

### INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO DENMARK

GS Paper - 2 - Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests - GS Paper - 3 - Environmental Pollution & Degradation - International Treaties & Agreements



#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

During the Indian Prime Minister's Visit to Denmark, India and Denmark agreed to further strengthen the **Green Strategic Partnership** with a focus on **green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management**.

- Further, India conveyed its acceptance of the Danish invitation to join the **International Center for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS)** as a **Mission Partner**.
- The Danish Prime Minister confirmed Danish accession to the **Global Digital Health Partnership** on India's invitation to **improve public health and well-being through evidence-based digital technologies**.

#### **WHAT IS THE STATUS OF INDIA-DENMARK TIES?**

**Background:** The diplomatic relations between **India and Denmark**, established in September 1949, are marked by **regular high-level exchanges**.

- Both countries **share historical links, common democratic traditions and a shared desire for regional**, as well as international peace and stability.
- Bilateral relations were elevated to the level of "Green Strategic Partnership" during the Virtual Summit held in 2020.

#### **WHAT IS GREEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?**

- The Green Strategic Partnership is a mutually beneficial arrangement to advance political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs, and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges and opportunities; with a focus on an ambitious implementation of the **Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**.
- India and Denmark both have **ambitious goals within the climate agenda**.
- India is the world's **third-largest CO2 emitter and by 2030**, the country is expected to have doubled its carbon emissions.
- The Danish government has the ambition to reduce **CO2 emissions by 70% by 2030** and aims to undertake international leadership on SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy.
- By partnering, India and Denmark will demonstrate to the world that delivering on ambitious climate and sustainable energy goals is possible.

- **Commercial and Economic Relations:** Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Denmark has grown by 78%, from USD 2.8 billion in 2016 to USD 5 billion in 2021.
  - The **major export items from India** to Denmark are textiles, apparels and yarns related, vehicles and components, metal goods, iron and steel, footwear, and travel goods.
  - Major **Danish exports to India** are medicinal/pharmaceutical goods, power generating machinery, industrial machinery, metal waste and ore, and organic chemicals.
- **Cultural Exchange:** India's 75th Independence Day was celebrated in Copenhagen with a great enthusiasm with a flag hoisting ceremony and vibrant Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, attended by a large number of the diaspora.
  - Indian community in Denmark include IT professionals, doctors and engineers.
  - Important streets and public places have been named after Indian leaders which include the **Gandhi Plaene (Gandhi Park)**, Copenhagen and a **Nehru Road** near Aarhus University in Aarhus.

#### **INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SOLUTIONS (ICARS)**

- The idea of an **international independent research and knowledge centre** focusing on intervention and implementation research in **low- and middle-income countries** was fostered through talks between Denmark and the World Bank during fall of 2017 and spring 2018.
- At a meeting in **March 2018**, it was agreed that there was an unmet need in this area, and that it was important to pursue the idea further, **exploring whether Denmark could initiate and host such a centre given its long history of working in One Health.**
- In November 2018, the Danish Government formally announced its ambition to establish ICARS.

#### **GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

- The **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)** is an **international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations** dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.
- It was established in February 2018, to **provide an opportunity for transformational engagement between its participants.**
- **Australia was the host country** for the inaugural summit in 2018.
- The **'4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit'** was held in February, 2019 in New Delhi.

#### **WAY FORWARD**

- Cooperation at Multilateral Forum: India and Denmark have shared values of human rights, democracy, and rule of law and they should cooperate in multilateral fora like the World Trade Organization, International Solar Alliance, Arctic Council to advance democracy and human rights and promote a rule-based multilateral system.

**Source: TH**

**UNIQUE DISABILITY ID SCHEME FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)**

GS Paper - 2 - Government Policies & Interventions - Welfare Schemes



**WHY IN NEWS?**

Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has asked states to speed up implementation of the **Unique Disability ID (UDID)** scheme for **Persons With Disabilities (PwD)** in the 75 districts.

- The Rural Development Ministry has selected the UDID programme as a **part of its 90-day campaign** in districts “**selected on the basis of unsung heroes of India’s freedom struggle**” under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The campaign aimed for **100% coverage of 17 Central schemes** in the 75 districts.

**WHAT IS UDID?**

○ **About:**

- The Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities project is **being implemented with a view of creating a National Database for PwDs, and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card** to each person with disabilities.
- The objective is to enable the **PwDs to obtain the new UDID card / Disability Certificate to avail schemes** and benefits provided by the Government through its various Ministries and their Departments.

○ **Significance:**

- The project will not only encourage transparency, efficiency and ease of delivering the government benefits to the person with disabilities, but also ensure uniformity.
- The project helps in **stream-lining the tracking of physical and financial progress of beneficiaries** at all levels of hierarchy of implementation – from village level, block level, District level , State level and National level.

**WHAT IS DISABILITY?**

- Any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in a manner or within the range considered normal for human beings, resulting from impairment is termed as a disability.
- Disability is an important public health problem especially in developing countries like India.

- To sensitize the matter of disability, **3rd December** has been marked as the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities by the United Nations**.
- About 2.2% of India's population lives with some kind of physical or mental disability, as per the **National Statistics Office** report on disability released last year.
  - In India, **Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016** replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

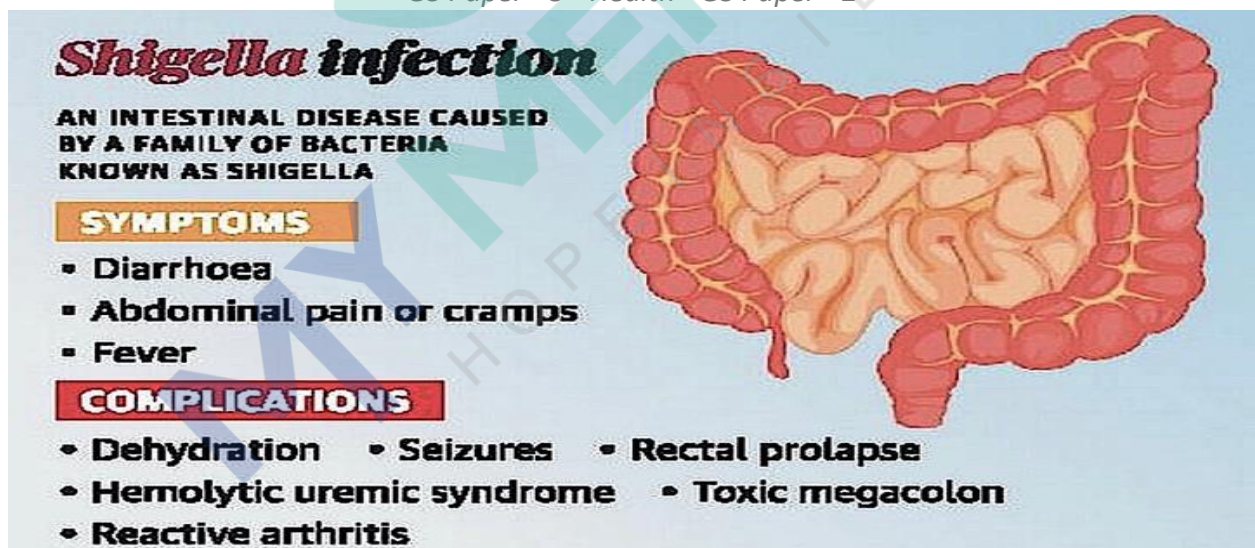
**WHAT ARE THE SCHEMES RELATED TO DISABILITY?**

- **Accessible India Campaign: Creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs**
- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)**
- **DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**
- **National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities**
- **Unique Disability Identification Project**
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
- **National Mental Health Programme.**

Source:TH

**OUTBREAK OF SHIGELLA BACTERIA**

*GS Paper - 3 - Health - GS Paper - 2*



**Shigella infection**

**AN INTESTINAL DISEASE CAUSED BY A FAMILY OF BACTERIA KNOWN AS SHIGELLA**

**SYMPTOMS**

- Diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain or cramps
- Fever

**COMPLICATIONS**

- Dehydration
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome
- Reactive arthritis
- Seizures
- Rectal prolapse
- Toxic megacolon

**WHY IN NEWS?**

An **outbreak of shigella bacteria** is believed to be the reason behind the recent incident of suspected food poisoning in **Kasaragod district, Kerala**.

- Earlier in 2019, the bacteria were found in Koyilandy district, Kerela.

**WHAT IS SHIGELLA BACTERIA?**

- **About:** Shigella is a genus of bacteria that causes an **infection called shigellosis**. It is the **second leading cause of diarrhea (after Rotavirus)** worldwide and the third leading cause of death in children less than 5 years old.



- The annual number of shigellosis episodes **throughout the world is estimated to be 164.7 million.**
- **Possible Symptoms:** Symptoms include diarrhoea, fever, stomach cramps which can last for seven days.
- **Transmission:** Shigella is generally transmitted through contaminated food or water, or through person-to-person contact.
  - Shigellosis is primarily a disease of **poor and crowded communities** that do not have adequate sanitation or safe water.
- **Incubation Period:** The incubation period of shigellosis is **typically 1–4 days.**
- **Different Species:** The severity of the disease varies by the infecting species:
  - **Shigella dysenteriae infections** usually cause dysentery, which may also occur in infection with Shigella flexneri .
  - **Shigella boydii and Shigella sonnei** often have self-limited watery diarrhea.
- **Vaccines:** Currently, there are **no vaccines** available for shigellosis.
- **Medium Priority Bacteria:** Due to the increasing rate of multidrug resistance, in particular resistance to **fluoroquinolone** in Asian and African regions, this has been classified as a medium priority for research and development of new and effective antibiotic treatments by the **WHO Priority Pathogens List of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.**

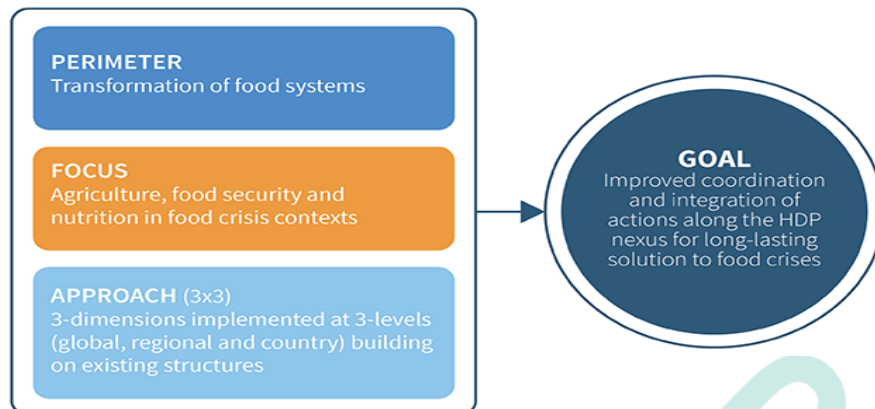
#### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT PROTOCOL?

- **Hydration:** The cornerstone of shigella treatment is the maintenance of hydration and electrolyte balance.
  - In young children, **oral rehydration with a reduced osmolarity solution** is indicated to treat the WHO-defined category of some dehydration and is preferable to intravenous fluids unless severe dehydration is present.
- **Use of Antibiotics:** Although shigellosis is primarily **self-limiting**, **antibiotics** are recommended for reducing illness duration and for preventing transmission.
  - The current drugs of choice are **third-generation cephalosporins (ceftriaxone or cefixime) and macrolides (azithromycin).**
- **Public Hygiene:** Handwashing is said to reduce **shigella transmission by 70%**. Recommended public health control measures are exclusion of ill people with shigellosis from work, food preparation, and childcare.

[Source: TH](#)

## GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST FOOD CRISES (GNAFC)

*GS Paper - 2 - Health - Government Policies & Interventions*



### WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, an annual report named **Global Report on Food Crises 2022** was launched by the **Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)**.

- The report is the **flagship publication** of the **GNAFC** and is facilitated by the **Food Security Information Network (FSIN)**.

### WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK?

- FSIN is a **global initiative co-sponsored** by **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, **World Food Programme (WFP)** and **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** to strengthen food and nutrition security information systems for producing reliable and accurate data to guide analysis and decision-making.

### WHAT IS GNAFC?

- It was Founded by the **European Union, FAO and WFP** in 2016.
- It is an **alliance of humanitarian and development actors** working together to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises and support the **Sustainable Development Goal to End Hunger (SDG 2)**.

### WHAT ARE THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT?

- **About:**
  - **Some 40 million more people globally experienced acute food insecurity** at crisis or worse levels in 2021 than 2020.
    - **Over half a million Ethiopians, southern Madagascar, South Sudanese and Yemenese** are suffering from acute food insecurity.
  - **Over 193 million people in 53 countries** or territories experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels in 2021.
- **Main Drivers for Food Insecurity:**
  - **Conflict:**
    - Conflict forced **139 million people in 24 countries / territories into acute food insecurity**.

- This is an increase from 99 million in 23 countries / territories in 2020.
- **Weather Extremes:**
  - It forced over **23 million people in eight countries / territories into acute food insecurity**, up from 15.7 million in 15 countries / territories in 2020.
- **Economic Shocks:**
  - Over **30 million people in 21 countries / territories suffered acute food insecurity** in 2021 due to economic shocks, down from over 40 million people in 17 countries / territories in 2020.

### WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTIONS?

- **Need to have an Integrated Approach:**
  - There is a need to have an **integrated approach to prevention, anticipation, and better targeting to sustainably address the root causes of food crises**, including structural rural poverty, marginalization, population growth and fragile food systems.
- **Need to Prioritize Smallholder Agriculture:**
  - The report demonstrated the **need for a greater prioritization of smallholder agriculture** as a frontline humanitarian response, to overcome access constraints and as a solution for reverting negative long-term trends.
- **Strengthening a Coordinated Approach:**
  - The need is to **strengthen a coordinated approach** to ensure that humanitarian, development and peacekeeping activities are delivered in a holistic and coordinated manner.

### WHAT IS THE STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN INDIA?

- **About:**
  - According to the **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, 2021** India, the **country with the largest stock of grain in the world**, 120 million tonnes (as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021) accounts for a **quarter of the world's food-insecure population**.
  - Estimates show that, in 2020, over 237 crore people were grappling with food insecurity globally, an increase of about 32 crores from 2019.
    - **South Asia alone accounts for 36%** of global food insecurity.
- **Related Initiatives:**
  - **PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)**
  - **One Nation One Ration Card**
  - **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana**
  - **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi**
  - **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 Scheme**

## US' ROE V. WADE CASE 1973

GS Paper - 2 - Health - Government Policies & Interventions - Issues Related to Women



### WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, a leak by political journalism company Politico has revealed that, the US Supreme Court has decided to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, 1973 the court's landmark 1973 judgment that made abortion a constitutional right.

### WHAT IS ROE V. WADE JUDGMENT?

- In 1973, in the landmark **Roe vs Wade judgment**, the Supreme Court of the United States made the **right to abortion a constitutional right**, establishing a benchmark for **abortion laws across the world**.
- In this case, the US Supreme Court struck down laws that **made abortion illegal in several states and** ruled that abortion would be allowed up to the **point of foetal viability**, that is, **the time after which a foetus can survive outside the womb**.
  - Foetal viability was around **28 weeks (7 months)** at the time of the **Roe judgment**, experts now agree that advances in medicine have brought the threshold down to **23 or 24 weeks (6 months or a little less)**.
  - Foetal viability is often seen as the point at which the **rights of the woman can be separated from the rights of the unborn foetus**.
  - Abortion laws across the world rely on this metric but those **opposing abortions argue that this is an arbitrary timeframe** that legislation and the court in Roe adopted.

### WHAT IS THE DEBATE REGARDING ABORTION?

- The abortion debate is the ongoing controversy **surrounding the moral, legal, and religious status of induced abortion**.
- In many western countries, the sides involved in the debate are the self-described "**pro-choice**" and "**pro-life**" movements.
  - Pro-choice emphasizes the **woman's choice whether to terminate a pregnancy**.
  - On the contrary, the pro-life position **stresses the humanity of both the mother and fetus**, arguing that a fetus is a human person deserving of legal protection.



- Each movement has, with varying results, **sought to influence public opinion and to attain legal support for its position.**
- Many people believe that abortion is **essentially a moral issue**, concerning the beginning of **human personhood, rights of the fetus, and bodily integrity.**

#### WHAT IS THE PRESENT CASE?

- The current case pertains to challenging the **Mississippi law on abortion.**
- In 2018, the state of **Mississippi banned most abortions after 15 weeks** — much before fetal viability, and sooner than was allowed by Roe — throwing a direct challenge to the **1973 judgment.**
- In 2019, **“heartbeat” abortion law** was passed in Mississippi, an even more restrictive measure that banned most abortions once fetal cardiac activity could be detected — which is about six weeks.
- The **heartbeat law** said that physicians who performed an **abortion after a fetal heartbeat** was detected could have their medical licenses revoked.
  - The law made **no exceptions for pregnancies caused by rape or incest.**
- This law too was blocked by a district judge, and in **February 2020, the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans agreed with the decision.**

#### WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF THE JUDGEMENT?

- Since there is **no federal law** protecting the right to abortion in the US, the overturning of Roe **would leave abortion laws entirely up to the states.**
- In essence, in overlooking the checks and balances of **Roe vs Wade** and in **disabling personal agency**, the matter will no longer be set within the **paradigm of women’s rights.**
- It is also likely to impact the **larger framework of human rights, tilting it away from the poor and the voice-less.**

#### WHAT ARE ABORTION LAWS IN INDIA?

- Under the **Indian Penal Code, 1860**, abortion remains a criminal offence under **Section 312.**
  - However, the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP)** And its amendment simply provides an exception to the criminalization.
- The MTP Act, 1971 allows **abortion until 20 weeks of pregnancy.**
- Through an amendment in 2021, the **ceiling for abortions was raised to 24 weeks**, but only for special categories of pregnant women such as **rape or incest survivors, that too, with the approval of two registered doctors.**
- In the case of fetal disability, **there is no limit to the timeline for abortion**, but that is allowed by a medical board of specialist doctors set up by the governments of states and union territories.