

MONKEYPOX

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II & III (HEALTH)

CONTEXT: Kerela reported its first case of monkeypox.

ABOUT MONKEYPOX

- It is a **viral zoonotic disease (transmission from animals to humans)** and is identified as a **pox-like disease among monkeys** hence it is named **Monkeypox. It is endemic to Nigeria.**
- It is caused by **monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.**
- The natural host of the virus remains undefined. But the disease has been reported in many animals.
- Animals known to be sources of Monkeypox virus include **monkeys and apes, a variety of rodents (including rats, mice, squirrels and prairie dogs) and rabbits.**

OUTBREAKS

- It was first reported in 1958, in monkeys in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** and in humans in 1970, also in the DRC.
- In 2017, **Nigeria experienced the largest documented outbreak**, 40 years after the last confirmed case.
- Subsequently, the disease has been reported in many **West and Central African countries.**

SYMPTOMS

- Infected people break out in a rash that looks a lot like chicken pox. But the fever, malaise, and headache from Monkeypox are usually more severe than in chicken pox infection.
- In the early stage of the disease, Monkeypox can be distinguished from smallpox because the lymph gland gets enlarged.

TRANSMISSION

- Primary infection is through **direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal lesions of an infected animal.** Eating inadequately cooked meat of infected animals is also a risk factor.
- Human-to-human transmission can result from **close contact with infected respiratory tract secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or objects recently contaminated by patient fluids or lesion materials.**
- Transmission can also occur by **inoculation or via the placenta** (congenital monkeypox).

TREATMENT AND VACCINE

- There is **no specific treatment or vaccine available** for Monkeypox infection. In the past, the anti-smallpox vaccine was shown to be 85% effective in preventing Monkeypox.
- But the world was declared free of smallpox in 1980 so the vaccine isn't widely available anymore.

- Currently, there is no global system in place to manage the spread of Monkeypox, with each country struggling to contain any outbreak whenever it occurs.

GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2022

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (ISSUES RELATED TO CHILDREN & WOMEN)

CONTEXT: The Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 was released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** and it **ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries**.

In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.

India's overall score has **improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629**, which is its seventh-highest score in the last 16 years.

The gender gap is the difference between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes.

ABOUT GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX

- It benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in four Key dimensions with Sub Metrics-**Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment**.
- On each of the four sub-indices as well as on the overall index the GGG index provides scores between 0 and 1, where 1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.
- It is the longest-standing index, which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time since its inception in 2006.

OBJECTIVES

- To serve as a compass to track progress on relative gaps between women and men on health, education, economy, and politics.
- Through this annual yardstick, the stakeholders within each country can set priorities relevant in each specific economic, political, and cultural context.

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2022, the **global gender gap has been closed by 68.1%** (slight improvement from 2021).
- At the current rate of progress, it will take 132 years to reach full parity.
- Although no country has yet achieved full gender parity, the top 10 economies have closed at least 80% of their gender gaps.

INDIA RELATED FINDINGS

Political Empowerment (Percentage of Women in Parliament and in Ministerial Positions):

- India ranks the highest (48th out of 146).
- Notwithstanding its rank, its score is quite low at 0.267.

Economic Participation and Opportunity (Percentage of women in labor force, Wage Equality for similar work, Earned income):

- India ranks a lowly 143 out of the 146 countries in contention even though its score has improved over 2021 from 0.326 to 0.350.
- In 2021, India was pegged at 151 out of the 156 countries.

- India's score is much lower than the global average, and only Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan are behind India on this metric.

Educational Attainment (Literacy Rate and the Enrolment rates in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education):

- India ranks 107th out of 146, and its score has marginally worsened since last year.
- In 2021, India was ranked 114 out of 156.

INDIA'S REPORT CARD

Index/sub-index	2022 (146 countries)		2021 (156 countries)	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	135	0.629	140	0.625
Political empowerment	48	0.267	51	0.276
Economic participation & opportunity	143	0.350	151	0.326
Educational attainment	107	0.961	114	0.962
Health and survival	146	0.937	155	0.937

Health and Survival (Sex ratio at birth and Healthy Life Expectancy):

- India is ranked the last (146) among all the countries.
- Its score has not changed from 2021 when it was ranked 155th out of 156 countries.

PRELIMS FACTS

DIGILOCKER

- Birth certificates of children born after August 2015 issued by the Civil Registration System will be available on Digi Locker to its registered users.
- Digi Locker is a flagship initiative of MeitY under 'Digital India' programme.
- This is the government's effort to create an electronic version of documents, which can be easily verified and stored in printable format.
- Civil Registration System (CRS) in India is the **unified process of continuous, permanent, compulsory, and universal recording of the vital events (births, deaths, stillbirths) and characteristics thereof.**
- Registration of Births and Deaths in India is mandatory with the enactment of Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD), Act 1969 and is done as per the place of occurrence of the event.

JUTE MARK INDIA LOGO

- The Union government launched "Jute Mark India logo," which will act as **"certification of authenticity" for jute products.**
- Jute Mark label will be attached with the jute products. It will contain a unique QR code. Customers can get to know about producers by scanning the QR code.
- The certification from "jute mark India" will help in strengthening domestic market and exports of jute products from India

SIH-5 PEPTIDE/MINI PROTEIN

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed an alternative mechanism to render viruses like SARS-CoV-2 inactive.
- The researchers reported the design of a new class of artificial peptides or Mini proteins called SIH-5 that can not only **block virus entry into the cells but also clump virions (virus particles) together, reducing their ability to infect.**

- The SIH-5 Mini protein was designed to block the binding of the **Receptor Binding Domain (RBD)** to human **Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2)**.

HYPERSONIC MISSILE

- US has successfully tested two Lockheed Martin Hypersonic Missiles-**Air Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)** booster amid an arms race with Russia and China.
- A hypersonic missile is a weapon system which flies at least at the speed of Mach 5 i.e., five times the speed of sound and is maneuverable.
- Earlier in May, Russia said that it had successfully test fired a **hypersonic Zircon cruise missile**.
- In 2020, the Defense Research & Development Organization successfully tested a **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrated Vehicle (HSTDV) in the form of hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology**.
- Presently, only **US, Russia and China** have hypersonic technology.

LAVENDER SCARE

- The James Webb telescope has been named after James Webb, who ran the US space agency from 1961 to 1968, and allegedly had a role to play in the “Lavender Scare” at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).
- **The Lavender Scare was the marginalization of LGBTQ employees working in the US government’s offices during the 1950s and 1960s.**
- It is often described as a “witch-hunt,” where those suspected of being from the LGBTQ community were fired from their jobs.
- The common perception at the time of those in the US administration, and in society at large, was that homosexuality and queerness were linked to a lack of morals or perversion.

INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC)

- Though the INSTC continues to be hampered by logistics issues and US sanctions on Iran, a Russian train with 39 containers of cargo bound for India entered Iran.
- International North-South Transport Corridor is a **corridor to increase trade between India and Russia**.
- This trade route is **7200 Km long** and the transport of freight is through a **multi-mode network of roads, ships, and railways**.
- This route **connects India and Russia through Iran and Azerbaijan**.
- The major objective of the INSTC corridor was to reduce the time taken, costs incurred, and increase connectivity between major cities like Mumbai, Moscow, Astrakhan (located in Russia), Baku (Azerbaijan), Tehran, Bandar Abbas, and Bandar Anzail (All located in Iran).

