest financial contributor.
- Historical criticism during his earlier term as U.S. President, including an attempt to halt funding in 2020.

#### **Significance of the U.S. Withdrawal**

- **Financial Impact:**
  - The U.S., a founding member of WHO, contributes **18% of its overall funding**.
  - Loss of funding may disrupt major global health programs:
    - Interventions for **HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and eradication of infectious diseases**.
    - Ensuring equitable access to life-saving drugs.
  - Impacts the ability to build **stronger health systems** and **detect/prevent disease outbreaks** globally.
- **Global Health Implications:**
  - Pathogens are not confined by borders; global health operates as a connected system.
  - COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of **international collaboration**, data sharing, and open access to technology.
  - Withdrawal undermines global solidarity in combating pandemics and health emergencies.

### WHO's Response

- WHO has reached out to the U.S., urging reconsideration of the decision.
- Emphasis on the importance of **cooperation** and **shared responsibility** in global health.

### Broader Concerns

- **Butterfly Effect:** The withdrawal could trigger a cascade of **unpredictable consequences** in global health systems.
- **Global Safety:** Reinforces the pandemic lesson — **no one is safe until everyone is safe.**

### Key Takeaway

- The decision to withdraw from WHO is seen as **short-sighted**, with potential to harm global health efforts significantly.
- Collaboration among nations remains essential for tackling global health challenges.

### About WHO:

Section	Details
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>WHO Overview</b>
	- Specialized agency of the United Nations for public health.
	- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland; operates 6 regional offices and 150 field offices globally.
	- Established on <b>7 April 1948</b> .
	- <b>Main Objective:</b> "The attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health."
<b>Functions of WHO</b>	- Direct and coordinate international health work.
	- Collaborate with the UN, specialized agencies, governments, and professional groups.
	- Strengthen health services upon government requests.
	- Provide technical assistance and emergency aid when requested.
	- Offer health services to special groups (e.g., trust territories).
	- Maintain epidemiological and statistical services.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Details</b>
	- Eradicate epidemic, endemic, and other diseases.
	- Prevent injuries and improve environmental hygiene in cooperation with specialized agencies.
	- Foster advancements in health through scientific and professional collaboration.
	- Propose and implement health-related conventions, agreements, and recommendations.
<b>Governance Structure</b>	<b>Membership</b>
	- 194 members (as of January 2021), including all UN states (except Liechtenstein), Cook Islands, and Niue.
	- Membership is obtained by ratifying the WHO Constitution.
<b>World Health Assembly</b>	- Legislative and supreme body of WHO.
	- Appoints the director-general every five years.
	- Votes on policy, finance, and budgetary matters.
	- Reviews executive board reports and identifies work areas for further exploration.
<b>Executive Board</b>	- Facilitates WHA's work, advises it, and implements its decisions.
<b>Goodwill Ambassadors</b>	- Engages prominent figures from arts, sports, and public life to raise awareness about WHO initiatives.
<b>Financing and Partnerships</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>
	- Member states and external donors.
	- Major Contributors (2020):
	- United States: Over \$400 million annually.
	- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United Kingdom, Germany, and GAVI (each contributing \$150+ million in 2018).

Section	Details
	<b>Key Event:</b> In 2020, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a halt to U.S. funding for WHO.

## Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

**Syllabus:** GS-3: General Science – diseases.

**Context:**

- “Pune on Friday (January 24, 2025) reported six fresh suspected cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), an immunological nerve disorder, taking the count to 73,” officials said.

**What is GBS?**

- **Definition:** A rare but treatable neurological condition where the immune system attacks the nerves.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Weakness in limbs, neck, face, and eyes.
  - Tingling or numbness.
  - Difficulty in walking, swallowing, or breathing (in severe cases).
- **Onset and Progression:**
  - Sudden onset, progressing over four weeks.
  - Severity varies – some cases worsen rapidly, while others progress slower.
  - Severe cases may require ICU admission and ventilatory support.

**How does Campylobacter cause GBS?**

- **Cause:** Suspected link to *Campylobacter jejuni* infection.
- **Transmission:** Contaminated food or water.
- **Symptoms of Infection:**
  - Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever, nausea, or vomiting.
  - May lead to immune response targeting nerves, causing GBS within 1-3 weeks.

➤ **Other Triggers:**

- Infections like dengue, chikungunya, or other bacteria.

**Preventive Measures**

- Boil water before drinking or use bottled water if unsure.
- Wash vegetables and fruits thoroughly.
- Cook poultry and meat properly (internal temperature  $\geq 75^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
- Avoid raw or undercooked food (especially eggs and seafood).
- Wash hands with soap and water before eating and after using the toilet.
- Avoid sharing utensils or food during outbreaks.
- Keep raw and cooked foods separate.
- Disinfect kitchen surfaces and utensils after handling raw meat.

**When to Seek Medical Help**

- Sudden weakness in legs or arms.
- Difficulty walking or numbness.
- Persistent diarrhoea, especially with blood discharge.