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QR CODE-BASED TRACK-AND-TRACE MECHANISM FOR MEDICINES

Context

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has notified **amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945** to expand the ambit of **Schedule H2** and bring additional categories of drugs under the QR Code-based track and trace framework.

About

- Under the amended provisions, all vaccines, antimicrobials, narcotic and psychotropic drugs covered under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**, and all anti-cancer drugs have been included under Schedule H2 of the Drugs Rules, 1945.
 - The requirement for QR Code-based identification was earlier applicable to the top **300 pharmaceutical brands** in the country.
- Schedule H2 provides for the affixation of a Bar Code or Quick Response (QR) Code** on the packaging of specified drug products to facilitate their authentication and traceability across the supply chain.
- Manufacturers of these drug formulations will be required to **print or affix a Bar Code or Quick Response (QR) Code** on the primary packaging label of the product or, where there is inadequate space, on the secondary packaging label.

Information in the QR Code

- The QR Code shall store information that can be **accessed through software applications to facilitate authentication and verification** of the product throughout the supply chain.
- The QR Code shall carry nine key data elements** for each drug product, namely;
 - The unique product identification code, proper and generic name of the drug, Brand name, name and address of the manufacturer, batch number, date of manufacture, date of expiry, manufacturing licence number, and details of excipients.

Need for the QR Code System

- Combat Counterfeit Medicines:** Counterfeit medicines containing incorrect, diluted or no active pharmaceutical ingredients pose serious public health risks.
 - In 2025, a massive health crisis erupted in **Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district**, resulting in the deaths of more than 20 children under the age of five.

- To Prevent Tampering and Diversion:** The system helps detect medicines that have been tampered with, diverted into illegal supply chains or repackaged using genuine containers.
- Improve Drug Recall Mechanisms:** Digital traceability enables regulators and manufacturers to quickly identify the location of affected batches and carry out targeted recalls.

Significance of the Mechanism

- The traceability mechanism will **facilitate authentication of medicines** at various stages of the supply chain and enable **improved tracking and verification** of drug products.
- It will also contribute to the **national fight against Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)** by enabling better identification and monitoring of counterfeit and substandard antimicrobial products.
- The system will **strengthen India's drug regulatory framework** and support progress towards the **World Health Organization Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) Maturity Level 4**, the highest level of regulatory maturity.

Challenges in Implementation

- Increased cost:** Implementing the system would require the companies to put in place mechanisms for generating these **unique codes for every packet** and **a tracking platform** allowing these to be logged at every stage.
- Possibility of Incorrect Registration:** If there is a delay in logging the genuine product and the counterfeit gets logged into the system, then the genuine drug might come across as counterfeit.
- Digital Infrastructure:** The system requires seamless digital integration and real-time data sharing among manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and regulators to ensure effective traceability.

Concluding remarks

- The QR code-based system is a major reform that will strengthen pharmaceutical supply-chain integrity, and improve patient safety through end-to-end digital traceability.
- In the long run, the initiative will reinforce India's position as a trusted global supplier of quality medicines while advancing the objectives of Digital Health and Good Governance.

Source: PIB, IE

FLAMINGO REVOLUTION

Context

- People in Albania have launched the “Flamingo Revolution” to oppose a proposed \$1.6 billion luxury resort project.

About

- The project includes constructions on **Sazan island and Vjosa-Narta**, a **wetland home for flamingos, seals and nesting sites for sea turtles**, creating concern over the government’s negligence towards environmental degradation.
- In 2024, the Albanian government brought in a new law that **stripped away Albania’s ecosystem protection**, allowing construction on land considered “protected” under EU’s “Natura 2000”.
 - Protesters claim no consultation was held before approving the project.
- The **Flamingo Revolution** began over **environmental concerns** but now have turned **into anti-corruption rallies** asking for the resignation of Albania’s Prime Minister Edi Rama.
- The protests are gaining international attention, recently the **European Parliament pressed Albania to stop the construction in protected areas**.

About Albania

- Albania is a country in **southern Europe**, located **in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula** on the **Strait of Otranto**, the southern entrance to the **Adriatic Sea**.
- The capital city is **Tirana (Tiranë)**.
- Albania is bounded by **Montenegro** to the northwest, **Kosovo** to the northeast, **North Macedonia** to the east, **Greece** to the south, and the **Adriatic and Ionian seas** to the west and southwest, respectively.



- Albania is mainly a mountainous country**, 28% is made of mountains, and 47% are hills, whereas the plains comprise 25%.

- Albania is also a **member of NATO** and it is not a member of EU but is actively negotiating its membership.

Flamingos

- Flamingos are **tall, long-legged wading birds** belonging to the family **Phoenicopteridae**.
 - They are famous for their **pink plumage, long necks, and uniquely curved beaks** adapted for filter feeding.



- There are **six living species of flamingos** found **across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas**.
 - Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*).
 - Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*).
 - American / Caribbean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*).
 - Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*).
 - Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*).
 - James’s / Puna Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*).
- In India, the Greater Flamingo and Lesser Flamingo are found, especially in coastal wetlands and salt pans.
 - Main threats include** habitat degradation, pollution, disturbance at breeding sites, and climate change affecting wetlands.
 - Greater Flamingo (IUCN):** Least Concern.
 - Lesser Flamingo (IUCN):** Near Threatened.

Source: IE

‘SUMAN ROADMAP 2030’ TO STRENGTHEN MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTHCARE

Context

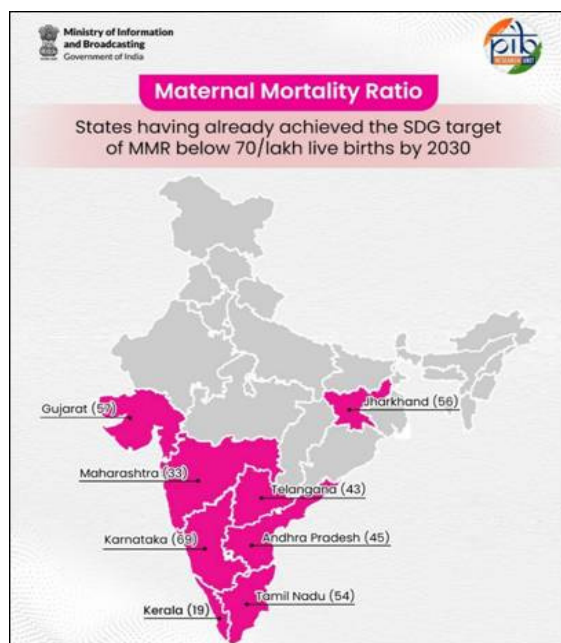
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, launched the **SUMAN Roadmap 2030** to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare.

About SUMAN Roadmap 2030

- The SUMAN Roadmap 2030 has been designed as a comprehensive national strategy to accelerate progress toward the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030** related to maternal and newborn health.
- The framework seeks to **reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030**, while also lowering **neonatal and infant mortality** rates and advancing the goal of zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
- It focuses on **130 districts across 13 high-focus states**, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal.

What is Maternal Mortality?

- Maternal death** is the death of a **woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy**, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or **aggravated by the pregnancy** or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** is the number of maternal deaths per **1,00,000** live births.
- Maternal Mortality Rate:** This is calculated as maternal deaths to women in the ages **15-49 per lakh of women** in that age group, reported under SRS.
- The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1** targets reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than **70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030**.



Government Initiatives to Reduce MMR

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Launched in **2005** with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, JSY promotes institutional delivery among pregnant women especially with weak socio-economic status.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY),** is a maternity benefit program run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
 - The maternity benefit, of **Rs. 5000/-**, is available to a woman for the first living child of the family subject to fulfilment of conditionalities.
 - Further under '**Mission Shakti**', the scheme (PMMVY 2.0) provides additional cash incentive for the second child, **if that is a girl child**.
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** Launched in 2016, PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality Antenatal Care on the **9th day** of every month.
- LaQshya:** Launched in 2017, LaQshya aims to improve the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure the quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.
- Capacity building** is taken-up for MBBS doctors in **Anesthesia (LSAS) and Obstetric Care including C-section (EmOC)** skills to overcome the shortage of specialists in these disciplines, particularly in rural areas.
- Maternal Death Surveillance Review (MDSR)** is implemented both at facilities and at the community level. The purpose is to take corrective action at appropriate levels and improve the quality of obstetric care.
- Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition.
- Reproductive and child health (RCH) portal** is a name-based web-enabled tracking of pregnant women and new-born to ensure provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.

Innovations in Maternal Healthcare

- Madhya Pradesh's 'Dastak Abhiyan':** A community-driven campaign that focuses on early detection of maternal health risks and ensures timely medical intervention.

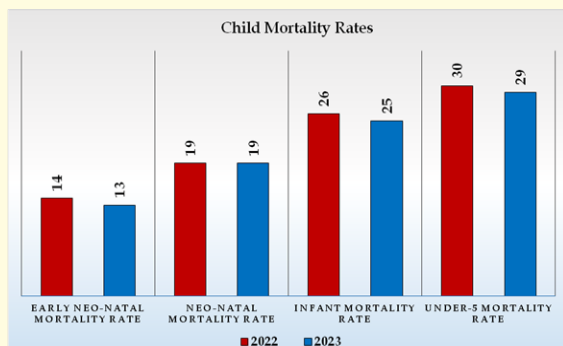
- **Tamil Nadu's Emergency Obstetric Care Model:** A robust referral system that ensures pregnant women receive timely emergency care, reducing maternal complications.

Challenges Still Faced in India

- **High Out-of-Pocket Expenses (OOPE):** Despite policy efforts, families often bear the cost of diagnostics, medicines, and private services during emergencies.
- **Sociocultural Barriers:** Gender dynamics, low education levels, restricted decision-making power among women, and stigma around maternal care all delay early care-seeking.
- **Rise in High-Risk Pregnancies:** Trends such as delayed childbirth, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and short inter-pregnancy intervals contribute to riskier pregnancies.
- **Weak Infrastructure in Remote Areas:** Rural, tribal, and hilly regions lack emergency obstetric care, reliable transport, and blood storage facilities.

About Child Mortality

- **Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (ENMR):** It is the number of deaths of live-born infants during the first **seven** days of life per 1,000 live births in a given year.
- **Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR):** It is the number of deaths of live-born infants during the first **28** completed days of life per 1,000 live births in a given year.
- **Infant Mortality Rate:** The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a given year.
- **Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR):** It is the number of deaths of children before reaching five years of age per 1,000 live births in a given year.



Way Ahead

- India has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality, successfully achieving the National Health Policy (NHP) target of an MMR below 100 by 2020.
 - ♦ However, continued efforts are required to reach the SDG target of MMR by 2030.
- Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, expanding maternal health programs, and addressing socioeconomic barriers will be critical in further reducing maternal mortality in the country.

Source: PIB

WHAT INDIA'S 12 'OPERATIONALLY DEPLOYED' NUCLEAR WARHEADS MEAN?

Context

- **The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 2026 report** for the first time classified **12 of India's estimated stockpile of 190 nuclear warheads to be operationally deployed.**

Stockpiling and Deployment:

- **Stockpile:** For most of its nuclear history, India has kept its warheads in a **de-mated state**, meaning the warheads were **stored separately from their delivery vehicles**, under strict civilian and political oversight.
 - ♦ The idea was to **maximise safety, reduce the risk of accidental use, and signal restraint** to the international community.
- **Deployment** means a weapon has been **paired with a delivery system** i.e. a **missile, aircraft, or submarine**, and **positioned with operational military forces** in a state of readiness.
 - ♦ This does not mean the weapons are about to be used; it means **they are configured for use if authorised.**
- A **de-mated weapon requires time** to prepare and deploy; a **mated weapon can, in principle, be launched more quickly.**

What Does Deployment by India Means?

- A fraction of India's arsenal now is being **maintained in a state of operational readiness.**
 - ♦ SIPRI has linked this assessment to the **maturation of India's nuclear triad**, particularly its sea-based deterrent.

- ♦ It suggests that a **small number of warheads may now be deployed** aboard a nuclear ballistic missile submarine (which are also called SSBN) **conducting occasional deterrence patrols.**
- SIPRI also noticed **India's increasing reliance on canisterised Agni-series missiles.**
 - ♦ This means the missiles are kept ready with fuel in a sealed cylinder, from which they can be directly fired without further preparations.
 - ♦ Canisterisation thus **indicates a greater level of operational readiness.**
- Overall, India's long-envisioned **deterrent posture is becoming increasingly operational** across land and sea-based delivery systems, **but doesn't mean that the country is on a war footing.**

Treaties Related to Nuclear Disarmament

- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):** It was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970, the NPT aims **to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.**
 - ♦ It divides the world into **nuclear-weapon states (NWS)**, recognized as possessing nuclear weapons at the time of the treaty's signing, and **non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS)**, which agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.
 - ♦ It requires NWS to pursue disarmament negotiations in good faith.
 - ♦ **India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan** have not signed the NPT.
- **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):** Adopted by the United Nations in 2017 and opened for signature in 2018, the TPNW aims to prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons.
 - ♦ It represents a significant step towards nuclear disarmament, although it has not been signed by nuclear-armed states.
- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** Opened for signature in 1996, the CTBT aims to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes.

- ♦ While the treaty has been signed by 185 countries and ratified by 170, it has not entered into force as nuclear-armed states must ratify it to become operational.
- **Outer Space Treaty:** This multilateral agreement **entered into force in 1967** and bans the siting of weapons of mass destruction in space.
 - ♦ All nine states believed to have nuclear weapons are parties to this treaty.

India's Policy Towards Nuclear Weapons

- **No First Use:** India has a declared nuclear no-first-use policy, under which it will not use nuclear weapons as a means of warfare unless first attacked by nuclear weapons.
- **Non-Use Against Non-Nuclear Weapon States:** India has committed to not using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.
- **Retaliation Only:** India's nuclear doctrine asserts that nuclear weapons are solely for deterrence and that India will pursue a policy of 'retaliation only'.
- **Multilateral Legal Arrangements:** India is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements.

Conclusion

- India's nuclear choices must be understood from **within the evolving security environment.**
- SIPRI has noted that India's **modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing long-range delivery systems** capable of reaching targets throughout China — while continuing to account for Pakistan.
 - ♦ India's SSBN programme appears directed as much towards **maintaining credible deterrence against China as towards preserving stability with Pakistan.**
- India's evolving deterrent posture should therefore be seen **not as an isolated development but as part of a wider transformation in the global strategic environment.**

Source: TH

HAMBURG SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE 2026

Context

- According to the **Global Report on Food Crises 2026 (GRFC 2026) report**, more than 266 million

people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity across 47 countries.

Key Findings of the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2026

- **High Acute Hunger:** Around **266 million people (22.9% of the assessed population)** experienced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025.
 - ♦ It has remained above **20% since 2020**, and nearly doubled compared to 2016.
- **Regional Distribution of Hunger Crisis:** Ten countries accounted for nearly **two-thirds of the global burden**.
 - ♦ They are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
 - ♦ Among these, Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen witnessed the **gravest crises**.
- **Catastrophic Hunger:** About 1.4 million people in six countries were classified under the 'Catastrophe' (IPC Phase 5) category, the **highest level of acute food insecurity**.
 - ♦ It represents a nine-fold increase since 2016.
 - ♦ **Famines were declared in Gaza and parts of Sudan**, marking the first time in GRFC history that **famine was identified in more than one country** in the same year.
- **Child Malnutrition:** Nearly **35.5 million children** suffer from acute malnutrition.
 - ♦ Around **10 million children** faced severe acute malnutrition.
- **Conflict as the Primary Driver:** Conflict and insecurity affected **147.4 million people across 19 countries**, overtaking extreme weather as the leading driver of hunger.
 - ♦ Prolonged conflicts have disrupted agriculture, markets, livelihoods and humanitarian access.
- **Declining Financing:** Funding for food crisis responses has fallen to levels last seen during **2016-17**.
 - ♦ Reduced surveys by the **World Food Programme (WFP)** and **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** have weakened global monitoring systems, resulting in underestimation of the actual crisis.

Hunger Crisis and India

- India was not among the countries covered under the GRFC's acute food crisis assessments.
- At the **Hamburg Sustainability Conference 2026**, India attained its **highest-ever position in the UN SDG Index**, ranking **94th among 167 countries**, up from 99th position in 2025, with an overall score of **68.3/100**.
- It reflects progress in poverty reduction; sanitation and healthcare; digital governance and social protection delivery.
 - ♦ However, progress towards **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** remains uneven.
- According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-21)**:
 - ♦ **35.5%** of children under five years are **stunted**.
 - ♦ **19.3%** are **wasted**.
 - ♦ **32.1%** are **underweight**.
 - ♦ More than **57%** of women aged 15-49 years are **anaemic**.
 - ♦ Around **67%** of children (6-59 months) suffer from **anaemia**.

Major Concerns

- Persistent child undernutrition despite improvements in food availability;
- Significant inter-State and regional disparities in nutritional outcomes;
- High prevalence of anaemia among women and children;
- Climate variability, agrarian distress and livelihood vulnerabilities.

Related Efforts and Initiatives

- **Global Initiatives:**
 - ♦ UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)
 - ♦ Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
 - ♦ World Food Programme (WFP) interventions
 - ♦ FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Initiatives & Efforts In India

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** It provides subsidised food grains to nearly two-thirds of India's population.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):** It ensures free food grains to NFSA beneficiaries.

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan and Mission POSHAN 2.0:** It aims to improve nutritional outcomes among women, children and adolescent girls through convergence and technology-enabled monitoring.
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):** It provides supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health check-ups and pre-school education.
- **PM-POSHAN Scheme:** It provides cooked mid-day meals to school children to improve nutrition and educational outcomes.
- **Anaemia Mukt Bharat:** It targets reduction of anaemia among women, adolescents and children.
- **Eat Right India Initiative:** It promotes safe, healthy and sustainable dietary practices.
- **Implemented by:** The Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and the Digital India Corporation.
- The platform uses the **Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS)**. IIDS enables two-way communication between farmers and experts. It supports lab-to-land transfer of agricultural knowledge.
- **Kisan Sarathi app connects farmers with:**
 - ♦ 730+ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);
 - ♦ 100+ ICAR institutes;
 - ♦ 65+ agricultural universities.
- **Features:**
 - ♦ Personalized advisory based on farm and farmer profile.
 - ♦ Live interaction in 13 regional languages with domain experts.
 - ♦ Call facilities and conferencing support as per the farmer's needs.
 - ♦ Access to the farmer's knowledge database.

Way Forward: Tackling the Hunger Crisis in India

- Shift from **food security to nutrition security** by **promoting diversified diets** including pulses, millets, fruits and vegetables.
- Strengthen **climate-resilient agriculture** through drought-resistant crops, irrigation expansion and sustainable farming practices.
- Enhance **maternal and child healthcare**, particularly during the first **1,000 days of life**.
- Improve convergence among **health, agriculture, sanitation and social protection programmes**.
- Strengthen **data systems and real-time nutrition monitoring** for targeted interventions.
- Increase investment in **social protection and nutrition programmes**, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Promote **community participation and behavioural change** regarding dietary practices, sanitation and childcare.
- **Significance:**
 - ♦ Farmers can get region-specific, real-time advisories on weather updates, market prices, and more.
 - ♦ Helps farmers discover government schemes suitable to their specific needs.
 - ♦ Farmers can easily access the mandi prices and district-wise market rates for major crops.
 - ♦ It improves query resolution and strengthens the transfer of technology from lab to field.

Source: PIB

PM MODI HAILS REVIVAL OF ANCIENT 'SHASTRARTH' TRADITION AT NALANDA UNIVERSITY

Context

- PM Modi praised Nalanda University for **reviving the ancient Indian tradition of Shastrarth (scholarly debate)**.

About

- The ancient Indian tradition of **Śāstrārtha** is the **scholarly discourse and dialogue on scriptures and philosophical subjects**.
 - ♦ Śāstrārtha served as a primary method of **teaching, learning and testing knowledge** through rigorous intellectual discourse at **the ancient Nalanda and Vikramshila universities**.

Source: DTE

NEWS IN SHORT

KISAN SARATHI PLATFORM

Context

- **Kisan Sarathi**, launched in **2021**, is India's largest integrated **digital agro-advisory platform**.

About

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

- The tradition was recently revived through “**Sāstrārtha 2026**”, organised ahead of **Nalanda university’s third convocation**.

Nalanda

- It is the **first residential university of the world** founded at Nalanda by the **Emperor Kumaragupta in 427CE in Rajgir, Bihar**.
- It flourished for **over 800 years till the end in 12th century CE**.
- It is believed to possess **2,000 teachers and 10,000 students**.
- Nalanda had attracted scholars to its campus from places as distant as **China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and South East Asia**.
 - ♦ The most detailed accounts have come from Chinese scholars and the best known of these is **Xuan Zang**, who carried back many hundred scriptures which were later translated into Chinese.
- **Revival: In 2006**, the former President of India, **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam proposed the revival of the ancient Nalanda**.
 - ♦ The Parliament of India passed the Nalanda University Act, 2010.

Source: DD

PROJECT BRAHMANK MARKS ITS 16TH RAISING DAY

Context

- Project BRAHMANK of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 16th Raising Day at Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh.

About

- The Project was raised on 29 June 2011 at Ranaghat, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, and became fully functional in December 2011.
- The Project is responsible for development and maintenance of strategic road infrastructure across the **Siang, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang and Shi-Yomi districts of Arunachal Pradesh**, as well as parts of **Dhemaji district in Assam**.
- The Project is entrusted with the maintenance and development of **811 km** of roads and approximately **86 bridges**, ranging from culverts to major steel and arch bridges.

Source: PIB

PM FAMILY CARE TRACKER (PM-FCT)

Context

- Union Home Minister launched the pilot project of PM Family Care Tracker at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

About

- The integrated digital platform will **track the health, nutrition and education of beneficiaries** from pregnancy until the age of 18 using a unique ID linked to the Birth Registration Number or ABHA ID.
 - ♦ The system will integrate data from multiple government platforms, and monitor key indicators including vaccination, malnutrition, school enrolment and dropout rates.
- The platform also features **digital Health Passports for individuals and families, dashboards** to facilitate delivery of government welfare schemes, and **automated alerts** for missed vaccinations and other essential health services.
- **Significance:** The PM-FCT is designed as a family-centric digital platform, rather than maintaining separate records for different schemes, allowing authorities to track the health and welfare status of every family member through a single interface.

Source: AIR, TH

BAAZ BATTALIONS

Context

- The Indian Army is set to establish specialised drone units called “Baaz Battalions”.

About

- The battalions will build on the Army’s existing **Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Flights** that will provide a dedicated organisational framework for drone operations across different theatres.
- The specialised units will comprise trained personnel focused exclusively on operating and managing drone systems, strengthening intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities while improving target acquisition and real-time battlefield awareness.
- The decision to establish the Baaz Battalions has been driven by lessons from the LAC standoffs with China, the effective use of drones during **Operation Sindoor** against Pakistan, and recent global conflicts, particularly the **Russia-Ukraine war**.

Source: India Today