

India sees over 30% decline in suicide death rates from 1990 to 2021: Lancet Study

The Lancet study has analysed data from Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2021.

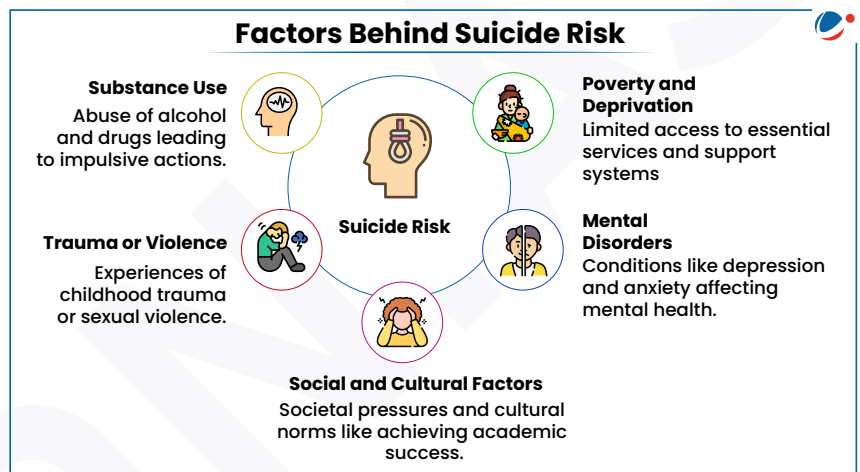
➤ Study highlighted that at global level one person dies on average every 43 seconds by suicide.

India related Findings

- **Suicide death rate:** Declined from 18.9 per lakh population in 1990 to 13 per lakh population in 2021. A greater decline was observed for females than men.
 - ⊕ **For Females:** Declined from 16.8 (1990) to 10.3 (2021).
 - ⊕ **For Males:** Declined from 20.9 (1990) to 15.7 (2021).
- **Most Vulnerable Section:** Highest suicide death rates were among educated women in India in 2020, with family problems being the most common factor.

Initiative/Factors responsible for reducing Suicides

- **Decriminalization:** Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 has decriminalized suicide.
 - ⊕ There is no equivalent section in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) like Section 309 of erstwhile IPC which made suicide a criminal offence.
- **National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2022):** Aims to reduce suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.
- **WHO's Mental health action plan 2013–2030:** Recognizes the essential role of mental health in achieving health for all people.
- **Other initiatives:** National Mental Health Policy (2014), SDG target 3.4 (promotes mental health), Toll-free helplines like Manodarpan and KIRAN, etc.



Intensified Non Communicable Disease (NCD) screening campaign launched by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

The campaign is a part of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).

- NCD divisions have been established at National, State and District level to ensure planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.
 - ⊕ National NCD Division is headed by Joint Secretary (NCD), MoHFW and Deputy Director General (DDG) is the technical head at the Directorate General Health Services
- **Aim:** Ensure 100% screening of individuals aged 30 years & above.
- **Coverage:** prevalent NCDs, including Diabetes, Hypertension, and three common cancers (Oral, Breast, and Cervical)
- **Strategies adopted:** Door-to-door outreach, availability of essential medical supplies, Real Time Monitoring, Multi-Level Coordination (at block, district, state levels) etc.

Non Communicable Diseases and its Status

- **NCDs are chronic diseases** that are not transmissible from one person to another.
- **Status:** It accounts for 63% of all deaths in India (74% globally) (WHO- 2018).
 - ⊕ **Contributors:** Cardiovascular Diseases (27%), Chronic Respiratory Diseases (11%), Cancers (9%), Diabetes (3%) etc.

Reasons behind rising trend of NCDs

- **Behavioural Factors:** Tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), alcohol use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, air pollution (indoor & outdoor)
- **Biological and Physiological Factors:** Overweight/obesity, raised blood pressure or blood sugar, high cholesterol etc.
- **Others:** Stress, hereditary factors etc.

Steps Taken to Control NCDs

- **National Health Mission** provides support for quality health care especially for the underserved and marginalized groups in rural areas.
- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme** provides for quality generic medicines at affordable prices.
- **Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)** aims to provide affordable medicines for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular diseases etc.
- **Eat Right India movement** by FSSAI promotes healthy eating.

RBI's Bulletin analyzes Quality of Public Expenditure and its Socio-Economic Impact in India

The analysis comes against the backdrop of capex push by the Centre and States.

- It has constructed a **Quality of Public Expenditure (QPE)** index to empirically examine the association between quality of public spending and socio-economic outcomes.
- QPE includes factors such as **capital outlay to GDP ratio, revenue expenditure to capital outlay ratio, development expenditure to GDP ratio, interest payments to total expenditure ratio** etc.

Key Findings

- It has categorised India's public expenditure trajectory since 1991 into six distinct phases:-

- 1991-95 (Post-Liberalisation Phase):** Witnessed fiscal consolidation at the cost of capital and developmental spending.
- 1996-2003 (Pre-FRBM Years):** Rising debt burdens and stagnant public investment
- 2003-08 (FRBM Implementation):** Rules-based fiscal discipline improved capital outlays and led to reduced interest payments.
- 2008-13 (Global Financial Crisis):** Countercyclical measures strained fiscal stability while supporting economic recovery.
- 2013-20 (GST & Fiscal Devolution):** Transitioning to GST and higher fiscal devolution reshaped expenditure priorities.
- 2020-25 (Pandemic Response):** Infrastructure-led recovery drove capital expenditure despite elevated borrowing.

- Higher expenditure quality** aligns with **stronger economic performance and improved social outcomes.**
- While the Centre's **expenditure quality** is more strongly associated with **GDP growth, States' expenditure quality** has a greater impact on the **human development index (HDI).**

Role of Public Expenditure

- Enhancing Public Goods and Services:** Spending on education, healthcare, and infrastructure improves human capital and productivity.
- Supports Private Investment:** crowds in private investment by spurring demand and expanding productive capacity
- Promoting Macroeconomic Stability:** by fostering sustainable growth and maintaining fiscal discipline.
- Importance of Capital Expenditure:** Prioritizing capital expenditure over revenue spending enhances long-term economic growth.

Risks of High Public Expenditure

- It may lead to **higher budgetary deficits, higher interest rates, reduced national savings** and may **erode government credibility and investor confidence.**

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) warns OTTs (over-the-top) against 'obscene content'

The advisory has been issued to **Online Curated Content Publishers (OTT platforms) and Self-regulatory Bodies of OTT platforms.**

- Over-the-Top** means a media service that offer access to the film and television content provided over the internet connection.

Key Aspects of the Advisory

- Adhere to the **Code of Ethics** under the Part III of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** (IT Rules, 2021).
 - Code of Ethics** provides that OTT platforms shall not transmit any content which is prohibited by law, undertake age-based classification of content, etc.
 - It provides for a three-level **institutional mechanism for redressal of grievances.** Three level includes
 - Level-I:** Self-regulation by the publishers;
 - Level-II:** Self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the publishers;
 - Level-III:** Oversight mechanism.
- Comply with the **provisions of laws which prevent publication of obscene or pornographic content.** It includes
 - Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986,
 - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act 2012 ,
 - Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and
 - Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), 2023

OTT Regulation Challenges

User Verification Issues

Difficulty in age verification complicates parental controls.

Freedom of Speech

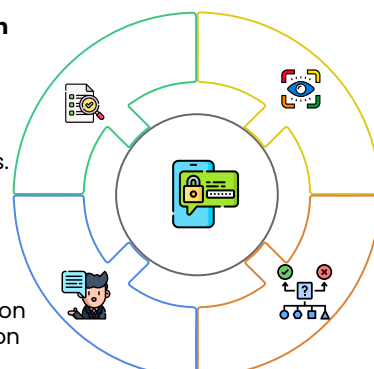
Balancing regulation with free expression is complex.

Lack of Clarity

Ambiguity in defining content categories hampers regulation.

Inefficient Rules

Existing rules fail to effectively manage content ratings.



Microsoft launched Majorana 1 Quantum Chip

It is the world's **First quantum chip** to be powered by new **topological core architecture**.

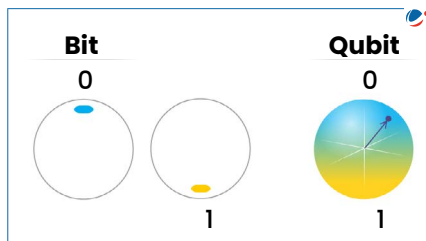
- It will revolutionize the development of quantum computers because it more **stable** and **scalable** quantum computing components.

About Majorana 1

- Uses the first-ever **topoconductor (topological superconductor)**
 - A **topoconductor** is a special category of material that can create an entirely new state of matter – not a solid, liquid or gas but a topological state.
 - Material is made from **indium arsenide (a semiconductor)** and **aluminum (a superconductor)**.
- Uses a **superconducting nanowire** to observe the particles and can be controlled with standard computing equipment.
- Relies on a **subatomic particle** called the **Majorana fermion**
 - Majorana **fermion** is a hypothesized fermion that is both a **particle** and its **antiparticle**; it has the same properties either way and whose existence was first theorized in the 1930s.

Why Majorana 1 is a Big Development?

- It requires **fewer qubits (or quantum bit)** than rival chips and also has **error rates are lower** compared to other rival chips like Google (Willow), IBM, etc.
 - Qubit** is the basic unit of information in quantum computing.
- Combining with AI can deliver transformative and real-world solutions** such as breaking down microplastics into harmless byproducts, etc.



Supreme Court (SC) stays Lokpal order giving itself jurisdiction over High Court judges

SC observed that **all judges (High Court and Supreme Court) are appointed under the Constitution**, implying immunity from Lokpal jurisdiction.

Lokpal's Observations

- Lokpal in a recent order had classified **High Court judges as "public servants"** under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**, subjecting them to its jurisdiction.
 - However, previously, Lokpal had ruled that **Chief Justice of India (CJI) and SC Judges do not come under Lokpal's jurisdiction** as the SC was not established by an Act of the Parliament.
- Basis of reasoning:** High Courts were **established by British Acts** (e.g., Indian High Courts Act, 1861) and **pre-date the Indian Constitution**, unlike the Supreme Court, which was created by **Article 124** of the Constitution.

Jurisdiction of Lokpal (Under Section 14 of Lokpal Act, 2013)

- Former/ Present Prime Minister:** Excludes matters of **international relations, security, public order, atomic energy, and space.**
 - Initiation of Inquiry requires a full bench of Lokpal {(Chairperson + all Members) with at least 2/3rd of its members approval}
- Former/Present Minister of Union or Member of either House of Parliament**
- Government Officials:** Group 'A', 'B', 'C', or 'D' serving in connection with the affairs of the Government of India.
- Chairpersons/Member/Officer/Employee of any body, authority, company, trust, etc;**
 - Established by an Act of Parliament or Partially or wholly funded or controlled by the Central Government, or**
 - Received foreign donations greater than ₹10 lakh/year under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.**

Also In News



Article 101(4)

A jailed MP petitioned the Punjab and Haryana High Court for permission to attend Parliament to avoid disqualification under Article 101(4).

About Article 101(4)

- If for **sixty days** a member of either House of Parliament is **without permission of the House absent** from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant.
 - The 60 days, however, do not account for "any period during which the House is **prorogued or is adjourned for more than four consecutive days**".



Stagflation

Recent news reports indicate a return of **stagflation** in the **US market**.

About Stagflation

- Definition:** Stagflation is an economic condition combining **slow economic growth, high unemployment, and rising inflation.**
 - Creates dilemma for policymakers**, as addressing one issue (e.g., inflation) may worsen another (e.g., unemployment).
- Causes:** Often triggered by **supply-side shocks** (e.g., sudden oil price increases) that raise production costs, leading to inflation and reduced economic activity.
- Effects:** Declines in living standards and **heightened economic uncertainty** due to fast-rising prices and sluggish growth.



International Finance Corporation

World Bank's private lending arm has withdrawn from funding for waste incineration projects in Gujarat.

About IFC

- It is a member of the World Bank Group.
- It has been established in 1956 and is Headquartered at Washington
- India is a Member
- It is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets.
- Aim: Leverage the private sector to transform ideas into investments for green growth, inclusive jobs, and impactful projects.



Mount Dukono

Recently, a volcano erupted at Mount Dukono in Indonesia.

Mount Dukono

- About: With a height of 1,087 metres above sea level, it is one of Indonesia's 127 active volcanoes.
 - Location: on Halmahera Island
- Other major volcanoes erupted recently in Indonesia**
- Mount Merapi: Located near the city of Yogyakarta.
 - Mount Ruang: It is a stratovolcano located in the Sulawesi Islands.
 - Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki: Located in Flores island



Vijay Durg (Fort William)

Fort William in Kolkata, the headquarters of the Eastern Army Command, recently has been renamed Vijay Durg.

About Vijay Durg

- It was named after King William III of England.
 - ⊕ Renaming to 'Vijay Durg' pays homage to the oldest fort on Maharashtra's Sindhudurg coast, which served as naval base during Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's reign.
- It is located on the banks of the river Hoogly.
- Black Hole Tragedy took place on June 20, 1756 in Fort William.
 - ⊕ Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula imprisoned British captives in a tiny cell overnight, causing many deaths from suffocation and extreme heat, it is known as Black Hole Tragedy.



Prime Minister Internship scheme (PMIS)

The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) is once again open for applications with the launch of Round 2 of the pilot phase.

About PMIS

- **AIM:** To harness the potential of India's youth population by providing them with 12 month paid internships in top companies of India.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- **Beneficiaries:** Individuals aged 21 to 24 who are currently not enrolled in any full-time academic program.
- **Benefits**
 - ⊕ Financial assistance of ₹5,000, supplemented by one-time financial assistance of ₹6,000.
 - ⊕ 12 months real-life experience in India's top companies
 - ⊕ Insurance coverage for every intern under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana



Biomarker

A team of researchers in India have identified common metabolites across cancers, like pancreatic cancer and lung cancer that could serve as universal cancer biomarkers.

About Biomarker (biological marker)

- **Definition:** A biomarker is an objective measure of biological processes in a cell or organism, detected through biological molecules in blood, fluids, or tissues.
- **Key Applications:**
 - ⊕ **Disease Diagnosis:** E.g., Offers a non-invasive method for early cancer diagnosis
 - ⊕ **Promotes Personalized treatment:** By identifying individuals' unique genetic or molecular profiles.
 - ◆ Also tracks how well a patient responds to treatment



Personality in News



Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915)

India remembers the visionary leader Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his death anniversary

About Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- **Birth:** Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra

Key Contributions

- He became Secretary of the Sarvajanik Sabha and was also associated with the journal 'Sudharak'.
- Founded: Servants of India Society in 1905.
- The Indian National Congress session of 1905 was held under his leadership.
- Mahatma Gandhi referred to Gokhale as his mentor and guide.

Values: Nationalism, liberalism, leadership, etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI