



SOCIAL ISSUES



Classroom Study Material 2022

(September 2021 to June 2022)

SOCIAL ISSUES

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Previous Year Question

A reference sheet of syllabus-wise segregated previous year questions from 2014-2021 (for the Social Issues Section) has been provided. In conjunction with the document, it will help in understanding the demand of the exam and developing a thought process for writing good answers.



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A NOTE FOR THE STUDENTS

Dear Students,

- Precision of content in good answer is no longer a dispensable luxury, but a simple necessity. And the preparation to write a precise answer starts well before one picks up a pen and starts to formulate the answer. A good understanding of the topic asked along-with a ready set of data and examples assists one in approaching the most difficult of the questions.
- This is further assisted by a good presentation style, which depicts the information in an easy-to-understand manner.



In this context, we made few changes to the Mains 365 documents last year, which included

Topic at glance:

which gave a comprehensive view of the topic, connecting the current and static aspects along-with providing necessary data and facts.

Infographics:

Designed in a manner that they can be readily used in the answers

Previous years questions:

A QR code linked syllabus wise segregated list of previous years questions was added.

Along-with these, this year we have made few more additions to help you revise the topics and approach answers in a precise manner, these include:

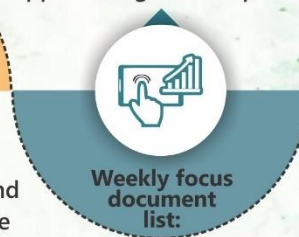
have been designed and added in the articles to help you identify and revise the important datasets of the topics.



Appendix:

An appendix of key data and facts has been added at the end of the document to facilitate quick revision.

A QR code linked list of relevant Weekly focus documents has been added in the end of the document to ensure easiness in approaching these topics.



We hope that these additions will help you not only developing a comprehensive understanding of the topics but also provide the necessary inputs to write effective and well-presented answers.

Knowing is not enough: we must apply. Willing is not enough: we must do.

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

All the best!
Team VisionIAS



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1. ISSUES RELATED TO VULNERABLE SECTION

1.1. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT A GLANCE



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- The United Nations defines human trafficking as: **“Human trafficking involves recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, for the purpose of exploitation.”**
- The 3 most common types of human trafficking are **sex trafficking, forced labour and debt bondage.**



CAUSES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Poverty
- Social/cultural practice of devaluing women & girls.
- Migration
- Pandemic
- Porous borders
- Rise in industries employing forced labourers.



IMPACT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- **Mental disorders** including depression and anxiety for the victims.
- Women and girls are always at the risk of **unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, etc.**
- **Stigmatization, Intolerance and Social Inclusion acts as a deterrence for the victims** to reintegrate to their former society.
- **Trafficked Children are deprived of their basic rights such as the right to life and education** have been deprived.



LEGISLATIONS IN INDIA

- Trafficking in Human Beings or Persons is prohibited under the Constitution of India **under Article 23 (1).**
- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)** is the premier legislation for the prevention of human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013** has come into force wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A IPC which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking.
- **Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill 2021.** This Bill aims to tackle all aspects of trafficking including the social and economic causes of the crime, punishment to traffickers, and the protection and rehabilitation of survivors.



WAY FORWARD

- It is important that we **draw a line between prostitution (voluntary sex service) and sex trafficking.**
- There is a need to **ensure proper data sharing, internally in an administration or between agencies** like the police or the NGOs, or between the different countries as well.
- **Proper enforcement of the existing laws**
- Society needs to be made **sensitive toward victims of human trafficking.**

1.2. WOMEN

1.2.1. WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

Why in news?

It has been 25 years since the Bill was first introduced in the Parliament but could not be passed despite numerous attempts.

Why India needs a Women Reservation Bill?


- According to various international reports, **development in India is being severely hampered by the breadth of the gender gap** and limited female participation in traditionally male dominated institutions and social strata.

History of Women Reservation Bill in India


The Women Reservation Bill (**Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2010**) has witnessed a tumultuous journey in Parliament and has been opposed on many grounds.

DATA BANK

Women Reservation Bill



Only 9.1% women ministers are there in the Parliament, against international average of nearly 22% (Global Gender Gap Report 2021).



India ranks 148th out of 193 UN member nations, in the **proportion of elected women representatives in Parliament** according to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

JOURNEY OF THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

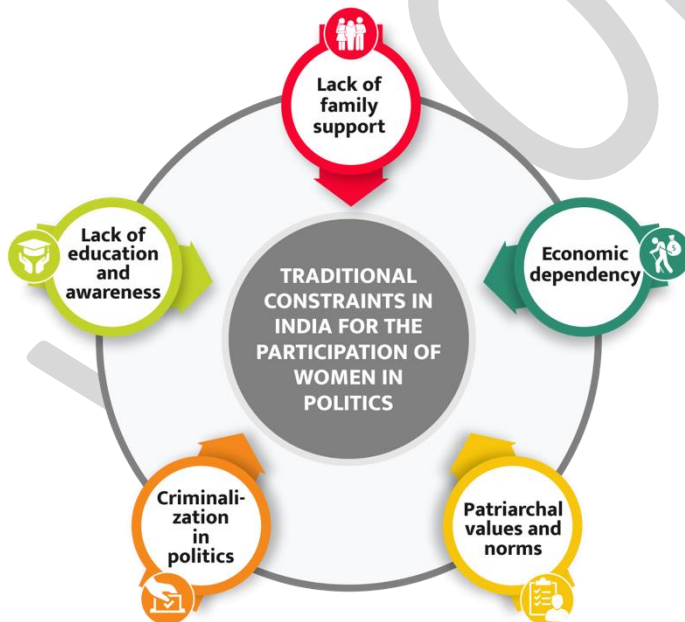
Idea originated from 73rd and 74th amendment acts in 1993 that stated that one third of sarpanch (or council leader) positions in the gram panchayat should be reserved for women.

First introduced in 1996 as 81st Constitutional Amendment Bill, the bill was then reintroduced in 1998, 1999 and 2008.

It was referred to a standing committee in 2008 and **in 2010, it was passed in the Rajya Sabha** and transmitted finally to the Lok Sabha.

However, the Bill **lapsed with the 15th Lok Sabha.**

◆ Not introduced since then!



“The concept of democracy will only assume true and dynamic significance when political parties and national legislatures are decided upon jointly by men and women in equitable regard for the interests and aptitudes of both halves of the population.”

- Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1994

Key provisions of the bill

- To **reserve 33% seats in Lok Sabha** and **all state legislative assemblies** for women.
- Reserved seats may be **allotted by rotation to different constituencies** in the state or union territory.
- Reservation of seats for women shall **cease to exist 15 years** after the commencement of this Amendment Act.

Arguments in favour of and against the bill

Arguments supporting the bill	Arguments against the bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is essential for active political participation of women that will help them fight the abuse, discrimination, and inequality they suffer from. Critical for sustainable progress against human development indicators. Political participation of all sections of society is essential for building a functioning, representative democracy. Women's political participation can provide the inspiration for women to take action on a vision of a better and more equal society, and to make meaningful contributions towards inclusive national development. It is intrinsic to eliminate gender discrimination and strengthening women's empowerment as enshrined by equality of rights and freedoms in the Preamble and Constitution of India. Encouraging experience of reservation for women in panchayats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gram panchayats with elected women leaders invested more in the public goods closely linked to women's concerns and resulted in a subsequent increase in the percentage of female local leaders contesting and winning elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would perpetuate the unequal status of women since they would not be perceived to be competing on merit. Reservation would only help women of elitist groups gain political power, aggravating the plight of the poor and deprived sections. Rotation of reserved constituencies in every election may reduce the incentive for an MP to work for his constituency as he may be ineligible to seek re-election from that constituency. It may perpetuate a "proxy culture" or a similar concept of "sarpanch pati" when elected women will not have real power and will act on behalf of a male decision-maker. Diverts attention from the larger issues of electoral reform such as criminalisation of politics and inner party democracy. Legislative positions may go to women at the cost of certain qualified men losing out.

Is there any alternative to Women Reservation Bill?

- An alternative to women's reservation is the idea of **ensuring reservation within political parties**. Countries like **Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, and Norway** etc., reserve seats for women within the political parties, but do not have quotas for women in Parliament.
 - The **Election Commission of India has suggested mandatory candidate quotas for women** at party level that will require ordinary amendment in the Representation of the People Act.
- Similarly, another alternative is introducing **dual-member constituencies**, which means constituencies, instead of reserving seats for women, will nominate two members, one being a woman.
- However, **lack of rigorous evidence on the efficacy of these alternatives has limited the scope** for adoption of these practices worldwide.

Way ahead

Both **political commitment and rigorous evidence** is necessary to deliberate and debate this legislation and ensure its passage in Parliament thereby bridging the critical gender gap in political and legislative decision-making.

Additionally, strategies such as bringing **change in the male dominated value system** prevalent in the politics and organizing **awareness and leadership development programs** for women to boost their confidence must be implemented to increase women's participation in the politics.

Constitutional provisions for women's political empowerment:

- Article 15 (3)**, the State is empowered to make "special provisions", legislative or otherwise, to secure women's socio-political advancement.
- Article 325**: Guarantees equal rights for both sexes, and entitles women to enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political rights on an equal footing with men.

International agreements that support proactive state measures for women's political development:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**: Ratified by India in 1993, it provides appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full advancement of women and to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country.
- The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), 1995** endorses affirmative action for women in the political spheres for the achievement of democratic transformation, women's empowerment and achieving the goals of sustainable development.

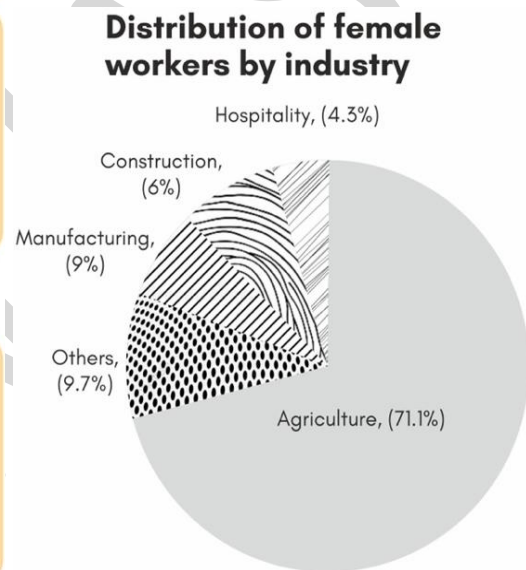
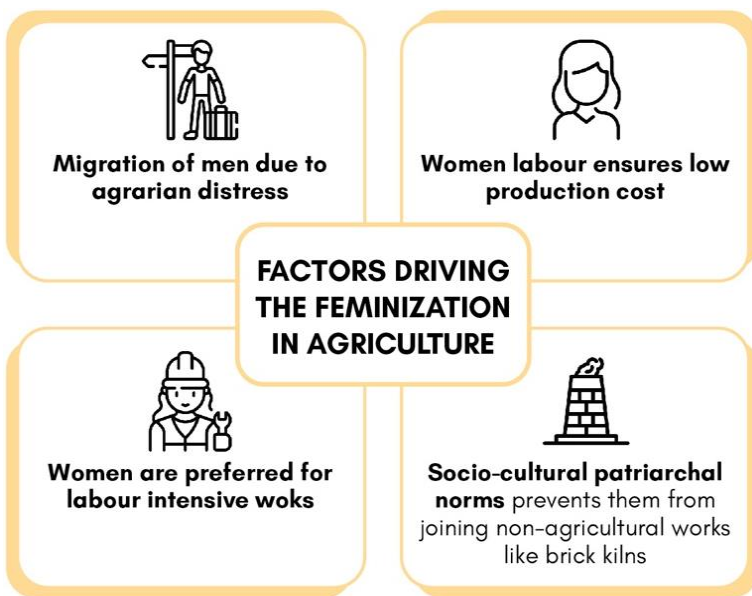
1.2.2. FEMINIZATION OF AGRICULTURE

Why in news?

The Periodic Labour Force Survey or PLFS (2019-2020) data shows a surge in female labour force participation rate in agriculture.

More in News

- There has been a **rise in workforce engaged in agriculture** to 45.6 per cent (2019-20) from 42.5 per cent (2018-19).
- Also, there has been a **sharp increase in the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** by 5.5 percentage points (from 2018-19). Much of this is **driven by** the increased LFPR of rural women.
- Almost the **entire rise in the workforce was accommodated by agriculture**.
- This phenomenon of increased participation by women, in agriculture is referred as the **‘feminization of the Agri-workforce’**.
 - With regard to employment, the term can be used to denote feminization of a particular sector or industry where there is a **disproportionate concentration of women**.



Feminisation in agriculture is good	Feminisation in agriculture is bad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminisation brings women into the public sphere and allows them to socialize with various communities. • It does make their labour visible and many a time their labour may be accounted for (though this is not always the case). • It can potentially lead to building women’s skills and confidence. • It can give them an opportunity to organize, and enhance their bargaining power. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several studies indicates that feminization of agricultural have a negative impact on agricultural output as women face more difficulties in use of technology, credit, and market information. • According to a study, more engagement in agriculture in peak seasons is associated with a decline in nutrients. • Women have been confined to traditional, low paying roles such as winnowing, harvesting which furthers the gender economic disparity. • They are additionally burdened with household chores that undermines the well-being of women in agriculture.

Ways for empowering women in the field of agriculture

- **Ownership of land:** This will help them in accessing benefits under multiple agricultural schemes that are only reserved for landowners.
- **Women centric extension services:** Adapting extension services to the needs of women farmers will be beneficial. Under farm mechanization, a focus on innovating farm machines that are better suited to female use will be rewarding.

- **Reforms in policy making:** Finding ways to increase female representation on the decision-making forums is a must.
- **Gender budgeting:** In 2020-21, only 5 per cent of the total budget was sensitive to gender neutral outcomes and focused specifically on women-centric schemes. This has scope to be increased.
- **Role of civil society:** Civil society can also play an important role in organizing agrarian women into collectives, educating them about their rights, enabling access to the state, and giving them sustainable livelihood training.
 - This can be seen in the work of **Deccan Development Society in Telangana, or Musahar Manch and ActionAid** in some districts of **eastern Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Strengthen alternative economic opportunities** through schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and National Rural Livelihood Mission.



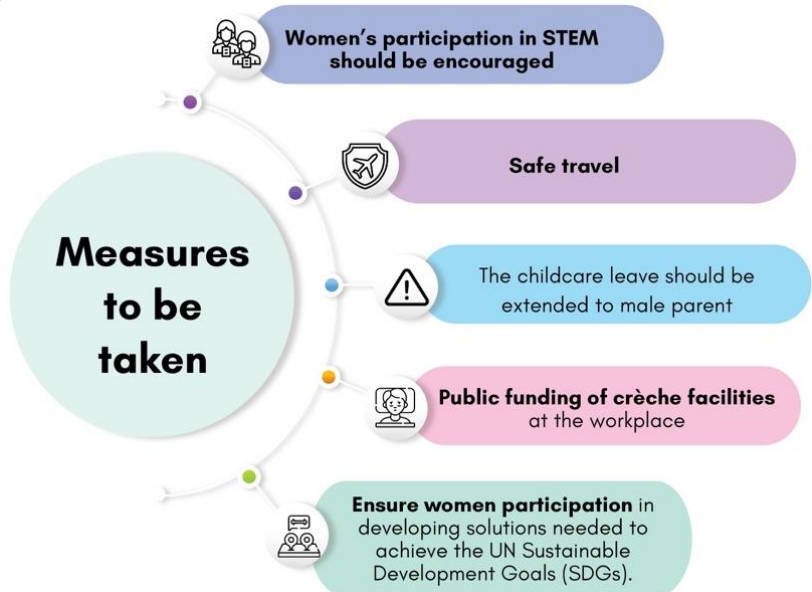
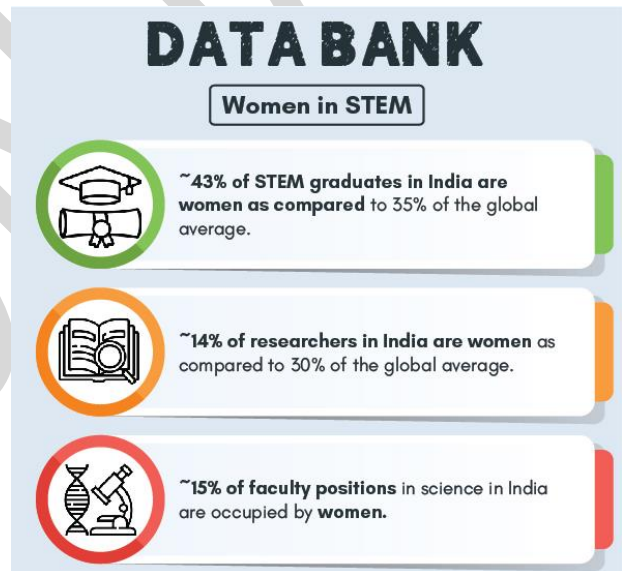
1.2.3. WOMEN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)

Why in news?

Recently, “Picture a Scientist” documentary depicts the groundswell of women scientists working to further gender equity in STEM with the aim to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in science.

What are the challenges associated?

- **Patriarchal culture**
- **Lack of infrastructure:** Of the 11% colleges in India exclusively reserved for women, the majority offer programs in Arts and Commerce rather than Science.
- **Repercussions of perceived “women-friendly” measure:** In some institutes, to ensure their safety, women are advised to work only during official hours, while men can access labs any time.
- **Gender gap:** Women in the field of STEM are known to be paid less for their research work compared to men.



Government initiatives to promote women in STEM

- **Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme** to encourage women scientists.
- **SERB (Science and Engineering Research Board)-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research):** It aimed to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding.
- **Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:** It encourages girl students of Class 9 to 12 to pursue education and career in S&T particularly in the areas where women are under-represented.
- **GATI Scheme:** The **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)** will develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM.
- **Indo-US Fellowship for Women in 'STEMM'** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine).

Conclusion

Transforming the culture of STEM fields is the key to narrowing the gender gap. Action must be taken to broaden the cultural norms of STEM professions.

1.2.4. PERMANENT COMMISSION

Why in news?

Recently, **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** made induction of women fighter pilots in Indian Air Force (IAF) a permanent scheme.

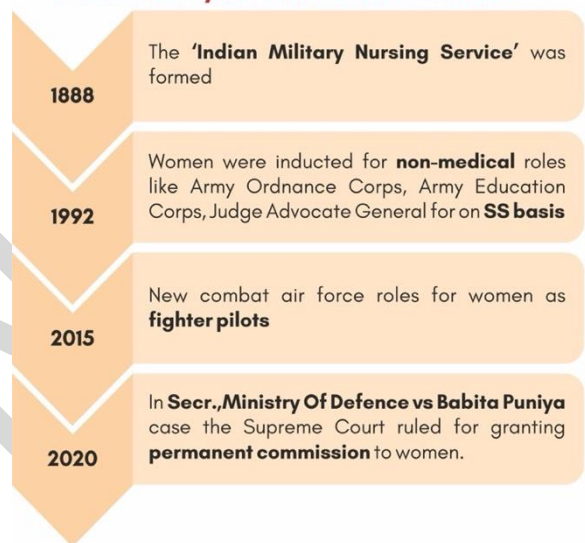
More about news?

- Ministry has decided to **convert Experimental Scheme for Induction of Women Fighter Pilots in IAF into a permanent scheme.**
 - A total of 16 women have been commissioned as fighter pilots after the experimental scheme for their induction.

About permanent commission

- Permanent commission means **a career in the armed forces till retirement.** Under short service commission, the Army allows **10-year service with an option of a 4-year extension.**
- After the intervention of Supreme Court, the Centre decided to **accord permanent commission to women in defence force.**
 - Currently, Indian **Army, Air Force and Navy** enlist only **0.56%, 1.08% and 6.5% of female candidates,** respectively.
 - Women comprise 10% of the Russian Armed Forces and 16% of US.

Gradual Entry of Women in Defence Forces



Reasons for not granting permanent commission to women	Reasons for permanent commission to women
Low acceptance of women in leadership roles among male soldiers	Denial of such post to women violated Right to equality and nourished stereotype behaviour about women's ability.
Physical limitations as women may not meet the physical criteria which was met by their male counterpart.	Relaxation for physical criteria is already provided to soldiers from hilly state. Same principle should be applied for women also.
Women are vulnerable to sexual harassment, lack of physical infrastructure like separate toilet, etc.	Merit should be the fundamental basis for induction and promotion at workplace.

Relevance of granting eligibility for permanent commission to women

- **Improved sex ratio:** Increased job security and extended tenure will likely improve the currently skewed ratio of male to female officers.
- **More opportunities for women:** Previously, women were not eligible for the ranks of colonel, brigadier, major general and so forth as these could only be obtained after 14 years of service.
- **Voice in decision making:** Since women would be promoted to higher posts, they would take more gender sensitive decision.

- **Retirement benefits:** Pension, ex-servicemen status, a healthcare scheme and provision for re-employment would be available to women in permanent commission.
- **Spinoff social benefits:** More women in defence forces would raise the social status of women.

Way ahead

- **Accommodating women centric needs:** Motherhood has significant role in nation building. Therefore, career paths that offer more realistic ways to return to military service after an extended absence due to childbirth should continue to be developed by the military services.
- **Opening combat wings for women:** Women officers still cannot serve in infantry, artillery and armoured corps combat wings even though Indian women have been on battleground before independence era. Therefore, experts believe that military need to change with the changing times.
- **Make military lucrative for women:** Veteran women defence candidates should be encouraged to share their exciting journey with common people. They should spread the words about how fulfilling and honourable this service could be.
- **Training since childhood:** Recently Sainik schools have opened the doors for girls also. It would provide adequate opportunities to girls for training and overcome the physical barriers.

1.2.5. MARRIAGE AGE OF WOMEN

Why in news?

Recently, the Prohibition of Child Marriage or PCMA (Amendment) Bill, 2021, that proposes to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

More on news

- The bill is based on recommendations submitted to NITI Aayog in December 2020 by **the Centre’s task force**, headed by Jaya Jaitly. It was constituted to examine matters pertaining to
 - age of motherhood,
 - imperatives of lowering MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate),
 - improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.
- **Key highlights of the draft Bill**
 - The draft bill would **amend the PCMA, 2006**.
 - As per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, **the marriageable age is 21 for males and 18 for females**.
 - **Aim:** To bring women on a par with men in terms of marriageable age, overriding all existing laws, including any custom, usage or practice governing the parties pertaining to marriage.
 - **Definition of child:** “Child” means a male or female who has not completed 21 years of age’.

DATA BANK

Child Marriage

- 1/3rd of the child brides** in the world are Indian (the largest).
- 16% adolescent girls** (approximately) aged 15-19 are currently **married**.
- 785 cases were registered** under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (NCRB, 2020).

Historical perspectives of age of Marriage in India

Ancient India

The Vedic India clearly and categorically declared that a woman must cross *dwidasham* (20 years of age) to marry. In all 18 Puranas of ancient India, there's no mention of a young girl getting married at an early age.

Medieval India

Brahmin girls were married between ages eight and ten from sixth century onwards up to the modern times.

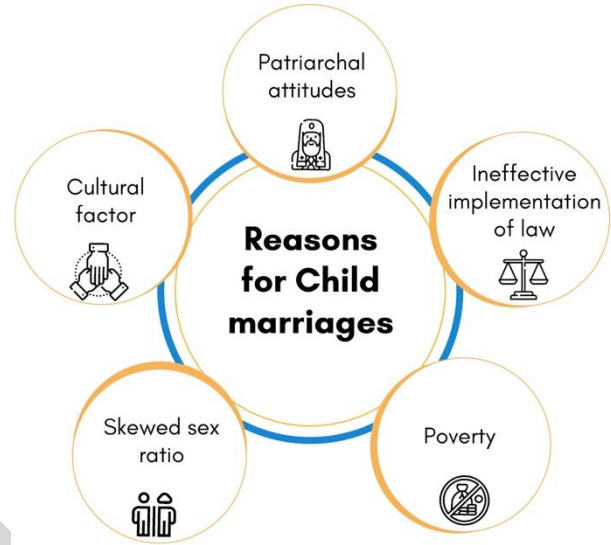
Post colonial era

- The Special Marriage Act, 1954, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.
- In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid.

Colonial era

- Age of Consent Act, 1891: Raised the age to consent for sex from 10 to 12 years without directly addressing the age at marriage.
- Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 (popularly known as Sarda Act): Fixed the minimum age of marriage for girls to 14 years and boys to 18 years.

- **Laws that will be superseded:**
 - ✓ The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872,
 - ✓ The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936,
 - ✓ The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937,
 - ✓ The Special Marriage Act, 1954,
 - ✓ The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and
 - ✓ The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.



Positive aspects of raising the marriage age	Criticism of raising the age of marriage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender-neutrality: The amendment has been proposed to fulfill the spirits of the Constitution by as it would ensure and gender neutrality when it comes to marriage and facilitate women empowerment. ● Reducing child marriage: Raising the age of marriage can aid in enhanced awareness about the repercussion of child marriages and reducing the same further. ● Women empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education: Several girls are forced to drop their studies for marriage, and increasing the minimum legal age required to marry to 21 would give them time to pursue higher education. ○ Economic participation: Marriage at a young age means not even a quarter of women in India get into the labor force despite accounting for almost half of the 1.3 billion population. ○ Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Physical health: An early age of marriage, and consequent early pregnancies, have adverse impacts on nutritional levels of mothers and their children. It also has an impact on IMR and MMR. ✓ Psychological health: Teenage brides may not be mature enough to deal with household responsibilities. This may reflect badly on the mental health of such women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Divergence in women’s education and economic participation: Despite rise in women’s enrolment in higher education, their participation in economy has not risen commensurately. Therefore, the proposed legislation may not address the social and cultural patriarchal norms that hinder women empowerment. ● Rise in average age of marriage: According to government data from 2019, the average age to marry for women is 22.1 years. The change has taken place largely as the education rate among women has improved. ● Not a solution for child marriage: Even with the legal age of marriage for women being kept at 18 years, child marriages continue to prevail in India. ● Safest age for pregnancy: Mortality experienced by the cohort aged 20 years to 24 years (roughly those marrying at ages 18 years and higher) is by far the lowest of all age groups. ● Abuse of law: The law would end up being coercive, and in particular negatively impact marginalised communities, such as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, making them lawbreakers. ● Contradicts with other laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A person upon reaching the age of 18 could vote but could not exercise the right of choice to marry. ○ As per the 2013 Criminal Law Amendment Act, age of consent for sexual activity is 18 years. ○ The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2016 allows adolescent in the age group of 14-18 years to work except in hazardous occupations and processes.

Way ahead

- **Comprehensive public awareness campaign be chalked out** to encourage social acceptance of the decision.
- **Empowerment of women through** access to schools and universities for girls, including transportation in the case of educational institutes in far-flung areas. Sex education be formalised and introduced in the school curriculum.
- **Targeted approach for reducing Child marriage:** Girls belonging to socio-economically weak families are forced into child marriages and providing them financial support will automatically raise the age of marriage among women.
- **Alternative way of ensuring gender neutrality:** In 2018, the Law Commission of India had suggested decreasing the minimum legal age of men from 21 to 18 years and recommended keeping both the genders' minimum legal age to marry as 18 years.

Other related news

Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954

- Recently, the Supreme Court prima facie accepted the view of an Arya Samaj organisation that **weddings solemnised under the Arya Samaj tradition do not need registration under the SMA, 1954.**
- SMA deals with **inter-caste and inter-religious marriages** and allows people to get married without giving up their religion.
- When a person solemnizes marriage under this law then the marriage is **not governed by personal laws but by this law.**
- The SMA requires couples intending to marry under the law to give a **30-day notice period to a marriage officer of the district in which at least one of the parties has resided in last 30 days.**
 - Thus, this law **places a question mark on the safety and privacy of those intending to marry** across religions.
- **NOTE:** In India, **marriages are typically governed by personal laws** such as the Hindu Marriage Act, the Indian Christian Marriage Act, Muslim personal law etc.

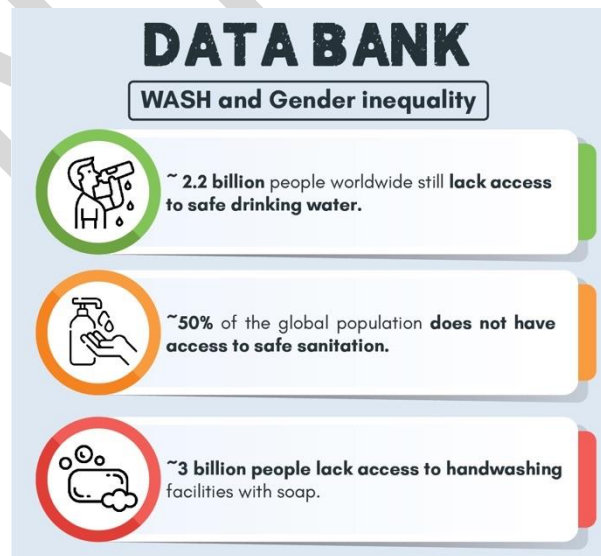
1.2.6. WASH AND GENDER INEQUALITY

Why in news

Recently, a report titled 'Gender equality and the Human rights to Water and Sanitation' has been released by the UN special repertoire on the Human rights to water and sanitation.

About WASH

- WASH is a collective term for **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** relating to
 - Access to safe drinking water
 - Improved sanitation facilities
 - Maintaining basic level of hygiene
- WASH is a **prerequisite to prevent infections** like cholera, diarrhea (the 2nd leading cause of childhood mortality in India), and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)
- Moreover, WASH is an important component of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2030**
 - **SDG3: Good health and well-being**
 - ✓ Combating water-borne diseases (3.3)
 - ✓ Reducing death and illness from unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene (3.9)
 - **SDG 6: Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water sanitation for all.**
- According to the 2020 analysis by the World Resources Institute:
 - Securing water for communities across the world by 2030 could cost **just over 1% of global GDP.**
 - It would take **India 3.2% of the GDP to deliver sustainable water management** by 2030.



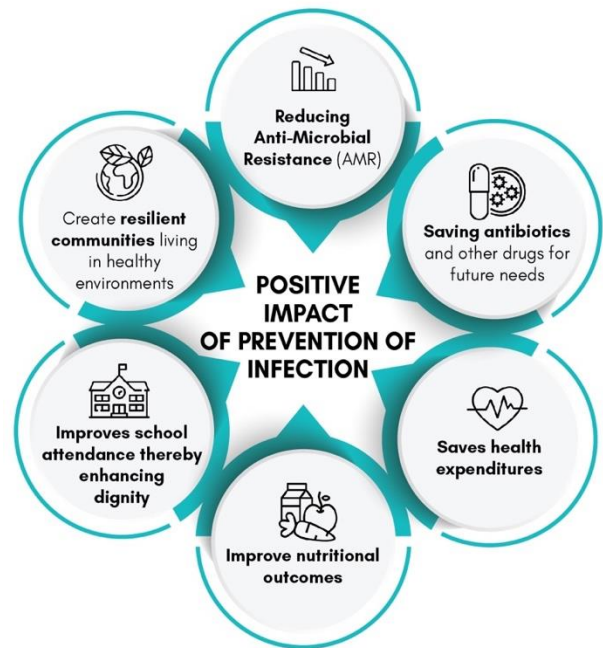
Gender inequality in WASH: Women are discriminated against their male counterpart throughout their life cycle (refer to the infographic), some of them could be listed as follows.

- **Knowledge gap:** Women and men often have differentiated access, use, experiences, and knowledge of WASH.
- **Accessibility gap:** In humanitarian situations, including in times of conflict or natural disaster, when water and sanitation sources are at a minimum, the specific needs of women and girls are often not considered.

- **Affordability gap:** Women's lower access to financial resources, pay-per-use toilets with the same user free for men and women are in practice often more expensive for women.
 - **Water cut-offs may excessively affect women** as family caretakers, in particular in poor female-headed households.
- **Discriminatory laws:** For example, criminalize open defecation while at the same time closing down public sanitation facilities affects women disproportionately.

Other challenges in WASH

- **Spending gap:** Government budgets for financing WASH remains low. Private sector investment is also insufficient, given the lack of legal frameworks, associated risks, and low returns in the WASH business.
- **Lack of accountability:** Few WASH programmes are reviewed for their impact using high-quality evaluations.



DISCRIMINATION OCCURS THROUGHOUT THE LIFECYCLE OF A WOMAN



Steps that need to be taken to strengthen WASH system including removal gender inequality

- **Affordability:** Safe and hygienic menstruation materials should be subsidized or provided free of charge when necessary.
- **Accessibility:** States must prioritise WASH provision to households not yet served. Also, scale up the construction of safe and nearby community toilets.
- **Gender sensitive building code:** To reduce the risk of women and girls experiencing violence, building codes for community water and sanitation facilities should include gender considerations such as sex segregated cubicles, closeness to the house and lighted pathways to and at facilities.
- **Gender sensitive legal guarantee for WASH:** Laws related to gender equality must explicitly address the different experiences of men and women.
- **Women participation and empowerment:** Participation encompasses women's power to influence decisions, to make individual choices and to control their own lives. Such participation must ensure that women from all socioeconomic strata has adequate representation in decision making.
- **Other initiatives:** Build local governments' capacities, coordination with the private sector and civil society and evaluation of various plans and policies at the country, regional and global levels.

Impacts of Gender discrimination in WASH

- Gender inequality in access to WASH facilities affect a wide range of other human rights, including women and **girls' rights to health, to adequate housing, to education and to food.**
- For example, women and girls who hold their urine for long periods of time have a higher risk of bladder and kidney infections. In addition, they tend to avoid consuming liquids to prevent having to use the toilet, as a result of which many become dehydrated.

Related information

International initiatives for WASH

- **WHO WASH Strategy, 2018-25:** Its vision is to substantially improve health through the safe management of water, sanitation and hygiene services in all settings.
- **UNICEF strategy for WASH 2016-2030:** Its purpose to guide UNICEF's organization-wide contribution to achieving SDG 6 by 2030.

- **UN Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF):** It was launched in 2020 by the UN to provide accelerated funding to countries with the heaviest burden of diseases stemming from lack of sanitation services. It also aims to raise \$2 billion over the next five years for these countries.
- **Sanitation and Water for All (SWA):** It is a global partnership of governments, donors, civil society organizations and other development stakeholders that coordinates on improved accountability and resource allocation. It is being hosted by the UNICEF.

Initiatives taken by India for WASH

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Launched in 2019 to provide every rural household with water supply by 2024
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):** On October 2, 2019, all the villages in the 36 States and Union Territories of India were declared open defecation-free (ODF).
- **Namami Gange program:** Holistic program on cleaning the Ganga.
- **Awareness campaign on benefits of hand washing:** Upon the onset of COVID-19 pandemic government through various measures like call tunes, is promoting awareness about benefits of frequent hand washing.

1.2.7. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AT A GLANCE

Any **act of gender-based violence** that results in, or is likely to result in, **physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women and girls.**



Factors underlying VaW

- **Individual Factors:** High levels of inequality in relationships; Use of drugs and harmful use of alcohol; Internalised misogyny; etc.
- **Community Factors:** Rigid patriarchal gender norms; High levels of poverty and unemployment; Low presence of women in public space; Popular culture promoting toxic masculinity; Marginalisation; etc.



Challenges in India in preventing VaW

- **Issues related to implementation of laws:** Overburdened judiciary; Low conviction rates; Ambiguity in law and definitions; Apathy among police force and healthcare workers; Few female police; Under-reporting; Stereotyping and gender bias in the justice system.
- **Societal issues:** Acceptance and tolerance of violence in society; Hard to detect violations; Existence of Extrajudicial "Courts"; Lack of attention to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- **Other issues:** The amendments made to the criminal law are not comprehensive; Paucity of data available on crimes against women; Lack of safe infrastructure.



Steps taken in India to combat VaW

- **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 and 2018 .**
- **New IT Rules to deal with Cyber-violence against women.**
- **Progressive Supreme Court judgments .**
- **Establishment of National Commission for Women.**
- **Schemes/Initiatives:** Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs); Ujjawala Scheme; Nirbhaya Fund; Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme; etc.
- **Ratification of International Conventions:** like Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- **State level initiatives:** Himmat app by the Delhi police, Samman Campaign by Madhya Pradesh Police, Pink Protection project by Kerala Government, etc.



Way Ahead

- Increasing the number of female police officers.
- Amend, harmonize, or enact laws protecting women and girls from all forms of violence.
- Provision of Legal and psychological support services;
- Protecting privacy, identity and dignity of victims.
- Use of technology and emerging concepts for ensuring safer and gender friendly infrastructures and spaces.
- Education programmes to deconstruct and dismantle patriarchal ideologies.

1.2.7.1. POSH ACT (PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT, 2013)

Why in news?

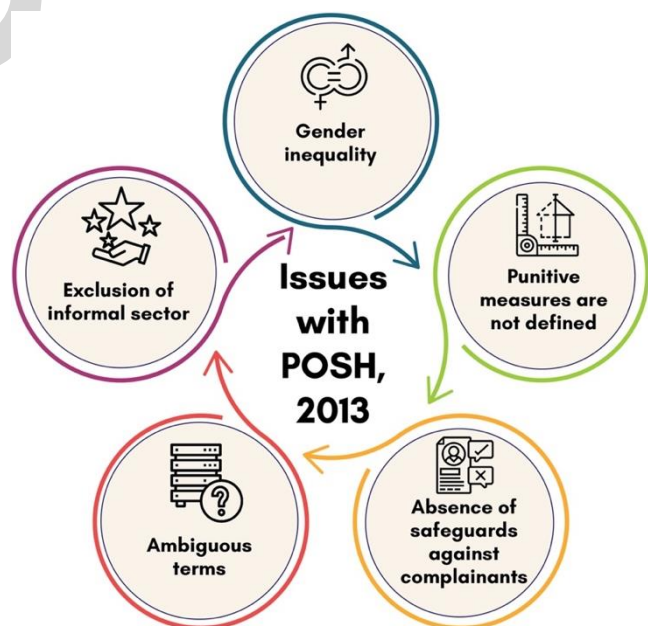
Recently, the Kerala HC asked organisations associated with the film industry to take steps to constitute a joint committee to deal with cases of sexual harassment of women, in line with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) or POSH Act of 2013.

About POSH Act, 2013

- **Objective:** The purpose of the Act to make workplaces safer for women by preventing, prohibiting, and redressing acts of sexual harassment against them in the workplace. The Act broadened the Vishaka guidelines, which were already in place.
- **Definitions:** It defines sexual harassment, lay down the procedures for a complaint and inquiry, and the action to be taken.
 - **Definition of sexual harassment:** Sexual harassment includes “any one or more” of the following: “unwelcome acts or behaviour” committed directly or by implication: Physical contact and advances, demand, or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks, Showing pornography, Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.
 - **Definition of “aggrieved woman”:** The term is extremely wide to cover all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and whether in the organized or unorganized sectors, public or private, and covers clients, customers and domestic workers as well.
- **Obligations for employer:** It mandated that every employer must constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- **Settlement of the complaint through conciliation:** The ICC “may”, before inquiry, and “at the request of the aggrieved woman, take steps to settle the matter between her and the respondent through conciliation” — provided that “no monetary settlement shall be made as a basis of conciliation”.
- **Power of ICC:** The ICC may either forward the victim’s complaint to the police, or it can start an inquiry that has to be completed within 90 days. The ICC has powers similar to those of a civil court in respect of summoning and examining any person on oath and requiring discovery and production of documents.
- **Anonymity:** The identity of the woman, respondent, witness, any information on the inquiry, recommendation and action taken, the Act states, should not be made public.
- **Final report:** When the inquiry is completed, the ICC must provide a report of its findings to the employer within 10 days. The report is also made available to both parties.

About Vishaka guidelines

- The Vishaka guidelines were laid down by the Supreme Court in the Vishaka & Ors vs State Of Rajasthan (1997),
- The judgement made it mandatory for organisations, whether private or public sector to establish a mechanism for redressal of sexual harassment complaints.
 - The case pertains to a public interest litigation over the alleged gangrape of Bhanwari Devi, a social worker from Rajasthan.
- SC directed that they should establish a Complaints Committee, which would look into matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.
- These guidelines were legally binding, defined sexual harassment and imposed three key obligations on institutions- prohibition, prevention, redress.



Way ahead

Although POSH 2013 is a milestone in ensuring safety of women at workplace the Act could be made more effective by:

- Making it **gender neutral**.
- Ensuring that **complainants are not victimized or shamed** by senior colleagues.
- **Covering informal sector** as well as organisations that are part of the **gig economy**.
- **Timeline** for filing the complaint should be **upto 1 year**.
- **Standard operating procedure** should be developed for evaluating the amount of **compensations** to the victim as well as the **punishment** to the perpetrator.

1.2.7.2. DOWRY SYSTEM IN INDIA

Why in news?

The recent deaths of three young brides in alleged dowry-related cases in Kerala has brought the attention back to this social evil.

About dowry

- **Dowry is defined in the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961** (refer the infographics) as "any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage.
 - **Dowry death is a criminal offence under Section 304B of the IPC.**
- The legal definition **does not include the dower or mahr** in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies.
- Also, **parents of the girl can give gifts on her marriage, as Stridhana**, to enable her to meet her financial needs.
- The **opposite custom is called dower or bride-price** in which payment in cash or kind is paid from the bridegroom's side to the bride's parents. Some tribal communities in India **like Yanadis of Andhra and Baria, Pagi, Damor of Gujarat** customarily pay bride-price.

Reasons for persistent rise in dowry across various communities in India

- **Social issues**
 - **Subordination of women.**
 - **Penetration of dowry system from upper caste to lower caste.**
 - **Marriage squeezes** i.e., marriages entirely within finely delineated sub-castes, or jatis creates a relative scarcity of grooms in a particular caste.
- **Legal issues**
 - **Lax implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 law.**
 - **Mostly women do not inherit ancestral property.** Hence, dowry is a way women could get some financial help from their parents.
- **Economic issues**
 - **Lack of financial Independence.**
 - **Higher dowries are paid/demanded for grooms with more education** as they are believed to have better income in future.

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961



Dowry is considered a cognizable offence for the purpose of investigation.



Every offence under this Act is non-bailable and non-compoundable.



Burden of proof is on the accused



Makes the agreement for giving or taking dowry void



Dowry Prohibition Officers could be established by the State Government



Punishment with imprisonment or fine or both for:

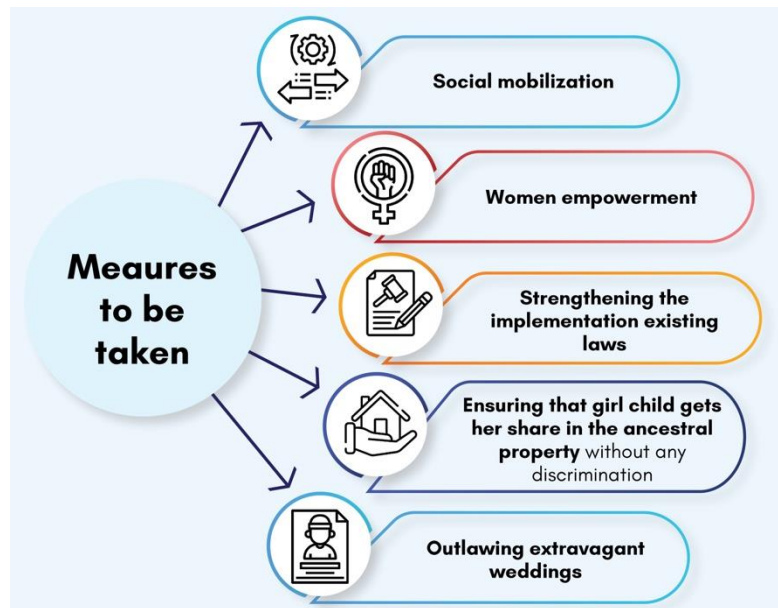
- Giving or taking or abetting the giving or taking of dowry
- Demanding dowry
- Advertisement related to dowry

Dowry system in India

Ancient India	Medieval India	Modern India
<p>The hymns of Rig Veda and Atharveda have some references to the system. The latter refers to royal brides bringing with them the dowry of a hundred cows. Draupadi, Subhadra and Uttara were known to have brought valuable presents as dowry.</p>	<p>The system was prevalent in the aristocratic Rajput households. A Rajput youth of the bluest blood would be desired as a son-in-law by a large number of people and consequently his price would soar. The evil spread greatly in Rajputana from the 13th century.</p>	<p>It was not till the 19th century that ordinary families began expecting large dowries. The institution appears deep-rooted in most communities.</p>

Conclusion

Discrimination against women pervades all aspects of life. States should look at gender-disaggregated data across the life cycle – birth, early childhood, education, nutrition, livelihood, access to healthcare, etc. – to address gender inequality. Teachers and textbooks mold beliefs and values. Therefore, school kids should be systematically sensitized on the core value of gender equality. Larger public action needs to be directed at improving women’s status at an overall level.



1.2.7.3. MARITAL RAPE

Why in news?

Recently, a two-judge Bench of the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict in a batch of petitions **challenging the exception provided to marital rape in the Section 375 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).**

More on news

- **Section 375 of IPC defines rape and lists several notions of consent** that, if vitiated, would constitute the offence of rape by a man. However, the provision lays down **two exceptions.**
 - **Exception 2 of the Section 375 of IPC decriminalizes marital rape.** It says sexual intercourse between a man and his wife (not under 15) is not rape.
 - Medical procedures or interventions shall not constitute rape.
- The petitions **challenging the exception 2 of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** were filed by **NGO RIT Foundation, All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA)** and a marital rape victim.

DATA BANK

Status of marital rape in India

- According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 2019-2021, nearly **1 in 3 Indian women aged 18-49** have suffered some form of spousal abuse.
- Percentage was higher in **Karnataka**, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

Marital Rape in India



Marital rape

- Marital rape or spousal rape is the **act of sexual intercourse with one’s spouse without their consent.**
- In India, there are **no legal provisions that define “marital rape”.**
- India is **one of the only 36 countries where marital rape is still not criminalized.**

Centre and Judicial stand on criminalisation of marital rape	
Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017, Union government has opposed the pleas submitting that marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence as it could become 	Judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Thought vs Union of India (2017): Supreme Court increased the age limit from 15 to 18 years. This exception ensures that there will not be rape charges filed against a husband who has sexual relations with his wife who is over 18 years of age without her consent.

<p>a phenomenon that “may destabilise the institution of marriage” and become a potential tool for harassing husbands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nimeshbhai Bharatbhai Desai vs State of Gujarat, 2017: A husband cannot violate his wife’s dignity by coercing her to engage in a sexual act without her full and free consent. • In 2021, Kerala High Court observed that Marital rape is a good ground to claim divorce.
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Arguments in favour of criminalizing Marital Rape	Arguments against criminalizing Marital Rape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violate fundamental rights: Marital rape exception violated right to autonomy and privacy under Article 21, Article 14 which guarantees the equal protection of laws, right to non-discrimination under Article 15(1). • Physical and Psychological effects: shock, fear, stress, suicidal tendencies, miscarriages, infections infertility and the chances of diseases like HIV, injuries to private organs, bruises, torn muscles etc. • Women Safety: As per NFHS-5 (2019-2021), 82% married women report their current husband and 13% report former husband as perpetrator. • International commitments: India is signatory to UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). • Rape is rape: In 2022, Karnataka HC refused to quash rape charges filed by a wife against her husband and said that Rape is rape, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and age of the survivor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A woman who is raped by a stranger, lives with a memory of a horrible attack; a woman who is raped by her husband lives with her rapist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misuse of law: Criminalizing marital rape could be misused to file false cases. For instance, in 2020, out of total registered 111,549 cases under 498A (relating to dowry), 5,520 were closed by Police citing as false. • Burden of proof: Lack of evidence, like CCTV footage, etc. to prove alleged marital rape and therefore, the burden of proof would be a difficult concept to apply in these cases. • Breakdown of marriage institution: One of the main arguments to not criminalize marital rape is that it would lead to the breakdown of the institution of marriage with wives falsely accusing husbands. • Gender neutrality: Rape definition is women centric and even if the exception of IPC section 375 is removed or criminal provisions are added to the Domestic Violence act, husbands will not be able to use those. • Right to Privacy: The criminalization of marital rape would violate the privacy of marriage by allowing the State into the bedroom and by definition, sex within marriage can never amount to rape.

Way forward

- **Adequate law:** Women will be safe from abusive spouses, able to get the help they need to recover from marital rape and protect themselves from domestic violence and sexual assault.
 - Further, the **Commission on Human Rights** suggested that marital rape should be criminalized.
- **JS Verma Committee recommendations:** In 2013, the Committee, said that the exception to marital rape should be removed.
 - Also, UNCEDAW, and 172nd Law Commission Report have recommended marital rape’s criminalisation.
- **Ensuring justice:** A proper framework/law should be developed to provide speedy justice to victims of marital rape along with psychological assistance.
- **Awareness:** There is urgent need to create awareness in society and bringing attitudinal change among prosecutor, and police officer.

Marital rape provisions around the world

- In 1922, **Soviet Union, now Russia** became the **first country to criminalise and removed “marital exemption”** from its rape laws in 1922.
- **Countries where offence punishable under law includes** UK, US, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, New Zealand, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands etc.
- **Countries where offence is not punishable includes** Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lesotho, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

1.2.8. RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS

Why in News?

Recently, Supreme Court re-asserted that **sex workers and their children cannot be deprived of their right to live with dignity** and human decency.

More on News

DATA BANK

Sex Workers

8.25 lakh female in India are sex workers.

95% of trafficking victims are forced into prostitution.

5% is the rate of average HIV prevalence among sex workers in India (for general population it is less than 0.5%).

- Supreme Court (SC), in exercise of its powers under **Article 142**, asked states and UTs to implement certain **recommendations** made by a panel appointed by SC in 2011 **on the rehabilitation of sex workers**.
 - In 2011, **SC suo motu converted the Budhadev Karmaskar v State of West Bengal case** (related to brutal murder of a sex worker) **into a PIL to address the problems of sex workers**.
- **SC listed several recommendations** of the panel, and directed that **they should be implemented** (refer box).



RECOMMENDATIONS BY SUPREME COURT



Other steps taken for protection of sex workers in India

- **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956** supplemented by **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** prohibits trafficking in human beings, including children, for purpose of prostitution and lays down procedures.
- In **Gaurav Jain v. Union of India (1997)**, the Supreme Court had held that **children of sex workers ought not to be allowed to live in brothels**, and reformatory homes should be made accessible to them.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing “Ujjawala”** – a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-integration and Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- **National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW)** is a collective led by sex workers in India to protect and promote the rights of those in the profession at the local, national, and international levels.

Way Forward

Implement Supreme Court recommendations to ensure the empowerment, active participation and leadership of sex work networks in designing policies and processes for accessing social entitlements. Additionally following initiatives could be taken:

- **Decriminalize all aspects of sex work** as criminalization is a primary driver of the stigma.
- **Ensure healthcare services** that are accessible, non-coercive, and responsive to the diversity of sex workers’ needs.
- **Sensitivity to issues faced by sex workers** should be made a part of training for police personnel, public prosecutors, and the judiciary in partnership with community organizations of sex workers.
- **Ensure participation of sex workers in drafting/ amending laws, policies and programs relevant to them** and in its eventual implementation process.

1.2.9. UNPAID WORK

UNPAID WORK AT A GLANCE



Unpaid work

- **Care work:** care of persons living in the house, such as looking after children, the elderly, sick, disabled etc.
- **Activities involving production of services meant for the maintenance and care of household.**
- **Unremunerated/voluntary work for production of goods and services** in households or market/non-market units.
- **Activities involving production for own-consumption** (such as processing of agricultural products, milling, weaving etc.)
- **Voluntary/community activities** or services rendered free to other households or the community.



Impact on women

- **Causes time poverty and time stress** and generates **considerable opportunity cost.**
- **Barrier to women's labour force participation:** Prevents women from actively pursuing further education, employment opportunities and raising their skill-level.
- **Occupational downgrading and segregation:** Women choose employment below their skills levels and in sectors that are traditionally associated with their gender roles.
- **Discrimination in hiring and pay.**
- **Increases hierarchy in gender relations and gender inequalities in the family.**
- **Deteriorates quality of life** due to issues like sleep deprivation, social reclusiveness, etc.
- **Detrimental to women empowerment.**
- **Increased vulnerability to environmental and economic changes** such as climate-related shocks, austerity policies reducing social sector expenditure etc.



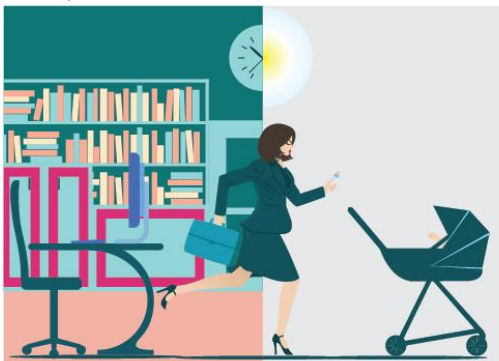
Need of recognizing unpaid

- **Ensuring Rights of unpaid workers:** It will make the contribution of unpaid workers visible, highlight the unjust inequalities and justify their claim on the public exchequer.
- **Women empowerment:** Helps women claim to equality within the patriarchal Indian household.
- **Need of a holistic understanding of labour:** that isn't purely tied to the exchange value of a service on the market.
- **Enhancing policy efficiency:** across a range of socio-economic areas, notably gender inequalities in employment.
- **Moving towards monetization of unpaid work:** It will help women gain agency in the household, can contribute directly to poverty reduction and can translate into better wages for workers involved in paid care work.



Challenges in recognizing and monetizing unpaid work

- **Legal complexities in measuring unpaid work**
- **Reinforcing sex-based division of labour** as it may endorse the social norm that domestic and care work are 'women's work'.
- **Impact on social setup** as it may erode sentimental aspect of care giving.
- **Difficult to commoditize 'Care'** since it is much more than 'labor' and they are both performed in totally different environments.



Way Forward- Triple R Framework

- **Recognition**
 - ➔ **Measuring unpaid work** through conducting regular time use surveys.
 - ➔ **Valuation of Unpaid Work** in monetary units.
 - ➔ **Mainstreaming Gender Budgeting** grounded in gender analysis.
- **Reduction**
 - ➔ **Providing Universal access to care policies and services** by building robust social infrastructure and through measures like family allowances and child benefits etc.
 - ➔ **Investing in technological changes for tasks involved in unpaid work.**
- **Redistribution**
 - ➔ **Reforms in Labour regulations** such as implementing gender-neutral and publicly funded leave policies etc.
 - ➔ **Promoting Family-friendly working policies in private firms** such as flexible work schedule or teleworking.
 - ➔ **Tackling discriminatory social institutions** by bringing behavioral changes through education.

1.2.10. CARE ECONOMY

Why in news?

Recently, the **International Labor Organization (ILO)** has released a report, titled **Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work.**

About the report

- The report provides a **global overview of national laws and practices regarding care policies**, namely maternity protection, paternity, parental and other care-related leave policies, as well as childcare and long-term care services.
- **Key findings**
 - **Persistent and significant gaps in care services and policies** have left millions of workers with family responsibilities without adequate protection and support.
 - **It will take at least 46 years to achieve minimum maternity leave rights** in the 185 countries analysed for the study.
 - Long-term care services are also essential to ensure the **right to healthy ageing in dignity and independent living.**

About Care Economy

- Care economy “consists of activities and relations involved in **meeting the physical, psychological and emotional needs** of adults and children, old and young, frail and able-bodied.
- It encompasses a range of sectors such as **education, health, and social work domestic works among others.**

Way ahead

- **Identify care workers:** Define care workers, create an identification mechanism for them, allocate them job card to ensure necessary benefits reaches to them. **E-Sharm portal** could be leveraged in this whole process.
- **Formalization: Women’s unpaid work is valued at 3.1% of GDP in India.** Recognising AWWs, ANMs, ASHAs and domestic help (amongst others), as formal sector workers would allow their economic contribution to be counted in the GDP.
- **Invest in care economy:** An analysis by the Women’s Budget Group (2019) showed that if an **additional 2% of the GDP** was invested in the **Indian health and care sector, 11 million additional jobs could be generated**, nearly a third of which would go to women.
- **Women sensitive employment generation:** Countries which invest in a combination of childcare infrastructure and parental leave policies to offset the burden on women, have

DATA BANK

CARE ECONOMY

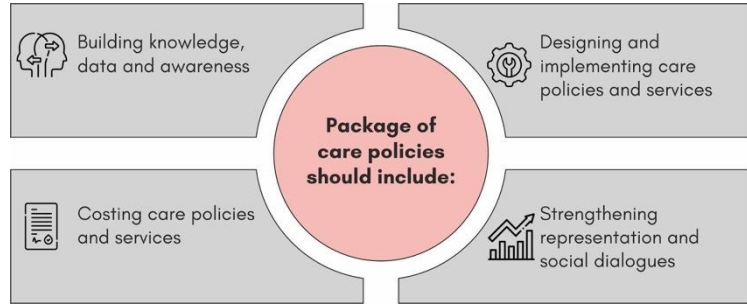
- Only **1% of the GDP** is spend on care economy.
- Women’s unpaid work is valued at **3.1% of GDP** in India.
- **More than 80 percent** of Indian men believe taking care of the child is the primary responsibility of the mother.
- **2.5 million women** Anganwadi workers (AWWs), auxiliary nurse-midwives (ANMs) and accredited social-health activists (ASHAs) are **not recognised as workers** or paid fixed monthly salaries in many States.



Mains 365 - Social Issues

a higher maternal employment to population ratios as per the ILO.

- **Making Child Care Leave (CCL) gender neutral:** CCL is granted to women employees or those male employees who happen to be “single male parent” for a maximum period of two years (730 days) during their entire service for taking care of their minor children (up to eighteen years of age). This policy reinforces the thought that child care is primarily women’s responsibility.
 - **More than 80 percent of Indian men** believe taking care of the child is the **primary responsibility of the mother.**



1.3. CHILDREN

1.3.1. CHILD RIGHTS

CHILD RIGHTS AT A GLANCE



Child and child right

According to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC),

- **Child is defined as every human being below the age of 18 years.**
- **Child Rights are minimum entitlements and freedoms** that should be afforded to all persons below the age of 18 years.
- **Child rights are classified in four broad categories:** Right to Survival, Right to Protection, Right to Participation and Right to Development.
- **In India, definition of a child varies in different laws.** For example, below 18 years in Juvenile Justice Act and below 14 years in Child Labour Act.



Facets of Child Rights Violations in India

- High Infant and Under-five Mortality Rate
- Extremely high water vulnerability
- Severe acute malnutrition
- Physical and Verbal abuse
- Child Marriage, Child Labour, Child Trafficking
- COVID 19 related challenges such as negative impact on mental health, learning losses and loss of guardians.



Barriers in protection of child rights in India

- **Socio-Cultural Factors:** Patrilineal and patrilocal nature of society, lack of social acceptance for child protection laws, non-reporting of violence cases etc.
- **Political and Systemic Factors:** Poor implementation of laws, delayed justice, and non-uniformity in definition of child.
- **Economic Factors:** Unemployment and poverty
- Other Factors such as lost identity of children with specific vulnerability and influence of Technology.



Steps taken to protect and provide for the rights of children

- **National Policy for Children, 2013** identified four key priority areas for focused attention.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO Act)**
- **Ratification of ILO Convention 138 and 182** related to Child Labour
- **Establishment of National and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.**
- **Strengthening of the existing acts** such as Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act , Prohibition of Child Marriages Act etc.
- **Constitutional Provisions for Child Upliftment** such as Article 21 A, Article 24 and Article 39(e).



Way Ahead to protect children and their rights

- Leadership Role by the Government
- Supporting Role by CSOs
- Private Sector Involvement
- Effective and Proactive Media

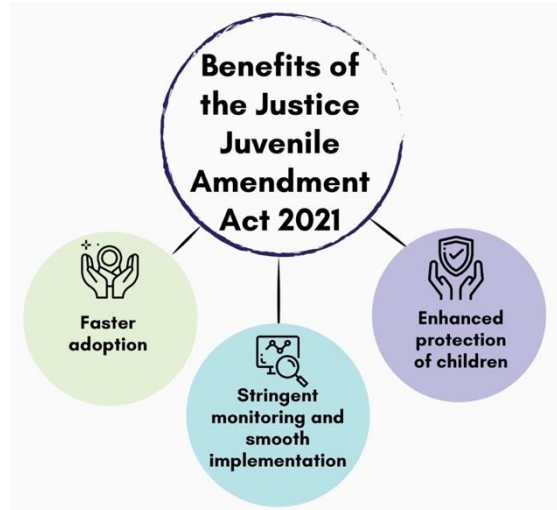
1.3.2. JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT ACT, 2021

Why in news?

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Justice (Care and Protection) Amendment Act 2021.

Background

- A juvenile is a person **less than 18 years of age**.
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 addresses **children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection**.
- It provided for **the trial of juveniles in conflict with law in the age group of 16-18 years as adults in certain cases**.
- It fulfils India's **commitment as a signatory** to the
 - United Nations Convention on the rights of the child,
 - Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993)
- The **2021 amendment has been brought based on a report filed by the NCPCR in 2018-19** in which the over 7,000 Child Care Institutions (or children's homes) were surveyed and several inadequacies prevailing in the system were highlighted.



Changes made by the Act

Specifications	JJ Act, 2015	JJ Amendment Act, 2021
Adoption	• Adoption of a child is final once a civil court issues an adoption order .	• District Magistrates (DM), including ADM, can issue adoption orders (both for intracountry and intercountry adoptions).
Appeals	• There will be no appeal for any order made by a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) .	• Any person aggrieved by an adoption order passed by the DM may file an appeal before the Divisional Commissioner, within 30 days of such order.
Categories of Offences	• Offences committed by juveniles are categorised as: heinous offences, serious offences (to be inquired by Juvenile Justice Board), petty offences .	• Redefines 'serious offences' to give effect to the recommendation of Supreme court in Shilpa Mittal v. State of NCT of Delhi case .
Designated Court	• Offences punishable with imprisonment of more than seven years , will be tried in the Children's Court . • Other offences will be tried by a Judicial Magistrate .	• All offences under the Act will be tried in the Children's Court .
Offences against children	• Offence punishable with imprisonment of 3-7 years will be cognizable and non-bailable .	• Such offences will be non-cognizable and non-bailable .
Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)	• States must constitute one or more CWCs for each district for dealing with children in need of care and protection. • Provides certain criteria for the appointment of members to CWC .	• Stipulate certain additional criteria for appointment of CWC members. • For example, it prohibits people with past record of violation of human rights or child rights or if they are convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude among others.

Concerns regarding the 2021 Amendment Act

- Reclassification of offences:** Offence punishable with imprisonment of 3-7 years are reclassified as non-cognizable. This contravenes to the
 - Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to which India is a signatory
 - general scheme of IPC wherein offences punishable with imprisonment for more than three years are categorized a Cognizable
 - scheme of the Juvenile Justice Act which is progressive in nature and protects children against all forms of exploitation.
- Centralizing powers:** The Act puts entire onus of children's welfare on DMs. This may lead to delays and may have other wider repercussions on child welfare.
- Overburdening DMs:** DM is already an over-burdened authority with the charge of entire district and other multifarious duties. The act adds to this burden.
- Inadequate Competency:** DM and divisional commissioners are usually not trained or equipped to deal with these specific laws related to children. In countries such as UK, Germany, France, adoption orders are issued only by the court.
- Adverse impact on the doctrine of separation of powers:** As grievance redressal powers have been given to the executive.



Conclusion

The new amendment act is expected to address difficulties faced in implementation of Act in its erstwhile form by increasing power and responsibilities of DMs and providing clarity on scope of certain provisions of the Act.

1.3.3. CHILD ADOPTION IN INDIA

Why in news?

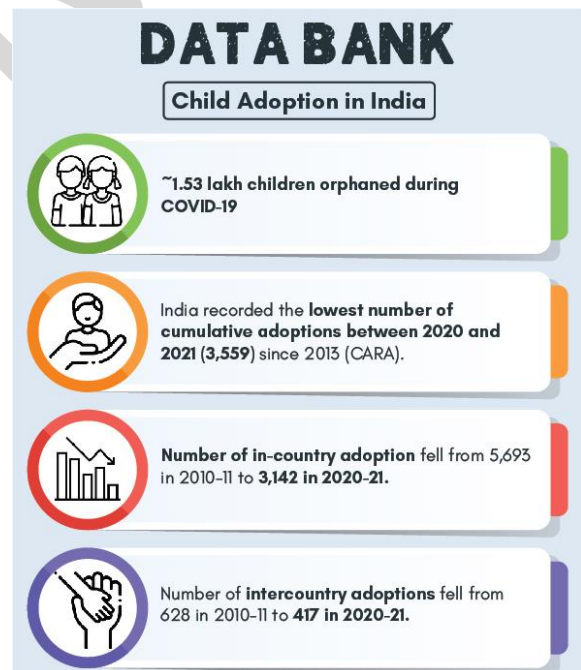
The Supreme Court has issued a notice on a petition seeking simplification of the process of adoption taking note of the abysmal adoption rate in the country.

More on the news

- India recorded the **lowest number of cumulative adoptions between 2020 and 2021 (3,559) since 2013**, according to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) data.
- Hence**, the declining rate of adoption is concerning.

Why are the rates of adoption so low?

- Cumbersome process:** The adoption process in India follows due diligence ranging from attempts to reunite untie immediate or extended families, home assessments, etc.
- Administrative issues:**
 - Lack of institutions:** Many districts lack an authorised adoption agency even though they are legally mandated.
 - Existence of unregistered childcare institution (CCI):** Many CCIs are not registered with child welfare committees (CWC). Children in these centres cannot be adopted as only registered CCIs can be linked to adoption agencies.
- Centralisation of adoption procedure:** While the centralized CARINGS system allows for adoption anywhere in the country, it has certain issues like-



- **Individual agencies can no longer select the prospective parents** better suited for adoption of particular children.
- **Parents have limited choice to adopt kids from the same state** which could ensure cultural similarities, avoidance of long distance travelling to bring the child home.
- **Cases of Disruption:** The CARA has recorded 246 instances of disruption (children being returned at an advanced stage of adoption) over a period of five years between 2014-15 and 2018-19, mostly **due to lack of preparedness and proper counselling of parents and children.**
- **Other legal alternatives:** For example, Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Law of 1956 allows Hindus to give or adopt a baby privately without the involvement of an adoption agency.
- **Prejudices surrounding adoption:** There is a **societal disinclination** to accept the status of an adopted child, hence adoption is seen as a last resort for becoming parents. Also, there are **apprehensions** while adopting **older children, and those with disabilities.**
- **Less number of children in the adoption pool:** A large number of orphaned and abandoned children have not been identified and placed under institutionalised care, e.g. **children living on the street.**
- **Discriminatory adoption rules:** Current rules **do not allow homosexual couples, trans couples and single men** (who cannot adopt a girl child) to legally adopt a child limiting the pool of prospective parents.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic: The coronavirus pandemic is regarded as the primary reason for this drop in adoptions in the country between 2019 and 2021 due to issues like-

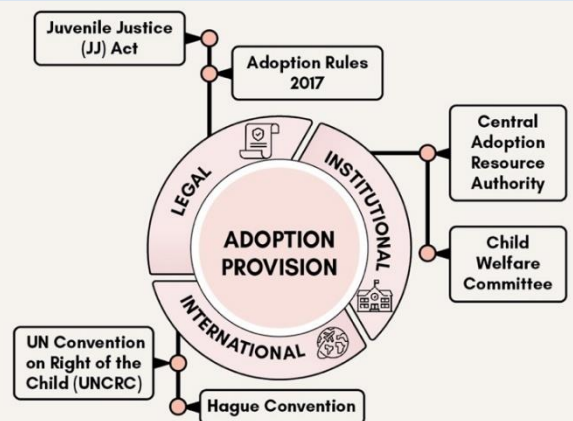
- Inability of PAPs to furnish requisite documents, such as medical fitness certificate, amid the pandemic.
- Travel restrictions on home visits.
- Delay in the medical examination of children at hospitals.
- Delay in court approvals of cases
- **Economic slowdown or loss of income sources** of parents leading to changes or **delays in decisions regarding child adoption.**

Way Forward

- **Give choices to prospective parents** to adopt a child belonging to their respective states.
- **Counselling prospective parents** to prepare them for what it is like to live with a kid, especially with an older kid. Also, **older kids** should be given for adoption to families who live in the **areas for which they have a sense of familiarity.**
- **Mandatory registration of Child Care Centres (CCCs).** Around 28% of the CCCs are not registered with CWC. They must be mandated to get themselves registered in a time bound manner. Failure to do so, must lead to closure of such centres.
- The adoption **process needs to be made more transparent.**
- **Special assistance to families in rural areas** who are not aware of legal adoption procedures or don't like to follow the legal procedure.
- **Nationwide IEC campaign** to eliminate the prejudice and social stigma attached for adoption.

Steps taken by India to ease the adoption

- **Mission Vatsalya:** Recently launched under the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) to **unify all its efforts for children in difficult circumstances** which include missing, orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children.
- **CARA reduced the wait period for adoption.**
- **Online registration portal CARINGS** (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System) has streamlined the process of adoption.
- **2021 amendment Act to the JJ Act, 2015:** It empowers District Magistrates (DMs) and Additional DMs to authorise orders of adoption.
- **Easing inter country adoption**
 - **Adoption Amendment Regulations 2021:** It allows **CARA** to issue the **'No-Objection Certificate (NOC)'** to prospective parents who opt for inter-country adoption under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (HAMA), 1956.
 - ✓ HAMA covers **Hindu, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains.**
 - ✓ So far, in case of adoptions under HAMA, **parents were forced to move court to obtain NOC** as there was **no other mechanism.**



- MWCD have **waived the two-year mandatory period** that an adoptive family would have to stay in the **country** for constant monitoring by CARA and other authorities.
 - ✓ In such cases, the **Indian missions will monitor the progress and security of the adopted child**, instead of CARA and other authorities.
- **Ratification of Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993** that establishes safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child.

1.4. TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Why in news?

Recently, Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide 1% horizontal reservation for transgender people in all government services.

About Transgender community

- The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** defines a Transgender person as one **whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth**.
- Since the transgender community **does not fit into the general category of 'male' or 'female'**, they face various challenges which render them as **the most marginalised communities in the country**.

Challenges faced by transgenders in the face of COVID-19

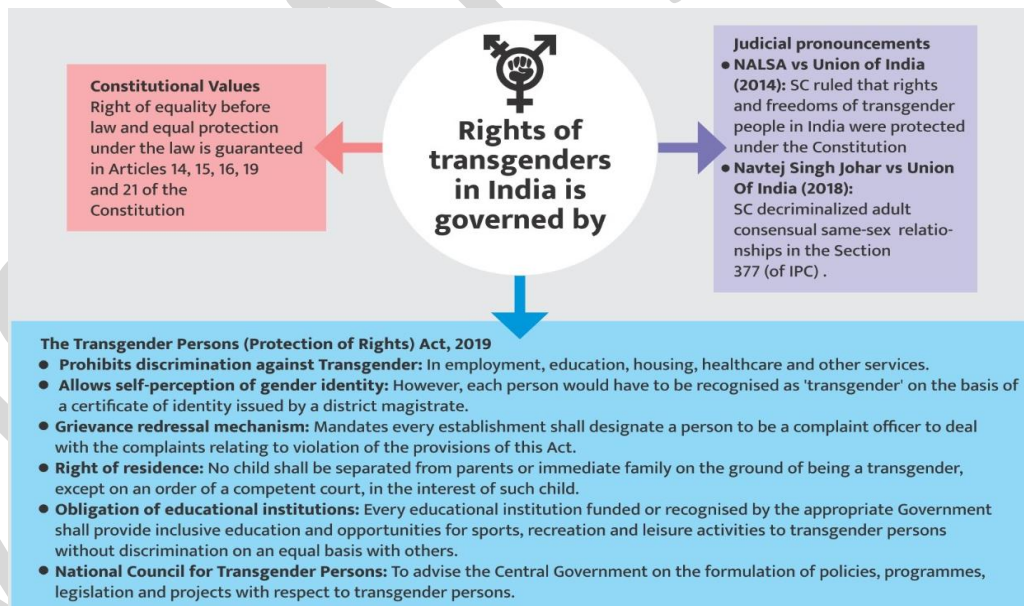
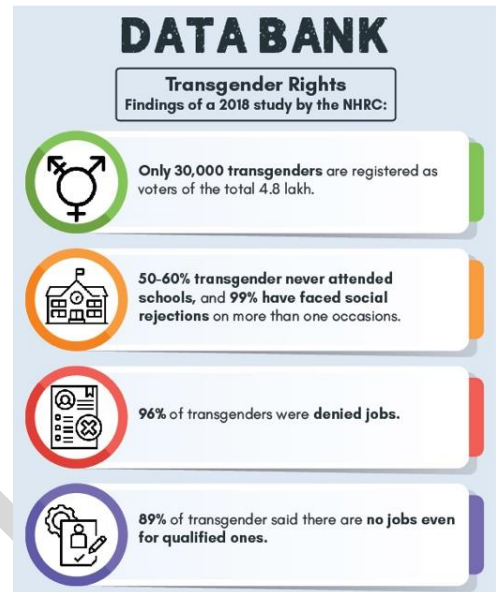
- **Livelihood issues:** The community's livelihood is largely dependent on social interactions which was disrupted due to the pandemic.

- **Health issues:** The HIV prevalence among Transgender, in India, was estimated to be 3.1% in 2017, the second highest prevalence among all key populations in the country.
- **Poor mental health:** More often they are facing stress, anxiety and may also slip into depression.

- **Increased incidence of domestic violence.**

Roadmap ahead to ensure ease of living for Transgender community during a pandemic

- **Short term measures**
 - **Health:** Coronavirus testing centres should make themselves as 'trans-friendly.' Separate isolation wards can be provided for people belonging to the trans-community.
 - **Psychological Counselling:** It should be woven around a sense of safety, sense of calmness, building hope, self and collective efficiency and connectedness.
 - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) should take efforts to make all the **social welfare schemes more accessible to the Transgender community**.
 - **Address the basic needs** of Transgender such as housing, food and employment.



- **Long term measures**
 - **Alternate means of livelihood:** Government should make efforts to provide similar vocational training to Transgender community so that they could be self-employed.
 - **Systemic changes in policy making:** There should be a focus on establishing linkages with livelihood programs, literacy programs and other development programs.
 - Introduction of **scholarships for gender non-conforming persons** at state and national level.
 - **Sexual harassment** mechanisms should be **gender neutral** and **domestic violence** based on gender should be recognized as a **separate offense**.
 - The parliament should pass an **Anti-Discrimination Bill** that penalizes discrimination and harassment on the basis of gender.

Related information

SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” Scheme

- SMILE, a Central Sector scheme, is launched under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- It is designed to **provide welfare and rehabilitation to Transgender community and people engaged in the act of begging**.
 - The scheme **will be implemented from 2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- **Two sub-schemes of SMILE scheme are**
 - **‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’** with following components:
 - ✓ **Scholarships for Transgender Students** for studying in IX and till post-graduation.
 - ✓ **Skill Development and Livelihood** under PM-DAKSH (scheme for skilling of marginalized persons).
 - ✓ **Housing facility in the form of ‘GarimaGreh** to provide food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development etc.
 - ✓ **Setting up of Transgender Protection cell** in each state to monitor cases of offences.
 - ✓ **Composite Medical Health package** in convergence with PM-JAY supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries through selected hospital.
 - ✓ **E-Services** (National Portal & Helpline and Advertisement)
 - **Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging** with focus on Survey and identification, Mobilisation, Rescue/ Shelter Home and Comprehensive resettlement.
- **Other provisions**
 - **Skill development/vocational training** will be provided to help them sustain and live a life of dignity by engaging in self-employment.
 - **Pilot projects initiated on Comprehensive Rehabilitation** in Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad etc.

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26 JULY, 1 PM | 17 JULY, 5 PM | 7 JULY, 1 PM

LUCKNOW: 25th Aug | 25th June

AHMEDABAD: 22nd July

PUNE: 20th June

HYDERABAD: 8th Aug

CHANDIGARH: 25th Aug | 21st June

JAIPUR: 16th Aug | 30th July

1.5. ELDERLY IN INDIA

ELDERLY IN INDIA AT A GLANCE

"Senior citizen" or elderly means **any person being a citizen of India, who has attained the age of sixty years or above.**



Current Status

- India has **104 million** elderly people.
- Over 71% of elderly population resides in **rural areas**.
- **75% elderly are unemployed**, 80% of them are women.
- **82% of elderly are living with their kin.**
- The **family is the prime perpetrator of abuse** against senior citizens in India.



Issues and challenges faced by elderly

- **Decline in financial** ability due to paucity of employment opportunities, low digital literacy, rising healthcare costs, etc.
- **Chronic diseases** such as arthritis, hypertension, cataract, etc.
- **Nuclearisation of family** reduced the opportunity of elderly care at home.
- **Inadequate government owned old age home** in cities as mandated by the 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007'.
- **Feminization** of elderly population.



Initiatives for elderly

- **Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)** endorsed by the WHO.
- **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999** to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter, etc. for older persons.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007** to make maintenance by children/relatives justiciable.
- **National Action Plan for the Welfare of Senior Citizens (NAPSrC)** takes care of their need of financial, food, health, and human interaction /life of dignity.
- **Senior Citizens Welfare Fund**, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), etc.



Way ahead

- **Promote research in Geriatrics and Gerontology** for data driven policy.
- **Digital empowerment of elderly for** integrating them into the digital era.
- **Affordable medical care:** Community care, telehealth services among others.
- **Government owned old age home** with full-fledged daycare facilities, nurses, psychologists, etc.
- **Ensure gender equality through** ensuring women's property and inheritance rights, education, etc.

1.6. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AT A GLANCE

Indigenous people are **inheritor and practitioners of unique culture** and ways relating to people and environment.



Current Status

- Indigenous peoples in India comprise an estimate population of 104 million (8.6% of the national population), almost 90% of them living in rural areas.

Inherent rights to indigenous people

- Collective and individual rights to **their ancestral land, territories, and resources**.
- Self-government** by their own institutions.
- Fair and equitable benefits sharing** from conservation and development actions.
- Conserve, develop, use and protect their **traditional knowledge**.

Constitutional provision to protect their rights

- 5th schedule** for administration and control of **Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes** residing in any State except 4 (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram).
- 6th schedule** for administration of tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Legal provision to protect their rights

- The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) or **LARR Act, 2013** mandates consent of land owners for development projects.
- Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, or FRA 2006** recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and others to forest resources.



Challenges for indigenous people in India

- Threats to traditional knowledge practices** as they are undervalued and ignored.
- Land dispossession** due to economic policies, globalisation, etc.
- Human rights violation** as they strive to protect undue exploitation of natural resources.
- Lack of access to education** due to their geographic and politically marginalized status.
- Health issues** such as illnesses from pesticides and extractive industries, malnutrition, etc.



Way ahead to protect rights of indigenous people

- Address legal loopholes** to effectively implement the Forest Rights Act, the LARR Act.
- National Action Plan for implementation of the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** to prevent human rights abuses in company operations and provide remedies if such abuses take place.
- Effective, accessible and affordable dispute resolution.**
- Community-based education** and language programs.
- Integrate needs of indigenous peoples into **health programmes, plans, projects, and policies.**

2. HEALTH

HEALTH AT A GLANCE



India's Health care system

- **Structure:** Primary, secondary and tertiary.
- **Health Expenditure:** Around 1.35% of GDP.
- **Out-of-pocket expenses (OOPE):** 48.8% of the total health expenditure.
- **Best practices:** Mohalla Clinics Model (Delhi), Kerala and Tamil Nadu Insurance Model, ASHA



India's Health status

- **Health insurance coverage:** Only 30 percent of women age 15-49 and 33 percent of men age 15-49 are covered by health insurance or a health scheme.
- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR): 2.0**
- **Under-five mortality rate (U5MR): 41.9**
- **Infant mortality rate (IMR): 35.2**
- **Neonatal mortality rate (NMR): 24.9**
- **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR): 103**
- **Institutional birth: 88.6%**



Steps Taken to improve India's Health Care system

- National Health Policy 2017
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- National Medical College Network
- National Telemedicine Service "eSanjeevani"
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission



Challenges in India's Health care system

- **Low doctor to patient ratio:** 1: 1,456 (1:1000 prescribed by the WHO).
- **Geographical inequality:** Around 70% population in rural areas, yet 73% of the public hospital beds in urban areas.
- **Weak PHC sector:** About 5% have no doctor.
- **Increasing Burden of NCDs:** About 65% of deaths in India are now caused by NCDs.
- **Other issues:** Low budget, inadequate infrastructure, high OOPE, weak governance and accountability, etc.



Way ahead

- **Prevention:** Expand network of Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs).
- **Improving health spending:** At least 5%-6% of the GDP.
- **Improve private sector participation:** Through earmarked land, single-window approvals, tax holidays, etc.
- **Global best practices for PHCs:** For example, Family clinics in Brazil and polyclinics and offices in Cuba.
- **Leveraging technology:** To streamline the operational and clinical processes.
- **Others:** Capacity building, better accountability, rejuvenating our indigenous system, keeping women at fulcrum, etc.

2.1. UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AT A GLANCE



According to WHO, Universal health coverage (UHC) means that **all people have access to the health services they need**, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.



Benefits of UHC

- UHC can generate **economic returns at least ten times** the initial investments.
- **Enhancing community resilience** by reducing susceptibility to infectious diseases and anti-microbial resistance.
- **Reduction in poverty and inequality** by reducing Out of Pocket expenditure on health.
- **Improves opportunities in life** for poor, women and other **vulnerable sections**.
- **Demographic dividend** by producing a healthy workforce.



Challenges in implementing UHC

- **Chronic Underfunding** which is around 1.5% of India's GDP.
- **Inadequate infrastructure i.e., shortage of healthcare workers, hospitals, supply of drugs, equipment's, etc.**
- **Predominance of private healthcare** (caters to around 70% of India's population)
- **Low penetration of insurance policies** (more than 80% in rural & urban areas do not have insurance coverage).
- **Low health awareness like** knowledge regarding breastfeeding practice, benefits of hygiene & sanitation, etc.



Recent steps Taken to achieve UHC in India

- **National Health Policy 2017** asks to raise public financing of health sector to **2.5% of GDP by 2025**.
- **Ayushman Bharat Scheme** launched in 2018 to achieve the vision of UHC.
- **Rapid strides towards digital health and telemedicine** as 70% of population residing in rural and remote areas where health care facilities are not available.



Way ahead

- Increase **public financing** for health to at least **2.5% of GDP**.
- **"Health" in all policies approach**. For example, ensuring mid-day meals to avoid malnutrition.
- **Incentivizing wellness-seeking behaviour through** Initiatives like Poshan Abhiyaan, Fit India Movement.
- **Early investment in UHC-focused resilient health systems** (it benefitted Sri Lanka and Vietnam battle the pandemic better).
- **Other initiatives** like harnessing the potential of Digital health, effective regulation of private sector, and community Participation.

2.2. ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVIST (ASHAS)

Why in News?

India's ASHAs are among the six recipients of the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award.

About Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Workers

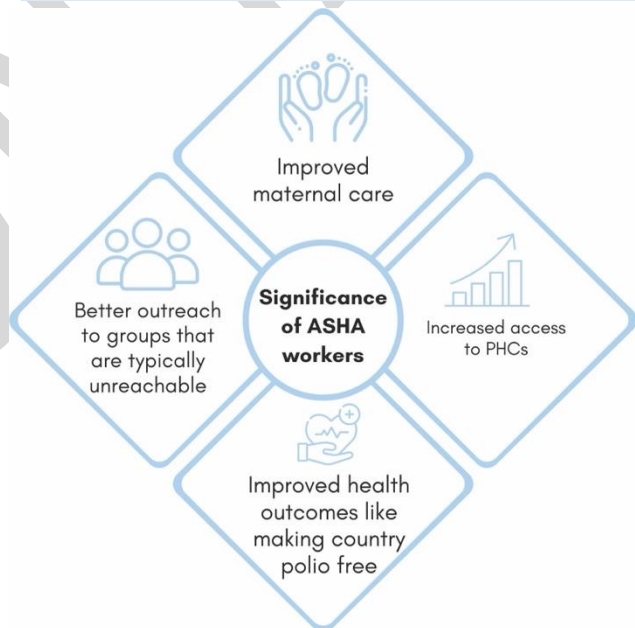
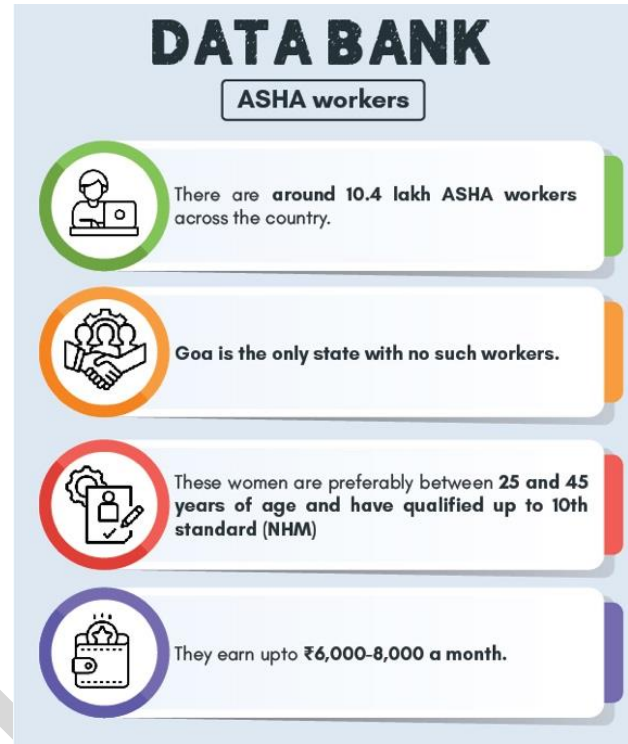
- ASHA workers are **female community health workers** instituted as community-based health functionaries **under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** launched in 2005.
- The core of the ASHA programme has been an intention **to build the capacity of community members in taking care of their own health** and being partners in health services.
- In most cases, women from the village itself are selected as ASHA workers who operate within the local community.

Difficulties faced by ASHA Workers

- **Inadequate Compensation:** Since they are considered “volunteers”, governments are not obligated to pay them a salary. Hence, instead of monthly salaries, they are paid honoraria or provided task-based incentives (which are often below minimum wages).
- **Socio-cultural factors:** Since women have less representation in the village council and have little role in decision making with matters related to village; for ASHAs to initiate community action is not very feasible.
- **Poor infrastructure:** Remote villages have poor roads. ASHA worker gets demotivated because of the transportation difficulties.
- **High Workload:** Other than the regular defined tasks, ASHAs routinely must take on other work (from other government departments) beyond the scope of their roles.
- **Other demotivating factors:** Shortage of medicines, lack of training, family disapproval, attitude of health staff at the referral centers, and non-cooperation of the auxiliary nurse midwife/Anganwadi Worker.

Way Forward

- **Improving employment conditions:** Indian States need to develop mechanisms for higher and timely incentives followed by fixed monthly payment for ASHAs and making ASHAs permanent employees.
- **Capacity Building:** In-built institutional mechanisms are created for capacity-building and avenues for career progression for ASHAs to move to other cadres such as ANM, public health nurse and community health officers are opened.
- **External review:** This is needed to conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the program to understand approaches to effectively scale the program and strengthen strategies to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain ASHAs.
- **Community sensitization:** This can be done by enhancing awareness about the jobs and responsibilities of ASHA workers. This will earn ASHA workers more respect in the society.



2.3. PRADHAN MANTRI-JAN AROGYA YOJANA (PM-JAY)

Why in News?

The National Health Authority has launched a new version of the Health Benefit Package, 2022 under the PM-JAY.

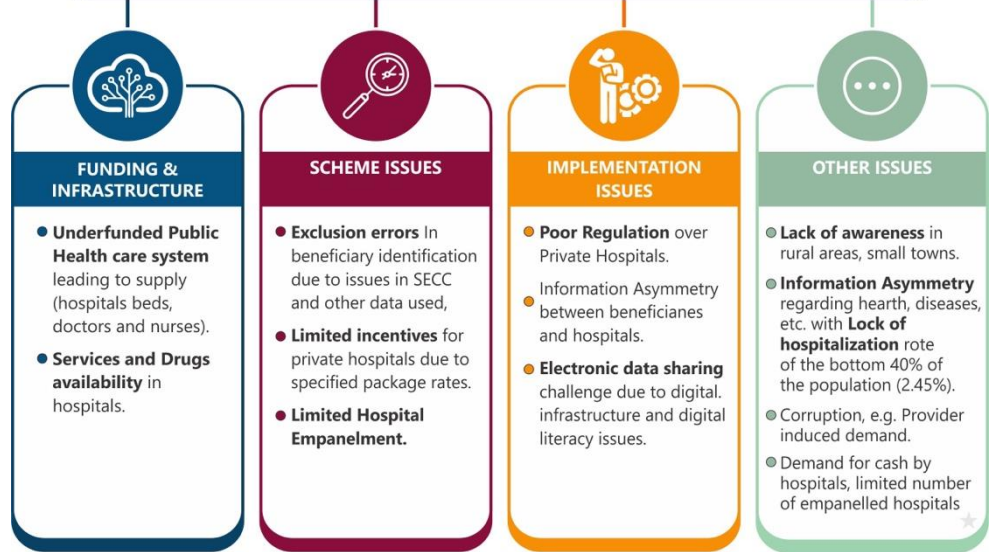
More on news

- The 2022 health benefit package **added 365 new procedures, differential pricing** based on the type of city and level of care, a new initiative of patient classification systems through **ICD-11** (International classification of disease) and **International Classification of Health Intervention** was also introduced.

About PM-JAY

- PM-JAY is **one of the two components** under **Ayushman Bharat** - a flagship Scheme from the Union Government launched in 2018 to achieve **Universal Health Coverage**, as recommended by the **National Health Policy (2017)**.
- It is the **largest health insurance scheme of the world** with **17.35 cr cards** issued to beneficiary families (as of 2022).

REASONS FOR LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS



- Beneficiaries' identification is based on the deprivation, occupational criteria of **Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011** (SECC 2011) for rural and urban areas etc. **with benefits of:**
 - Reducing Out of Pocket expenditure on Health** through **cashless** health care services, helping nearly 6 crore Indians from being pushed into poverty every year;
 - Portability of scheme benefits** across the country;
 - Covering wide range of services** (1393 procedures) as well as pre-existing conditions.
 - Cover pre-hospitalization** (up to 3 days) and **post-hospitalization** (up to 15 days) expenses.



Performance of Scheme during Pandemic

- Extent of hospitalization: 8.3 lakh Covid cases were treated** under PM-JAY in the last two years.
- Percentage of beneficiaries:** Some independent studies highlighted that **only 14.25% people hospitalized** for COVID-19 (from April 2020-June 2021) **got PM-JAY benefits.**

Conclusion

PM-JAY offers some unique propositions to meet '**Good health and Well Being**' (SDG3). But to achieve its underlying commitment '**Leaving no one behind**', we need transformation in healthcare sector itself through

innovative mechanisms and partnership between all stakeholders (Centre and state government, private hospitals, citizens, NGOs/SHGs etc.).

2.4. DIGITALISATION OF HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Why in news?

Recently government has informed that nearly **11.9 lakh health IDs** have been generated under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

About National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)

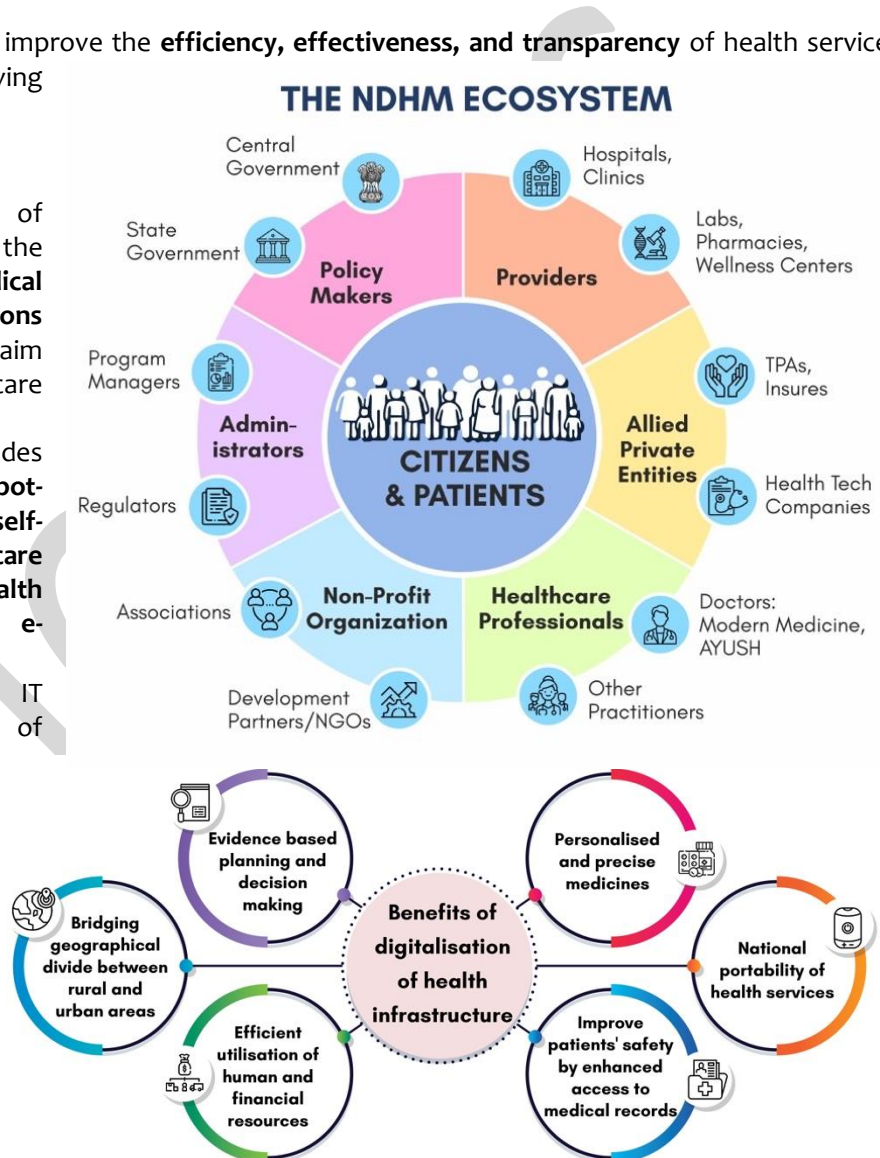
- Stemming from the National Health Policy (2017), the NDHM intends to **digitize healthcare** in India, by **bridging the existing gap amongst different stakeholders** of Healthcare ecosystem through **digital highways**.
- It is intended to significantly improve the **efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency** of health service delivery overall and achieving SDGs related to health.

Digitalisation of healthcare

- Definition:** Digitalisation of healthcare refers to the integration of **medical knowledge with IT applications or IT technologies**, with the aim of improving the medical care and supervision of patients.
 - Digital healthcare includes **Telemedicine, Robot-assisted surgery, self-monitoring healthcare devices, electronic health records, e-pharmacies, e-insurance** etc.
- Opportunities:** With India's IT capacity, rapid adoption of mobile technologies and widespread broadband network services it is possible for India to become a model for digital health adoption.

Challenges to digitalisation of healthcare services

- Federal conflict:** Since health is a state subject, it will not be possible to dictate from the central level what these systems should look like, nor will states alone be able to fashion a national lattice of these systems without central leadership.
- Inadequate infrastructure:** With a few exceptions, little computerization is in place in the public health sector, especially at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), but even in the nation's largest public hospitals.
- Fragmented healthcare delivery:** A large number of small facilities with poor economies of scale and with limited technological capacity are making the task of 'wiring' the health sector difficult and costlier.
- Lack of dominant HIT (Health IT) vendors or entrepreneurs:** The advantage of having dominant players in a marketplace is that they are more likely to be adequately capitalized, thus being able to finance continual innovation.



- **Other challenges:** Internet accessibility, Data Safety, information standards etc.

Way Forward

- **Leveraging Aadhar:** Aadhaar can be used to digitise all data relating to all patients available not just with government and private hospitals but also with diagnostic centres, laboratories and individual practitioners of all systems of medicine.
- **Consent for sharing data:** Data about any individual (patient, doctor, etc) must be under the control of that individual and any entity holding that data must first obtain legitimate consent before sharing the data or processing it in other ways.
- **Penetration of telemedicine services:** Existing PHCs, health and wellness centres, and subcentres must start a telemedicine element in their centres. These must be clubbed with higher, specialised hospitals, to provide digital consultation.
 - Establishing model digital health centres in rural settings with at least one MBBS, or an Ayush doctor, along with a pharmacist and IT operator.
- **Low-cost drug delivery:** This can be ensured by clubbing Government's mega Jan Aushadhi Yojana with an e-pharmacy drive. Also, tie-ups with e-pharmacies such as 1mg, Netmeds etc. needed to be considered.

Other initiatives for digitalisation of healthcare

- **National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB)** to transition into integrated digital services in a comprehensive and holistic manner.
- **Supported to states under National Health Mission (NHM)** for services like Telemedicine, Tele-Radiology, Tele- Oncology, Tele-Ophthalmology and Hospital Information System (HIS).
- Proposed **National Health Stack by Niti Aayog**, a nationally shared digital infrastructure usable by both Centre and State across public and private sectors, to enable rapid creation of diverse solutions in health.
- **Telemedicine Practice Guidelines, 2020** for regularization and diversification of tele-consultation services across the country.

2.5. SECONDARY HEALTH CARE IN INDIA

Why in News?

Recently, NITI Aayog in association with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India released a performance assessment report "Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals".

About Secondary healthcare

- It refers to a **second tier of health system**, in which patients from primary health care are referred to specialists in higher hospitals for treatment.
- It is **provided by district or regional hospitals** that offer outpatient consultation and inpatient services including emergency care.

Challenges in Secondary Healthcare

- **Low healthcare spending:** Overall, India's public health expenditure (sum of central and state spending) has **remained between 1.2% to 1.6% of GDP** between 2008-09 and 2019-20.

Draft Model Concession Agreement for Setting up Medical Colleges under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) guideline document by NITI Aayog

- It was aimed at **addressing shortage of qualifies** doctors and bridge gap in medical education.
 - Under the proposed PPP model, NITI Aayog has envisioned the **concessionaire to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the medical college and also upgrade, operate and maintain the associated district Hospital** with a minimum annual student intake of 150 MBBS seats.
- **Benefit of such an agreement**
 - **Aid Central/state government** to bridge the gaps in the medical education by augmenting **medical seats and also rationalise the costs of medical education.**
 - Ensure **specialized healthcare services** availability and accessibility at **district level.**
 - **Leverage upon private sector management efficiencies** in providing quality care at these hospitals.
- **Concerns raised against such an arrangement**
 - **Accessibility issues** as concessionaire shall be allowed to charge fee from patients, it might lead to **exclusion of vulnerable sections.**
 - **Accountability issues** as concessionaire will be handed over the hospitals at an extremely low fee with **no mention of health outcomes that can be expected.**
 - Medical education is already very expensive. The addition of so many colleges in the private sector will lead to **further exclusion of such students.**

- **Regional disparity in accessibility:** About 80 percent of doctors, 75 percent of dispensaries and 60 percent of hospitals are present in urban areas.
- **Weak Primary health care (PHC) sector:** 60% of PHCs in India have only one doctor while about 5% have none. This adversely impacts filtering of patients as well as prevention and early detection.
- **Non availability of skilled workforce:** India currently needs an additional 6.4 million healthcare resources (overall) to serve its population.
- **Lack of pandemic handling capacity:** Global Health Security Index, which measures pandemic preparedness for countries ranked India a lowly 57 (lower than US (1), Brazil (22) highlighting India’s vulnerability.
- **Weak governance and accountability:** In most of the medical mishap, like Chhattisgarh Sterilization camps, Kolkata hospital tragedy, the medical doctors are either suspended or terminated without going into the root cause of problems.

Way Forward

- **Improving health spending** up to at least 5%–6% of the GDP.
- **Promoting preventive healthcare** to reduce pressure on secondary level.
- **Better patient management at PHCs** with the help of technology.
- **Human Resource:** NITI Aayog suggested PPP model to link new or existing private medical colleges with functional district hospital to augment medical seats.
- **Roping in decentralized institutions:** Involvement of SHGs, Panchayati Raj Institution and Strengthening of ANMs, ASHA, etc. should be trained together to form a multi-skilled team at the village/district level.
- **Improve private sector participation** through Subsidized loans, earmarked land, single-window approvals, tax holidays, etc.
- **Need to inculcate ethical values of service,** truthfulness, confidentiality, autonomy, informed consent and justice in healthcare professionals.
- **Increasing insurance coverage**

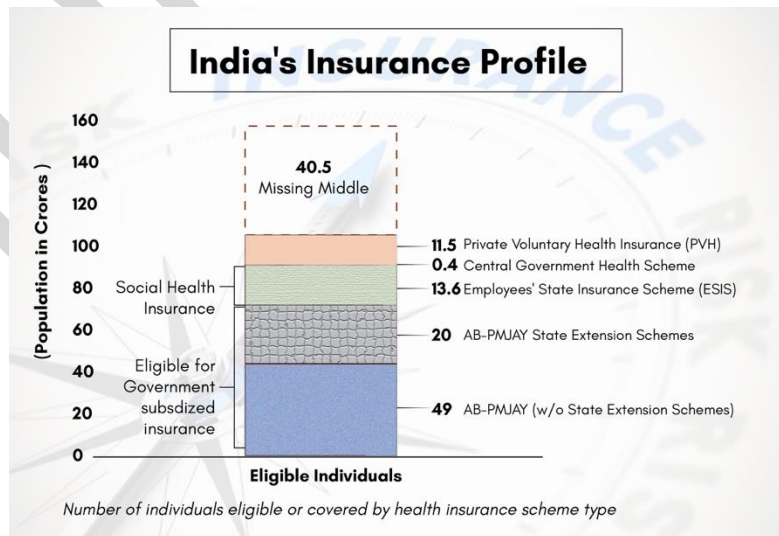
2.6. HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDIA’S MISSING MIDDLE

Why in news?

NITI Aayog has recently released the report “Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle”.

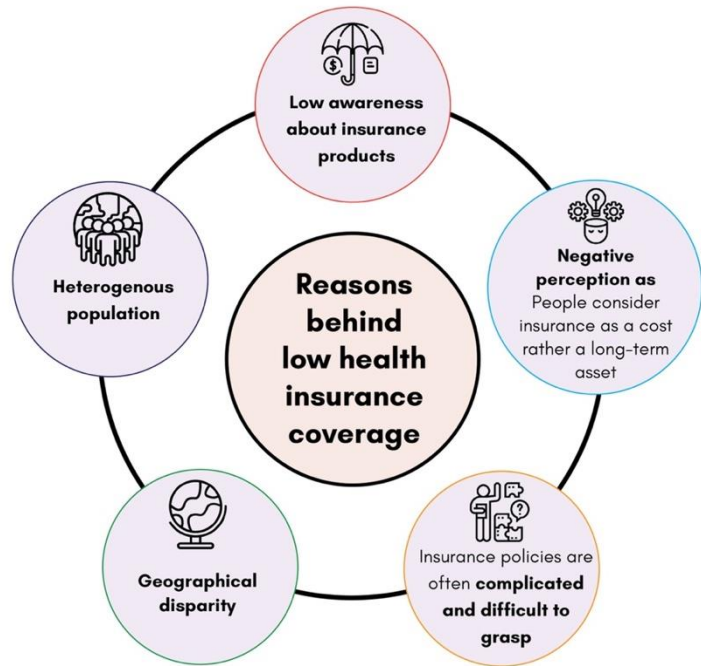
About India’s health insurance sector

- India has a **decentralized approach to health care** that allows **health insurance to be optional**. India has **multiple types of health insurance schemes**.
 - **Government Subsidized health insurance schemes** like Centrally Sponsored AB- PMJAY and state specific schemes such as ‘Arogya Karnataka Scheme’.
 - **Social Health Insurance (SHI) Schemes** like Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) run by Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
 - **Private voluntary health insurance (PVHI) schemes**
- Report highlights the **gap in India’s insurance coverage for 30% of India’s population** (40 crore) named as the **‘missing middle’**.
 - Missing middle is the **non-poor segments of the population** positioned between deprived poorer sections, and relatively well-off organized sector who remain prone to impoverishing health expenditure, despite the **financial capacity to pay for contributory health insurance**.
 - It **predominantly constitutes the self-employed** (agriculture and non-agriculture) informal sector in rural areas, and a broad array of occupations – informal, semi-formal, and formal – in urban areas.



What could be done to address the pressing issues in Healthcare sector

- **Three models phased in at different times:**
 - **In the short-term**, the focus should be on expanding private voluntary insurance through commercial insurers.
 - **In the medium-term**, once the supply-side and utilization of PMJAY and ESIC is strengthened, their infrastructure can be leveraged to allow voluntary contributions to a PMJAY plus product, or to ESIC's existing medical benefits.
 - **In the long-term**, once the low-cost voluntary contributory health insurance market is developed, expansion of PMJAY to the uncovered poorer segments of the missing middle should be considered.
- **Role of the government:**
 - **Expanding government subsidized health insurance** through the PMJAY scheme to a wider set of beneficiaries.
 - Developing a modified, **standardized health insurance product** like 'Aarogya Sanjeevani'.
 - **increasing consumer awareness, swift grievance redressal**
- **Role of Insurance companies** - Show long-term commitment to the rural sector and products suitable for rural people. Utilise technology in delivery of insurance service.



2.7. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Why in News?

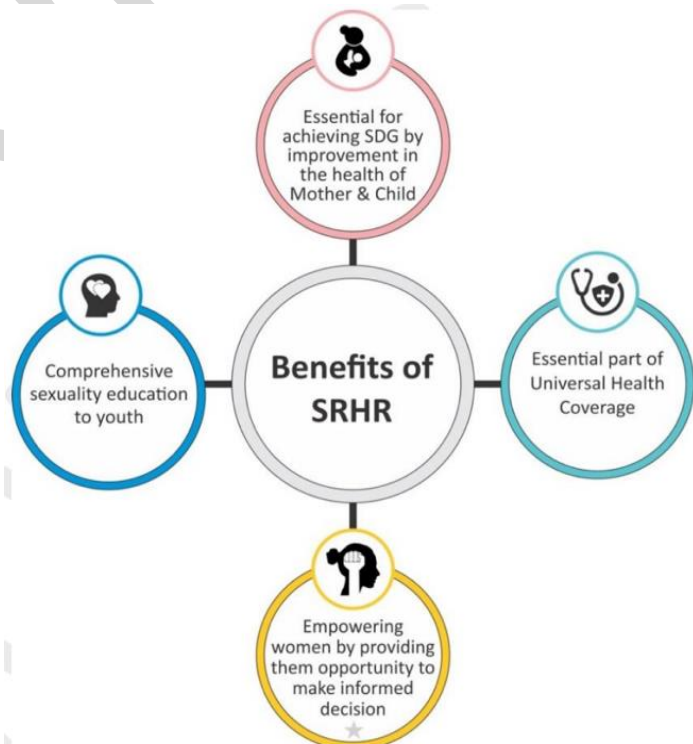
A new study by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted inequalities concerning access to sexual and reproductive healthcare.

About Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

- SRHR includes **access to SRH services, care, and information, as well as autonomy in decision making about their SRHs** including the spacing and timing of children.
- These are **human rights** - universal, indivisible, and undeniable.

Challenges regarding SRHR

- **Cultural norms:** Ideological opposition to family planning and abortion, stigma associated with teenage pregnancy; cultural taboos about young people's sexuality, etc.
- **Underfunding of reproductive health care:** As a result, poor people, especially women and young suffer the most.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Difficulties related to obtaining information and services are compounded for those who are marginalized on the basis of their sexuality, gender expression or marital status.
- **Lack of freedom for women:** As per a UN report **only 57% of women** are able to make their **own decisions over their SRHR**.



- **Lax implementation of standards and guidelines:** The Supreme Court in **Devika Biswas case** observed that State policies such as setting **informal targets and offering incentives to undergo sterilisation have impinged on the reproductive rights of vulnerable groups** whose impoverished socio-economic conditions makes them **susceptible to coercion and leaves them bereft of any meaningful choice**.
 - The Court also held that **incentive schemes for sterilisation must be made gender neutral**.
- **Neglect during Pandemic:** Lockdowns, movement restrictions and diversion of funds due to COVID-19 have jeopardized access to essential SRHR.

Way forward

- **SRH information and services should be accessible and affordable to all** individuals who need.
- **Promoting gender equality and women's autonomy, liberalizing abortion laws,** and prohibiting discrimination against people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expression.
- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** to address widespread taboos and misconceptions around sexuality, the persistence of systemic sexual violence against women, high levels of sexually transmitted diseases.
- **Programmes should engage men to become supportive partners** in SRHR.
- **Address the acute shortfall of public health care infrastructure.**

2.8. SURROGACY (REGULATION) RULES, 2022

Why in news?

The government has issued Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 under Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.

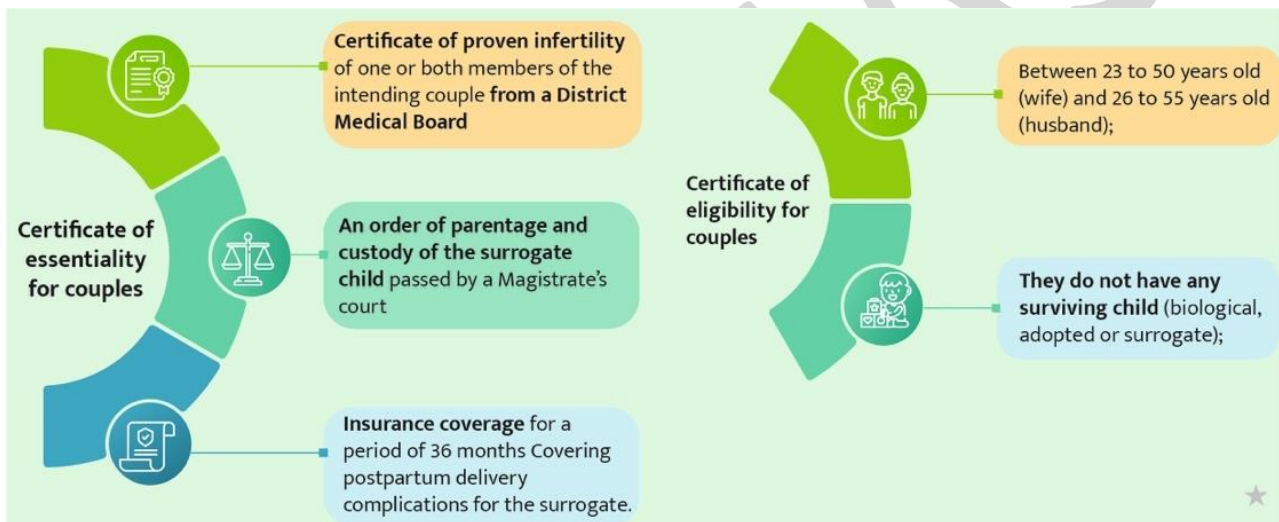
Key Features of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

- **Defines surrogacy:** Surrogacy is a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple.
- **Regulation of surrogacy:**
 - Prohibits commercial surrogacy.
 - **Surrogacy is permitted when it is:**
 - ✓ for intending couples who suffer from proven **infertility**;
 - ✓ only for **altruistic** surrogacy purposes;
 - ✓ **not** for producing children for **sale, pro stitution or other forms of exploitation**;
 - ✓ for any **condition or disease specified through regulations**.
 - **Registration of surrogacy clinics** has been made compulsory.
 - Central and state governments shall appoint **one or more appropriate authorities** for evaluating and taking action against breach of the provisions of the Act.
- **Eligibility criteria for surrogate mother:** Lady should be
 - a **married woman having a child of her own** and 25 to 35 years old;
 - a **surrogate only once in her lifetime**;
 - **possess a certificate** of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy.
- **Eligibility criteria for couples:** The intending couple should have a **'certificate of essentiality'** and a **'certificate of eligibility'** issued by the appropriate authority.

About Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022

- Rules provide **form and manner for registration and fee for a surrogacy clinic and the requirement**, and qualification for persons employed, at a registered surrogacy clinic.
- **Key Highlights of the rules**
 - **Number of attempts of any surrogacy procedure** on surrogate mother shall not be **more than 3 times**.
 - A surrogate mother **may be allowed for abortion** during surrogacy in accordance with the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971** as advised by the doctors.
 - A surrogate mother has to **give her consent** through an agreement for **giving up all her rights over the child** and shall hand over the child/children to:
 - ✓ the **intending couple**, or
 - ✓ a Person (appointed by the intending couple) in case of their **separation during her pregnancy** or in case of death of both, or
 - ✓ **The survivor** in case of the **death of one** of intending couple during pregnancy.
 - ✓ **Intending couples will need to purchase a general health insurance cover** in favour of a surrogate mother **for a period of 36 months** from an insurance company/agent recognized by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

- **New bodies created for regulation:**
 - **Constitution of National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board:** With chairman as Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Its functions include:
 - ✓ **Advising the Central Government** on policy matters relating to surrogacy;
 - ✓ to **review and monitor** the implementation of the Act,
 - ✓ to **lay down the code of conduct** of surrogacy clinics;
 - ✓ to **set the minimum standards** of physical infrastructure, laboratory and diagnostic equipment and expert manpower to be employed by the surrogacy clinics;
 - ✓ to **oversee the performance of various bodies** constituted under the Act;
 - ✓ to **supervise the functioning of State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Boards.**
 - ✓ **Constitution of State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Boards** in each state & UT level.
- **Other features**
 - A child born out of a surrogacy procedure will be **deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple.**
 - An **abortion** of the surrogate child **requires the written consent of the surrogate mother and the authorisation of the appropriate authority.** This authorisation must be compliant with the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.**
 - **Offences and penalties** include imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees.



Way forward

- **Taking care of Post-Partum depression:** Government must take into account postpartum depression and make provisions for it, and that maternal benefits should be extended to both mothers.
- **Rescinding the time-frame for IVF treatment:** Government should consider rescinding the time-stipulated for IVF treatment before allowing people to resort to surrogacy, as many women are medically unfit to have children, and suffer from little-known and undetectable illnesses such as “Tokophobia” or the fear of childbirth.
- **Overtime expanding the option of surrogacy to include commercial surrogacy:** Expanding the surrogacy market with proper safeguards overtime will help those deprived of the love of a child.

Issues with the act

- **Exclusionary in nature:** Only legally married couple are allowed to choose for surrogacy. This excludes transgenders, live-in partners, unmarried youth who also wants to parent a child.
 - In **Devika Biswas v. Union of India**, the Apex Court held that Right to Reproduction was an essential facet of the ‘Right to Life’ under Article 21.
- **Restrictive definition of ‘infertility’:** Infertility is **restricted to failure to conceive.** It does not cover other issues that a women may face in delivering a child.
- **Hampers the source of livelihood:** Banning commercial surrogacy denies a legitimate source of income of the surrogate.

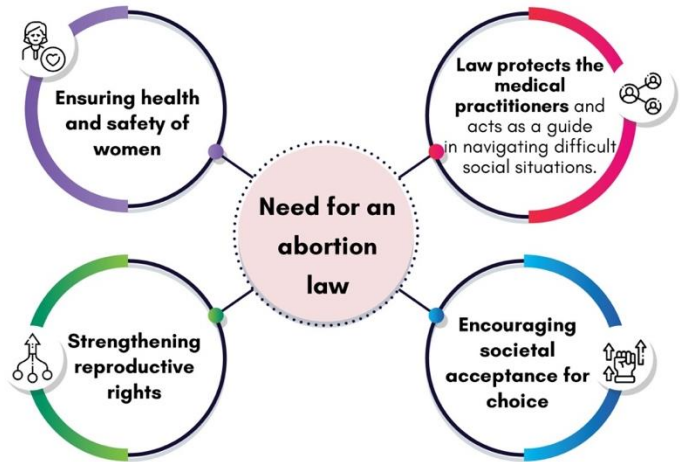
2.9. MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

Why in News?

The Union Government notified the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021** under section 6 of the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act), 1971**.

Salient Features of New Rules

- **Defines powers and functions of State level Medical Board** (set up through latest amendments to MTP Act, 1971 in 2021) such as:
 - **Examine the woman and her reports**, when approached for medical termination of pregnancy,
 - **Allow or deny termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks of gestation period**, ensuring **safety of procedure for women** and identify **substantial risk to life or lifelong physical and mental handicaps foetal malformation** within fixed timeframe,
 - **Co-opt other specialists in the Board and ask for any additional investigations** if required, to decide termination of pregnancy.
- **Identifies categories of women eligible for termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks** as-
 - survivors of **sexual assault or rape** or incest; minors;
 - **change of marital status** during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce);
 - women with **physical disabilities** (as per the 2016 Act criteria);
 - **mentally ill** women including mental retardation;
 - **foetal malformation** carrying substantial risk of life or of physical and mental abnormalities for serious handicap; and
 - women with pregnancy in **humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations** as may be declared by the Government.
- **Specifies Eligibility criteria of Registered Medical Practitioner** to conduct termination of pregnancy up to 9 weeks, 12 weeks, 12-20 weeks etc.



Comparison between MTP Act, 1971 and MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021

Features	MTP Act, 1971	MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021
Time upto 12 weeks since conception	• Advice of one doctor	• Advice of one doctor
Time 12 to 20 weeks since conception	• Advice of two doctors	• Advice of one doctor
Time 20 to 24 weeks since conception	• Not allowed	• Two doctors for some categories of pregnant women
Time more than 24 weeks since conception	• Not allowed	• Medical Board in case of substantial foetal abnormality
Any time during the pregnancy if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life	• One doctor opinion formed in good faith	• One doctor opinion formed in good faith
Termination due to failure of contraceptive method or device	• Pregnancy may be terminated up to 20 weeks by a married woman	• Unmarried women can also terminate a pregnancy for this reason.
Medical Boards	• No such provision, only registered medical practitioners can decide upon termination of pregnancy	• Medical Board will decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks due to substantial foetal abnormalities. • All state and union territory governments will constitute a Medical Board consisting of

		gynecologists, pediatrician, radiologist/sonologist, and other members notified by the state government.
Privacy and punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person who wilfully contravenes or wilfully fails to comply with the requirements of any regulation shall be liable to be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A registered medical practitioner may only reveal the details of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated to a person authorised by law. Violation is punishable with imprisonment up to a year, a fine, or both.

What is the crux of the abortion issue: The Pro-Life vs Pro-Choice Debate

Pro-Choice Movement (Focus on Mother)	Pro-Life Movement (Focus on Child)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's rights over her body Birth defects (genetic abnormalities) which are lethal or lead to lifelong suffering takes heavy toll on parents through moral distress and posttraumatic stress State can't overlook the age (minor) and mental health of women (mentally ill) Rape victims should have freedom of choice on pregnancy termination No child should be brought unwanted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foetus rights of personhood Misuses of prenatal diagnosis for sex-determination. The birth defects may get treated t in future Against humanity and state has an obligation to protect all life including foetus. E.g. Texas anti-abortion law (banning abortion if medical professionals can detect cardiac activity).

Challenges in implementing the MTP Act in India

- Shortage of qualified doctors:** As per **National Health and Family Survey, 2015-16**, only **53% of abortions** performed by registered medical doctor in India while balance are conducted by a nurse, auxiliary nurse midwife, family member of self.
- Shortage of Health Infrastructure:** PHCs and rural areas lack adequate infrastructure.
- Lack awareness on laws:** This makes enforcement and application extremely difficult.
- Social Stigma:** Due to issues like loss of privacy victims of rape and others may avoid using formal means of abortion.
- Religious Opposition:** Several inscriptions and religious texts, in one form or the other, oppose the idea of abortion. This hinders development of social acceptance and hence leads to limited usage of the law.

Way Forward

The regulation of medical termination should be centered around the woman and the child. Keeping this in mind, **following principles** can be adopted in regulation to ensure that **health, safety, and privacy of the women** and at the same time **growing gradual societal acceptance for the process:**

Engage religious leaders to enhance spiritual values.	Ensure confidentiality of process.
Make people realize value of human life to avoid any misuse.	Improve awareness on effective use of contraceptives to avoid its misuse.
Family life education to help couples for a planned parenthood.	Overcome shortage of qualified doctors and improve infrastructure in rural India.
Improve law and order situation to address moot issues like rape, incest etc., i.e., overcoming circumstances for the use of law.	

<p>Related news</p> <p>Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court (SC) overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling on abortion rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> US SC overturned the 1973 landmark decision that provided constitutional protection to woman's right to terminate her pregnancy and had institutionalised abortion-related protections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent judgement is supported by religious and pro-life groups while opposed by right activists with risk of domino effect on other rights. It also paves way for individual states to ban the procedure.

2.10. RARE DISEASE

Why in News?

Union Government has set up eight centres of excellence to treat those diagnosed with rare diseases such as thalassemia, haemophilia, and sickle cell anaemia.

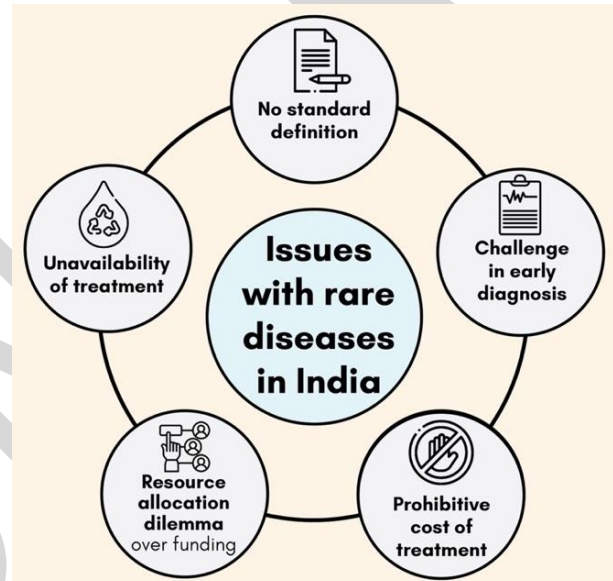
About Rare Diseases

- WHO defines rare disease as often debilitating lifelong disease or disorder with a prevalence of less than 10 per 10,000 people. However, different countries have their own definitions to suit their specific requirements and in context of their own population, health care system and resources.
- The term “Orphan diseases” is often used for these and drugs to treat them are called “Orphan drugs”.
- Some rare diseases are Thalassemia, Sickle cell anaemia, Sweet syndrome, Lysosomal storage disorder etc.

National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) approved the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021.

- Public Health and hospitals being a State subject, the Central Government through NPRD, would support the States in screening and prevention of rare diseases.
- Major provisions of the policy include:
- Aim of the policy:
 - To lower the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases
 - To enable access to affordable health care to patients of rare diseases
 - To increase focus on indigenous research and local production of medicines.
- Categorization of rare diseases in 3 groups:
 - Group 1: Disorders amenable to one-time curative treatment.
 - Group 2: Those requiring long term or lifelong treatment.
 - Group 3: Diseases for which definitive treatment is available but challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit, very high cost and lifelong therapy.



Financial Support for treatment :

- Assistance of Rs 20 lakh to be provided by the Central government to patients suffering from rare diseases under Group 1 under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).

Beneficiaries will not be limited to BPL families.

- For diseases listed under Group 2, State Governments can consider supporting patients of such rare diseases with special diets or hormonal supplements or other relatively low-cost interventions.
- Provision for voluntary crowd-funding for treatment through setting up a digital platform for voluntary individual and corporate donors.
- Centres of Excellence and Nidan Kendras for screening, genetic testing and counselling for rare diseases.
- Creation of Database on rare diseases.

Best practices from other countries		
<p>USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orphan Drugs Act, 1983 under which companies are provided incentives like tax incentives, market exclusivity and grants to develop therapies, or orphan drugs, for rare diseases. 	<p>Singapore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare Disease Charity Fund has been created to fund five medicines to treat three rare disease conditions. 	<p>Malaysia and Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidised access for eligible patients is provided for expensive and lifesaving drugs.

- **Increasing affordability of drug related to rare diseases:** PSUs would be encouraged for local manufacturing of drugs for rare diseases.
Research & Development: Creation of an integrated research pipeline to start the development of new drugs, repurposing the drugs and use of biosimilars (the reference medicine).

Conclusion

Even though very small population is affected by rare diseases, it is States' responsibility to provide quality health facilities. Additional, India is known as world's pharmacy for producing affordable drugs for various diseases. Therefore, India's should strive to deliver the best health care facilities for rare diseases to the world as well as its own people.

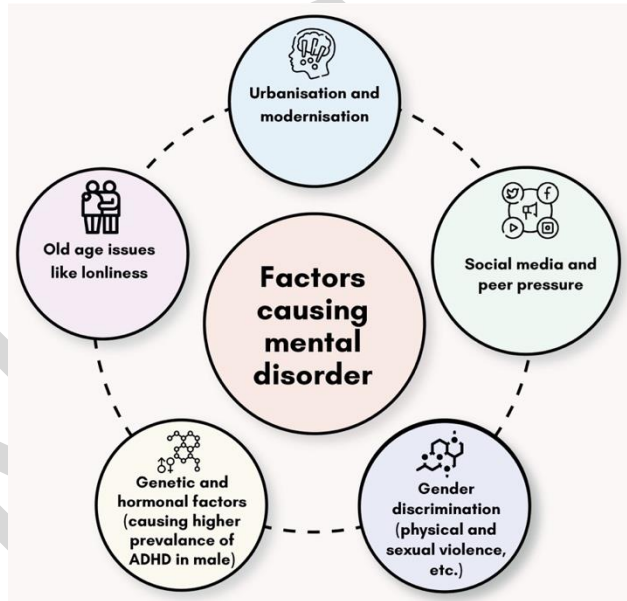
2.11. MENTAL HEALTH

Why in news?

Recently the WHO released the report titled 'The World mental health report: transforming mental health for all'.

Key highlights of the report

- **Prevalence:**
 - **Overall:** 970 million people living with mental health disorders like anxiety & depression (the most prevalent), developmental disorder, etc.
 - **Gender parity:** Anxiety and depression is most prevalent in woman while substance abuse is more common in men.
 - **Income:** Low and middle-income countries make up the largest share of population with mental disorder, but, high income countries reported the highest prevalence among their population.
 - **Covid exacerbated the prevalence:** In just a year after pandemic depression and anxiety increased by 28% and 26% respectively. Countries that reported the most covid-19 cases and deaths also reported the highest increase in cases of mental illness.
- **Cost**
 - **Lifespan:** Severe mental illness can cut lifespan by 10-20 years.
 - **Economic cost:** \$ 1 trillion is lost to anxiety and depression alone every year. \$ 6 trillion is the World Economic Forum's projected cost of mental illness to the world economy in 2030.



Why Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem of Mental Health?

Factors related to COVID-19 responsible for causing/enhancing psychological and emotional distress among Indian Population:

- **Isolation and loneliness,** loss of income induced by lockdown, social distancing, quarantines, etc.
- **Fear of the infection/death, stigma and discrimination against health care workers,** Covid patients, etc.
- **Loss of income, disruption in education** of children, **additional burden on women** due to enhanced requirements of caregiving with increased cases of violence towards them.
- **Role of media:** Continuous consumption of negative news, frequent misinformation and rumours about the virus, etc. can severely affect mental health of individuals.

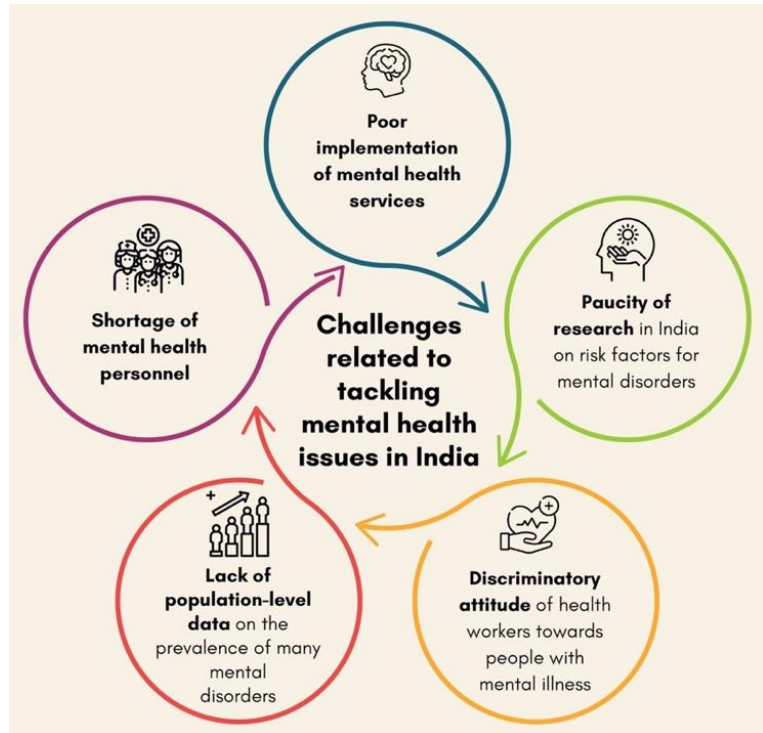
Implications of depreciating Mental Health

- **Economic impacts:** High hospital expenses, loss of income loss of tax by the government, etc.
- **Impact on brain health:** Social isolation, reduced physical activity and reduced intellectual stimulation may affect brain health development in young children and adolescents and cognitive decline and **dementia in the older population.**
- **Increase in substance abuse:** To deal with the stressors, people may resort to different use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco etc. o

- **Increased risks of discrimination and violence:** related to gender, children and caste. o Rise in morbidity and suicides linked to mental health.

Way ahead to tackle mental health issues effectively

- **Integrated approach:** A holistic approach to detect, treat, and manage patient needs related to mental and physical health is urgently needed in India.
- **Awareness and community participation:** This will help reducing stigma and discrimination, raising awareness, and promoting inclusion. For example, Atmiyata’s community-based volunteers in Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- **Healthy lifestyle:** Promotion of physical activity, Yoga and mindfulness techniques to supplement mental health.
- **Strengthening mental health programmes:** Scaling up Digitally mediated therapy. For example, NIMHANS runs a successful telepsychiatry intervention in Karnataka.
 - o Building resilience amongst adolescents and young children through **School-based mental health programmes.**



2.12. ONLINE GAMING

Why In News?

Recently, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted an **AVGC (Animation, Visual, Gaming and Comics) Promotion Task Force.**

More on News

- The **objectives** of taskforce
 - o Framing of a **national AVGC policy**
 - o Recommend **national curriculum framework** for AVGC related courses
 - o Boost **employment opportunities**
- It will work to **attract FDI** and enhance exports to lead **‘Create in India’ and ‘Brand India’**; to **capture 5% (~\$40 billion)** of the **AVGC global market** by **2025** with a growth of **25-30%** and over **1.6 lakh** new jobs creation annually.
- Broadly, online Gaming implies **playing games which need an internet connection** to play them.

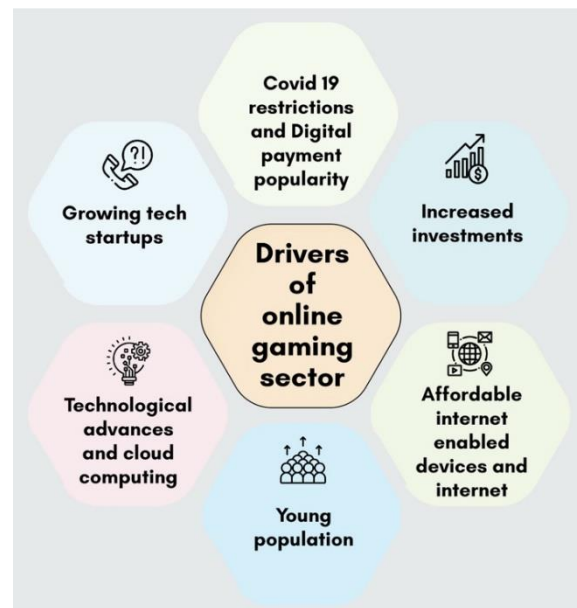
Benefits of Online Gaming

- **Improve government revenues** through taxes on online gaming.
- **Create significant employment**, especially in tech startups, animation and other related industries such as Live Streaming and Video-On-Demand.
- **Help to curb illegal betting and gambling** industry, money laundering etc.

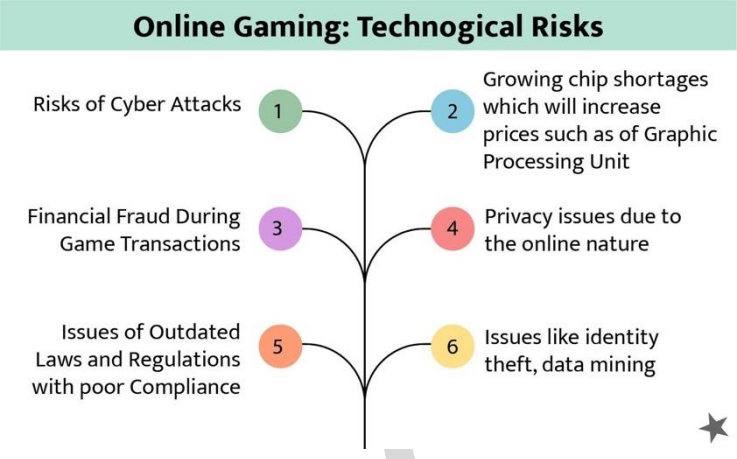
DATA BANK

Online Gaming

- India’s **online gaming industry is expected to be worth ₹15,500 crore by 2023** (All India Gaming Federation).
- India had the **second largest number of gamers** after South Korea (US based Limelight Networks).
- **Almost a quarter of adult Indian gamers had missed work** while playing games (US based Limelight Networks).

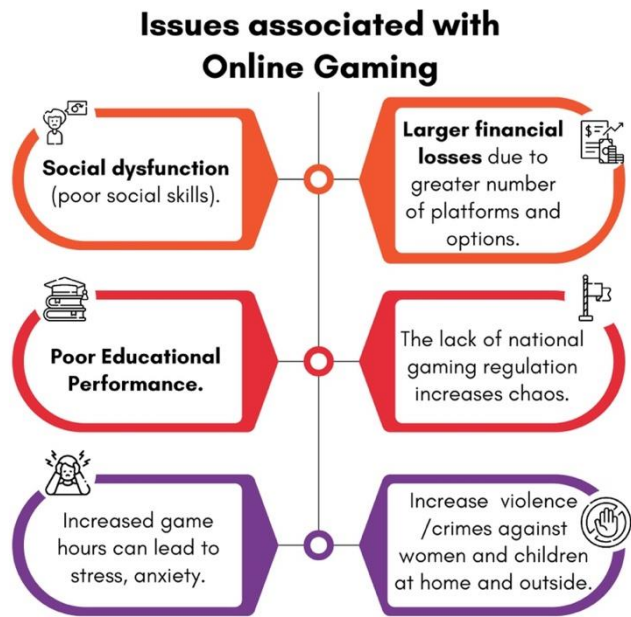


- **Help children to learn different things, culture etc.** through greater engagement (concentration) and motivation.
- **Reduce Substance Abuse:** The **convenience and accessibility** of online gaming allows people to play from home, reducing chances of substance abuse, which is more common at betting places, casinos etc.
- **Laurels for the nation:** E.g. Unlike Tokyo Olympics and last Asian Games as demonstration events, in Asian Games, 2022 E-sports such as **FIFA, PUBG, Dota 2** etc. will debut as **medal events**.
- **Promote Innovation:** It will promote innovations/technological advancements in immersive and interactive technology such as AR, VR, etc.



Way Forward

- **Legal Clarity:** Proper regulations on games involving betting and wagering from **states** or allow the centre to make regulations under **Article 252**. The centre can also do it on its own by using its residuary powers under **Article 248**.
- **Regulatory Clarity:** Establish a single regulatory body for the entire online gaming industry to standardize regulations.
- **Information, Education and Communication (IEC):** Use IEC to spread awareness on gaming ills and benefits for responsible play, good health and being social.
- **Supervise Children at Home:** Parents should supervise children's online gaming to check the type of games, time spent and learning outcomes.
- **Curbing loss chasing:** A cap can be introduced on the number of transactions from an individual across platforms or one platform to avoid greater economic losses.



Related information Gaming Disorder	Treatment for Gaming Disorder					
	Psychoeducation	Treatment as usual	Intrapersonal	Interpersonal	Family intervention	Development of a new lifestyle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Health Organization (WHO) categorised gaming disorder as a mental health condition in 2018. 	This involves educating the person about gaming behaviors and their effects on mental health.	Adapt addiction treatment to fit gaming disorder. The treatment focuses on helping the person to control cravings, deal with irrational thoughts, etc.	Help addicts to explore their identity, build self-esteem, and enhance their emotional intelligence.	Addict will learn how to interact with others by working on their communication skills and assertiveness.	If gaming disorder is negatively affecting relationships with others, family members may need to take part in some aspects of therapy.	To prevent excessive gaming, people should explore their skills and abilities, set goals for themselves, and find activities other than gaming that they enjoy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the WHO's definition, a person who has gaming disorder will show the following characteristics for at least 12 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lacking control over their gaming habits. ○ Prioritizing gaming over other interests and activities. ○ Continuing gaming despite its negative consequences. • Consequences: physical, social and emotional damages, impairing sleep, appetites, careers and social lives, financial distress for a poor families etc. 						

Way ahead

- **Legal:** A bare minimum, statutory warnings and mandatory breaks should be enforced to prevent binge gaming.
- **Digital fasting:** Digital fasting among families are also important steps to combat the disorder.
- **Treatment:** Gaming disorder is a new classification, so there is no clear treatment plan in place yet. However, it is likely that treatments for other addictive behaviors, such as gambling addiction, will also be relevant for gaming disorder (refer the infographic).

2.13. DRUG ABUSE

Why in news?

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recommended changes to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to **exempt them from a prison term.**

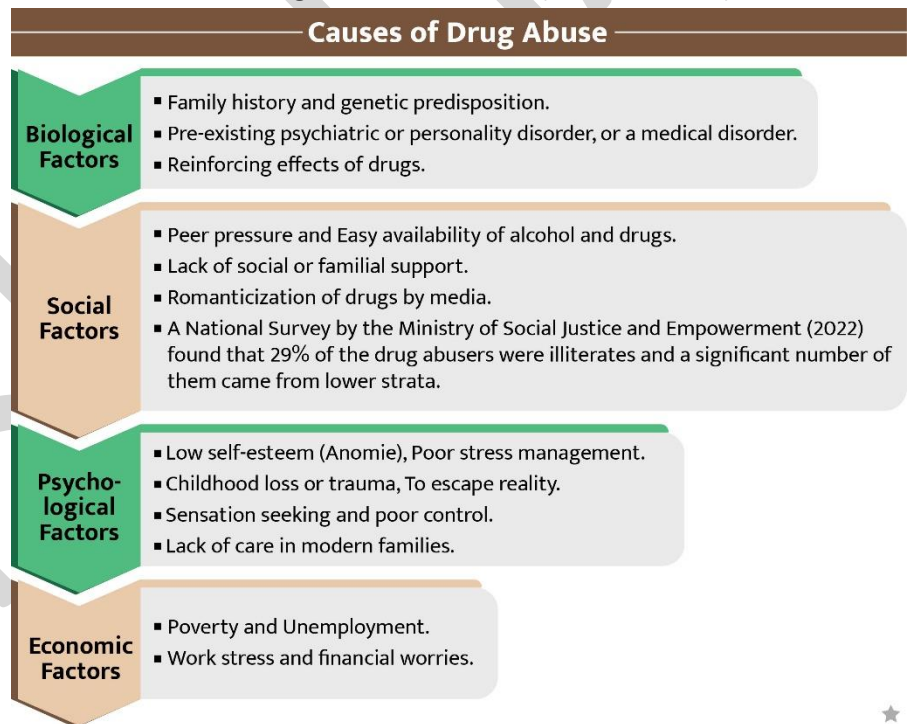
More about news

- The ministry has suggested that drug users and addicts be **treated as ‘victims’** who need **de-addiction and rehabilitation.** Criminal action should not be taken against them.
- It has also called for **decriminalising possession of ‘small quantities’** of drugs for personal consumption.

About Drug abuse

- **Definition:** Drug abuse or Substance abuse refers to the **harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances (substances affecting mental processes).**
- **Extent of Drug abuse in India:** From traditional **plant-based drugs** such as cannabis, cocaine, and heroin to **synthetic drugs** such as tramadol, consumption of narcotic substances in India has increased manifold in recent years. In terms of users, India's illicit drug markets are **mostly dominated by cannabis and opioids.**

- In 2019, there were **3.1 crore cannabis users** and **2.3 crore opioid users.**
- **Consumption across states:** **Uttar Pradesh has the highest number** of cannabis users, followed by Punjab, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, and Delhi, according to the AIIMS report.
 - However, in terms of population percentage, the **north-eastern states top the list.** Nearly **seven per cent of the population in Mizoram,** for instance, consume opioids.



Major Initiatives taken by government to curb drug abuse

- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act):** It consolidated the law in relation to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and created **Narcotics Control Bureau .**
- **Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse for Social Defence Services:** The scheme helps Voluntary Organizations for Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug abuse.
- The **Mental Health Care Act (2017)** has included **alcohol and drug use** disorders under its ambit.
- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025:** It aims at **reduction of adverse consequences** of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving awareness generation programmes, Community outreach, etc.
- **‘Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan’** or a **‘Drugs-Free India Campaign’** launched in 2020 across **272 districts of the country found to be most vulnerable** based on the data available from various sources.

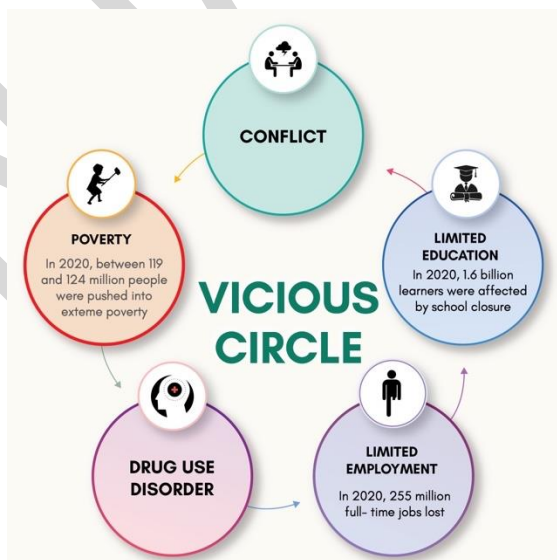
- **UN Conventions:** India is a party to the **three United Nations drug conventions:** Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

Issues in curbing Drug Abuse in India

- **India acts as a hub for drug trafficking:** India lies between the **Golden triangle and the golden crescent**, the **major opium production regions** in the world making it a hub for **drug trafficking in the continent**.
- **Treatment gap:** The National Mental Health Survey (2015-2016) showed a **treatment gap of more than 70% for drug use disorders**.
- **Criminalising drug abuse:** it brings social stigma to drug addict who in turn avoid seeking any kind of medical help.
- **Organized nature:** Since drug peddling is an **organised crime**, it is challenging for the police to catch the persons involved from the point of source to the point of destination.
- **Advancement in technology:** Increased **digital penetration** and **use of the dark web** by online markets, rapid proliferation of internet-based pharmacies and bitcoin-based transactions has further enhanced the accessibility of drugs.
- **Vicious cycle of poverty fuels drug abuse** (Refer infographic).

What can be done to overcome these issues?

- **Adequate financial investment:** This will help bridge the wide treatment gap.
- **Evidence-based substance use prevention programmes:** Prevention programmes must aim at **not just preventing substance use** but ensuring that young people **grow and stay healthy** into adulthood, enabling them to realize their potential and become productive members of their community and society.
- **Minimizing the stigma associated with drug abuse:** Awareness programmes can play an important role in establishing substance use disorders as **bio-psycho-social health conditions and not just moral failings**.
- **Other Steps:** There needs to be an **efficient coordination** between the drug supply control sector as well as the entities involved in drug demand reduction and harm reduction.
 - Various nongovernment organizations and nonprofit organizations can be involved to **initiate vocational training and other employment programs** for unemployed addicts.
 - **Appropriate linkages** between health workers, community leaders, religious leaders, and teachers for **planning prevention and rehabilitation activities** for drug abuse should be established.



Mains 365 - Social Issues

2.14. EUTHANASIA: RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

Why in News?

Recently, a man in Colombia became first person with non-terminal illness to die by legal euthanasia.

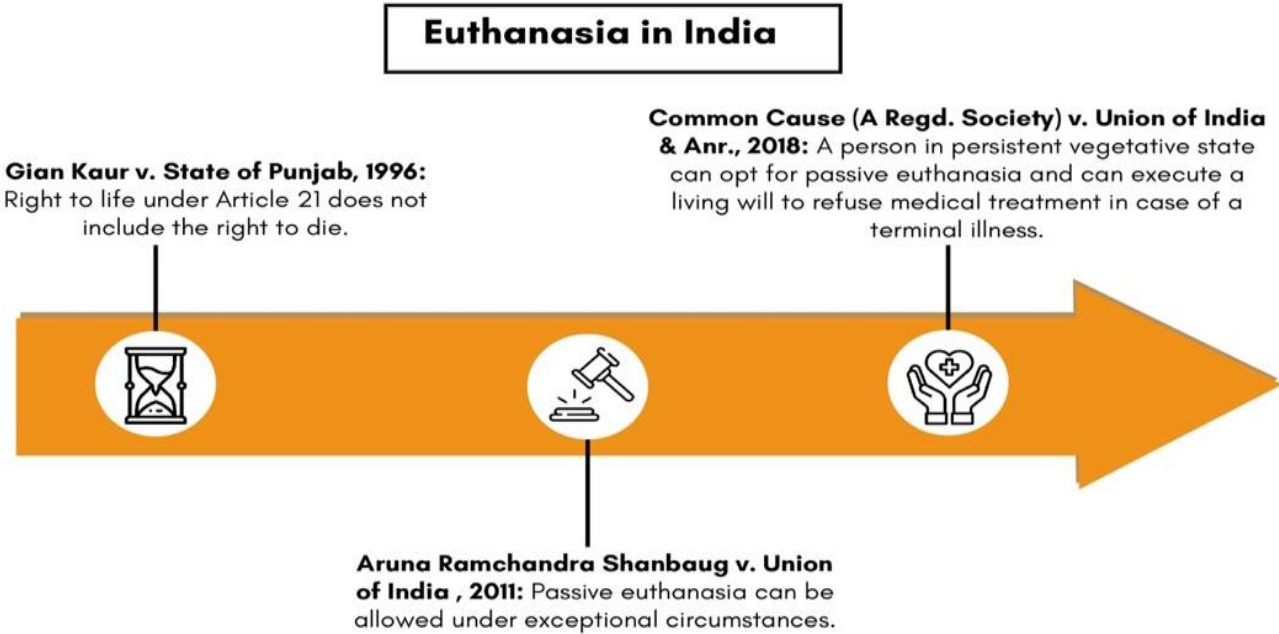
About Euthanasia

- The term was derived from the **Greek words 'eu' and 'thanatos' which means 'good or easy death'**.
- **Euthanasia** can be defined as the **intentional** killing by act or omission of a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit. It is also known as **'Mercy Killing'**.
- **The Right to die** is a concept which is based on the opinion that a human being is **entitled to make any decisions about ending his or her life (this also includes undergoing voluntary euthanasia)**.

Suicide vs Assisted Suicide

- **Suicide:** It is one way to exercise the right to die. Generally, when people are not content with their lives, they choose to commit suicide due to various factors such as mental disease, unbearable physical ailments, etc.
- **Assisted suicide:** Assisted suicide happens **when another person assists the person who is willing to commit suicide**, with all the guidance and tools to take his own life.

- There are primarily two types of Euthanasia.
 - **Active euthanasia** refers to the physician deliberate act, usually the administration of lethal drugs, to end an incurably or terminally ill patient's life.
 - **Passive euthanasia** refers to withholding or withdrawing treatment which is necessary for maintaining life.
- **Both euthanasia and assisted suicide are considered illegal in many countries** since they can amount to murder in disguise.



Euthanasia in India

- **Active euthanasia is a crime** under section 302 or 304 of IPC.
- **Since 2011, passive euthanasia is legal in India under exceptional circumstances.**

Arguments in Favour of legalising euthanasia	Arguments against euthanasia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 21 of the Indian Constitution clearly provides for living with dignity. If dignity is falling below that minimum level then a person should be given a right to end his life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The human life is gift of God and taking life is wrong and immoral human beings cannot be given the right to play the part of God.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scarce resources like money, doctors and hospital beds can be used for those people whose life can be saved instead of continuing the life of those who want to die. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical ethics call for nursing, caregiving and healing and not ending the life of the patient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the present time, medical science is advancing so fast that even the most incurable diseases are becoming curable today.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To force the person to live an undignified life is against the person's choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If euthanasia is legalised, then persons with disabilities feel obliged to opt for euthanasia as they may see themselves as a burden to society.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its aim is altruistic and beneficial as it is an act of painlessly putting to death to those persons who are suffering from painful and incurable diseases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient's painless dignified death may become a euphemism for assisted murder.

Conclusion

Euthanasia is indeed a contentious issue, with the heart of the debate lying at active voluntary euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. There is an urgent need to invest in our health care system, so that people suffering from serious ill health can access free health care. The complete expenses need to be borne by the State so that 'Right to life' becomes a reality and succeeds before 'Right to death with dignity'.

Living will

- A 'living will' is a concept where a patient can give consent that allows withdrawal of life support systems if the individual is reduced to a permanent vegetative state with no real chance of survival.
- It is a type of advance directive that may be used by a person before incapacitation to outline a full range of treatment preferences or, most often, to reject treatment.

- **2018 judgement** has made it **harder to give passive euthanasia** an effect as now it involves execution of the directive in presence of two witnesses, authentication by a:
 - Judicial Magistrate
 - permission from two Medical Boards
 - Jurisdictional collector
- **Guideline for living will issued by the court**
 - Living Will shall be **voluntarily executed and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion**.
 - It is mandatory for a living will to be in **written format** clearly mentioning as to **when can medical treatment be withdrawn** or a specific kind of medical treatment shall be given which will merely have the effect of procrastinating the death of the sufferer that may otherwise only prolong the pain, anguish and suffering of that person.
 - It should mention the **right of an executor to revoke the instructions/ directives/authority** at any time and the situations & circumstances under which he/she might do so.

Related information

Palliative Care

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines palliative care as an **approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families'** facing problems associated with life-threatening illness or serious health-related sufferings.
- For WHO, **"palliative care is a human right and a moral imperative of all health systems."**
- **According to the WHO**
 - **Only one in 10 people** who need palliative care are receiving it.
 - **Global demand** for care for people with life threatening illnesses, **will continue to grow** as populations age and the burden of noncommunicable diseases rises.
 - **Impact of pandemic**
 - ✓ The COVID-19 pandemic has **highlighted the need for this type of care to relieve suffering at the end of life**, such as the physical suffering caused by breathlessness, or mental pain.
 - ✓ The pandemic also reminded of the **need for all health professionals to have some training in this area**.
 - ✓ Optimal care requires a **supportive policy environment, empowered communities, palliative care research**, access to essential palliative care medicines, strong education and training systems.
- **Palliative care in India**
 - According to Dr. M.R. Rajagopal, popularly known as the father of palliative care in the country, **only 1%-2% people have access to palliative care or pain management in India**.
 - India has a **centrally sponsored 'National Program for Palliative Care'** for ensuring **availability and accessibility of rational, quality pain relief and palliative care** to the needy, as an integral part of Health Care at all levels,



फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन

प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा 2023

इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम

- प्रारंभिक परीक्षा, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक को विस्तृत कवरेज
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- एनीमेशन, फॉवर, प्वाइंट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
- योजनाबद्ध तैयारी हेतु करेंट ओरिएंटेड अप्रोच
- नियमित क्लास टेस्ट एवं व्यक्तिगत मूल्यांकन

- सीसेट कक्षाएं
- PT 365 कक्षाएं
- MAINS 365 कक्षाएं
- PT टेस्ट सीरीज
- मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध टेस्ट सीरीज
- सीसेट टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध लेखन - शैली की कक्षाएं
- करेंट अफेयर्स मैगजीन

DELHI: 2 AUGUST, 9 AM | 24 JUNE, 1 PM

LUCKNOW: 7 JULY | 9 AM

JAIPUR: 16 AUG | 4 PM

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लाइव/ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं भी उपलब्ध

3. EDUCATION

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

Importance of Education



For Individuals: Develops Personality, creation of valuable connections. Upward Social mobility.



For society: Enhances standard of living higher levels of civic engagement, drives innovation for social good.



For the Nation: Democratic Culture, technological advancement, creates leaders.



Current Situation

- **Public funding:** around 3.1% of GDP and R&D expenditure at 0.62% of GDP.
- **School Education**
 - ➔ **Enrolment ratios:** Close to 100% (at elementary level).
 - ➔ **Retention rates:** 70.7% (at elementary level).
 - ➔ **Learning Outcomes:** Dip in performance levels across subjects and grades (NAS, 2021).
 - ➔ **Teachers:** 7% Schools are facing teacher's absenteeism.
- **Higher education**
 - ➔ **Higher Education Institutions: ~78.6% are in the private sector.**
 - ➔ **Gross Enrolment Ratio: 27.1% for 2019-20 (global average 36.7%).**
 - ➔ **Pupil Teacher Ratio: 26 (2019-20).**



Initiatives taken

- **Elementary Education:** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal, Mahila Samakhyia, strengthening for providing quality Education in Madrassas (SPQEM).
- **Secondary Education:** Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Girls Hostel Scheme, National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education, etc.
- **Higher education**
 - ➔ **Improving Enrolment:** NEP (2020), new UGC regulation for Open and Distance Learning, SWAYAM portal.
 - ➔ **Funding:** Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA).
 - ➔ **Regulation:** Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).
 - ➔ **Research:** RISE, PMRF, IMPRINT, SPARC.
 - ➔ **Quality:** National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).



Constraints

- **General**
 - ➔ **Inadequate public funding.**
 - ➔ **Disproportionate focus on infrastructure** as opposed to learning outcomes.
 - ➔ **Inadequate teacher training,** large number of vacancies and rampant absenteeism.
 - ➔ **Ineffective governance and poor accountability.**
 - ➔ **Outdated pedagogy & Technological backwardness.**
- **Higher Education**
 - ➔ **Multiple regulators.**
 - ➔ **Poor Quality accreditation** mechanisms.
 - ➔ **Commercialisation.**



Way forward

- **School education**
 - ➔ Rationalize public school structure.
 - ➔ Individualized tracking.
 - ➔ Flexibility in education stream and vocational education.
 - ➔ Designed syllabus on a skill/competency-based continuum.
 - ➔ Teacher training.
- **Higher education**
 - ➔ Education should be treated at par with the **infrastructure sector.**
 - ➔ **Industry academia collaboration.**
 - ➔ Reforming **accreditation framework.**
 - ➔ **Revamp the norms for starting online courses.**
 - ➔ **Performance-linked** funding and incentive.
 - ➔ Stringent norms for faculty recruitment.

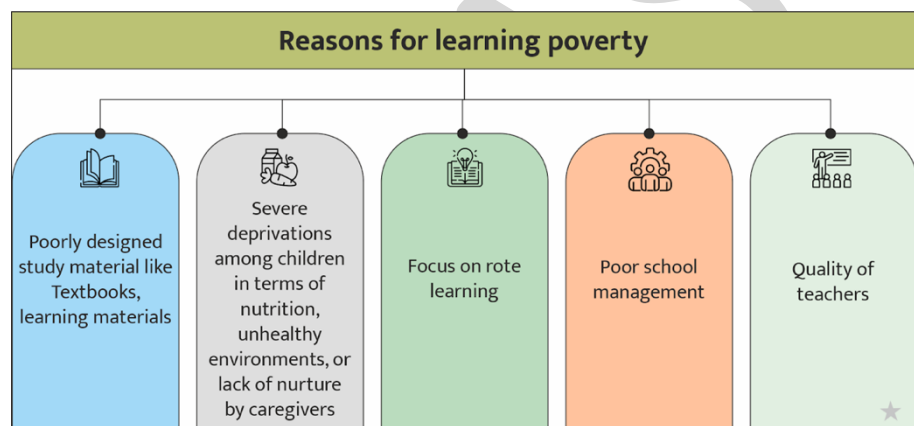
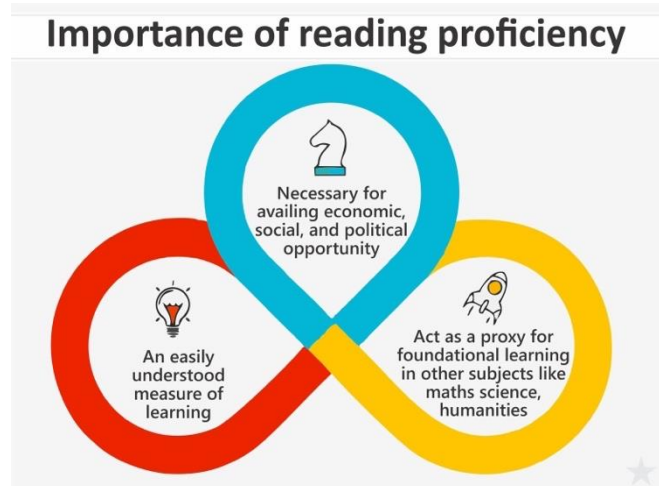
3.1. LEARNING POVERTY

Why in News?

A World Bank official recently stated that India's learning poverty has shot up due to COVID-19 pandemic.

About learning poverty

- Learning Poverty means **being unable to read and understand a short, age-appropriate text by age 10.**
- Importance of reading proficiency
- According to the World Bank **70% of children by the age of 10 are not able to read a simple text.** Before pandemic proportion of such children was only 53%.
- The dual shocks to education systems – **school closures and the ensuing economic crisis** – caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is **aggravating the global learning crisis.**
- If something is not done now, this generation **will have lower productivity, lower earnings, lower well-being** in the future.



Importance of learning skills

- Improving overall schooling systems:** Learning skills help children cannot in other areas such as math, science, and the humanities.
- Better quality workforce:** Countries which have prioritised and invested in foundational learning have produced a better quality of workforce, enabling their economies to take off. Both South Korea and China did this in the 1970s, and the impact on their economies was tremendous.
- Benefits society:** Good learning skills can contribute to faster innovation and growth, better-functioning institutions, greater intergenerational social mobility, higher levels of social trust, and a lower likelihood of conflict.
- Improves individual freedom by enhancing their productivity and financial resources.**

Way forward

- Ensure political and technical commitment to **clear goals, means, and measures for literacy**
- First teach children in the language they speak and understand.** Students who are taught in their home language in the early years have higher comprehension.
- Teacher professional development** plan that strongly emphasizes practicing specific classroom skills.
- Ensure timely access to **more and better age- and skill-appropriate texts.** In Mongolia, better access to books led to a 0.21 standard deviation improvement in student outcomes.

Steps taken to address learning poverty

- World Bank** launched a new operational global learning target to cut the Learning Poverty rate by at least half before 2030.
- In India**
 - National Education Policy (NEP)** calls for achieving foundational skills --- reading, writing and arithmetic --- for all children in primary school, and beyond by 2025.
 - National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) mission.**
 - School Education Quality Index (SEQI)** by NITI Aayog aims to shift the focus to learning outcomes.
 - A capacity development programme for teachers and school heads '**NISHTHA**' was launched by the NCERT.

3.2. QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Why in news?

Recently conducted **National Achievement Survey (NAS)** and **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)** survey has brought the issues of quality of education in schools in limelight again.

About NAS and ASER

NAS	ASER
It is a nationally representative large-scale survey of students' learning undertaken by the Ministry of Education , Government of India.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated by Pratham Education Foundation, ASER has been conducted every year since 2005 in all rural districts of India.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAS gives a system level reflection on effectiveness of school education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to provide reliable estimates of children's enrolment and basic learning levels for each district and state in India.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During proceedings of the survey, teachers across states noticed children, particularly those of grades 3 and 5, struggling to make sense of the questions, and filling the OMR sheets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASER is a household-based rather than school-based survey. It is the largest citizen-led survey in India.

Major Highlights of ASER 2021 report:

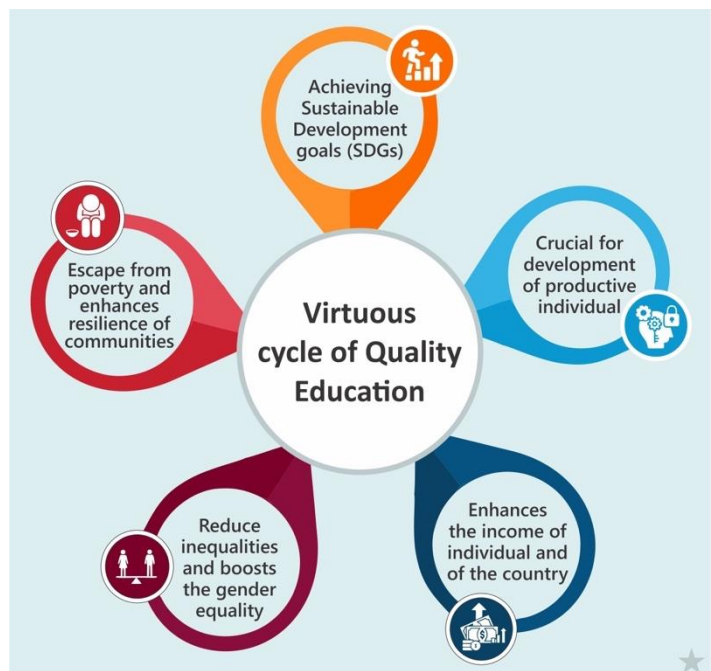
- There has been a clear shift from **private to government schools** between 2018 and 2021 across grades and gender.
- The proportion of **children taking tuition has increased from 2018 to 2021**, mostly amongst disadvantaged households.
- Although **over two thirds** of all enrolled children have a **smartphone at home**, just **over a quarter of these have full access** to it for their studies (27%).

What is Quality Education and its significance?

Though there is **no standard definition** of quality education, it is commonly understood as one that focuses on the **social, emotional, mental, physical, and cognitive development** of each student. It **prepares the child for life** and not just for testing.

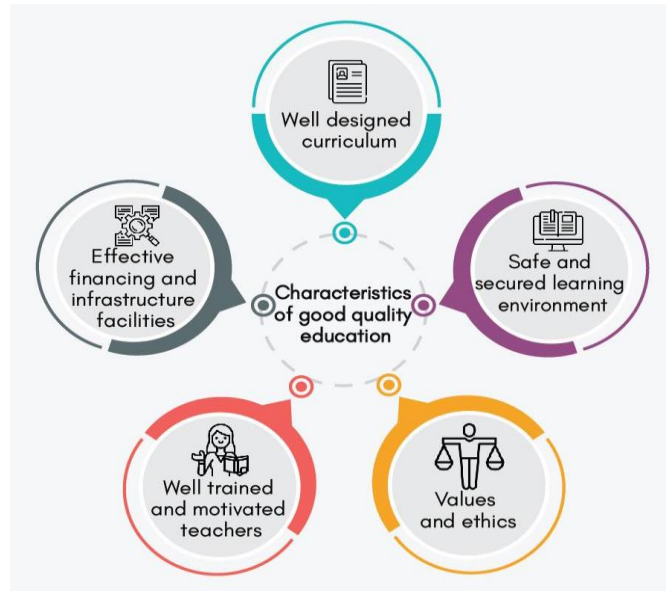
Issues plaguing School education system

- Focus on enrolment:** We have achieved near-universal school enrolment. However, there is inadequate attention to quality of education like learning outcomes, teachers' absenteeism, etc.
- Shortage of qualified teachers:** According to NITI Aayog estimates, many teachers are themselves **scoring <60-70% in papers of the grades that they teach**.
- Engagement of teachers in non-teaching tasks:** As per a report by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) **only ~19% of a teacher's annual school hours are spent on teaching** activities with remaining time spent on non-teaching activities like **election duties, data collection etc.**
- Poor pedagogy:** Focus on **rote-based learning**, little or no focus on life-skills **one-size-fits-all** teaching model, and **unhealthy competition** especially from standards 9th to 12th causes a lot of stress and pressure on the student adversely affecting their mental health and **self-esteem**.
- Lack of infrastructure and resources:** Inadequate provisions for **fundamental facilities** like drinking water, power, **study materials, etc.**



What needs to be done?

- **Reshaping the teaching profession:** Teachers should be trained and supported with **modern teaching aids and tools like smart classrooms**. Also, there should be **transparent and credible accreditation mechanism** for teacher education.
- **Reshaping pedagogy:**
 - **Experiential learning** like arts-integrated education, **story-telling-based pedagogy**, etc.
 - **Experienced learning** by Involving community and alumni as volunteers for one-on-one tutoring, career guidance and mentoring to students; etc.
 - **Enhanced learning** by improving assessment tools which should also be aligned with **the learning outcomes, capabilities, and dispositions as specified for each subject of a given class**.
- **Improving infrastructure:** **Providing basic facilities** like safe drinking water, separate toilets, etc.
- **Enhancing accountability:** Quality assessment insights, and data from visits to schools, and their academic monitoring. This can be used for **cascaded, data-backed and regular review meetings**.



Related news

Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) Submitted “Reforms in Content and Design of School Textbooks” Report

- Committee was set-up with a mandate to **identify references to un-historical facts in texts; ensure proportionate references to all periods of Indian history;** and highlight the role of great women achievers.
- **Key recommendations by Committee**
 - **Mandatory standards related to text-book content, graphics and layout**, supplementary materials and pedagogical approaches should be developed.
 - Need to have **more child-friendly textbooks** through use of pictures, graphics, QR codes and other audio-visual materials.
 - **Primary school textbooks should provide a strong foundation in core areas** (reading, writing, etc.) and **provoke curiosity** among students.
 - Textbooks should **highlight lives of hitherto unknown men and women** from different states and districts **who have positively influenced our national history**, honour and oneness.
 - **Wrong portrayal** of historical figures and freedom fighters **should be corrected**.
 - **Educational methodologies adopted in the ancient Universities** like Nalanda, Vikramshila and Takshila should be studied and suitably modified to **serve as a model reference** for teachers.
 - **Traditional Indian knowledge systems should be linked with modern science** and contributions of ancient India in the fields of philosophy, science, mathematics etc. may also be included in the textbooks.

Ministry of Education forms National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Development of National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF)

- NSC will be headed by K Kasturirangan, who also headed the drafting committee of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Terms of Reference of NSC include**
 - **Committee will develop four NCFs** for: School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Teacher Education and Adult Education.
 - All the NCFs would also **reflect upon the implications of situations such as COVID-19 Pandemic** on respective areas for future.
 - Draw **inputs from State Curriculum Frameworks (SCFs)**.
- NCF serves as a **guideline for syllabus, textbooks, teaching and learning practices** in schools across the country. It attempts to **address the future requirements of school education**.
 - NCF was **last prepared in 2005** and it was revised in 1975, 1988 and 2000.
 - **State governments also follow NCF** in revising their school curriculum through participation of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), which draw up SCFs.
 - NCFs are **part of the process to implement NEP 2020**.
- NEP 2020, which will replace the National Policy on Education-1986, **aims for Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level** with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio in school education by 2030.

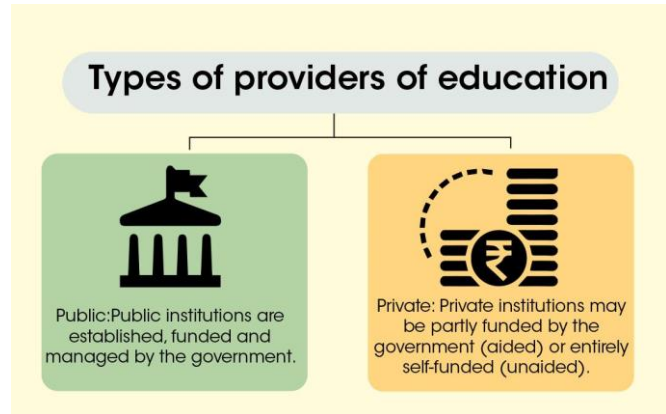
3.3. PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Why in news?

Recently, the Prime Minister, called upon the private sector to come forward and contribute their bit in the educational sector.

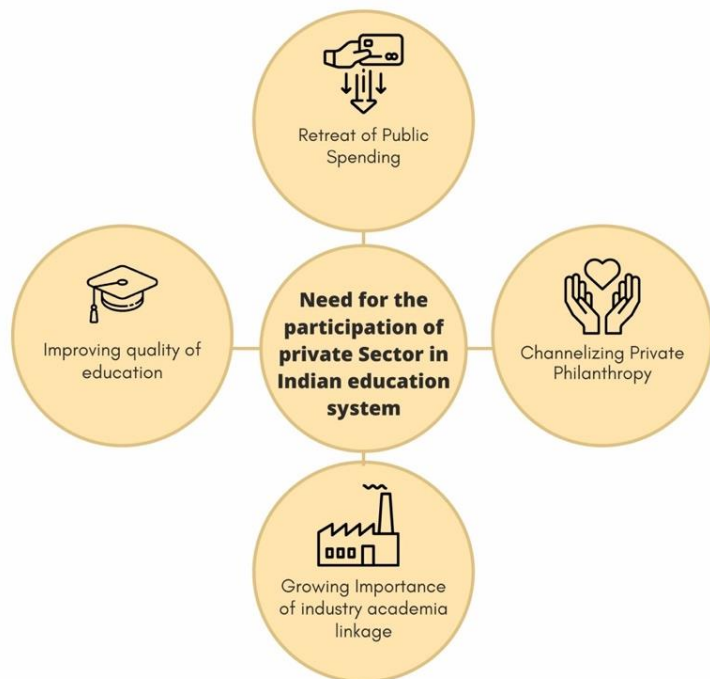
Private players in Education sector

- In most markets, the private sector is characterized by a profit-motive. However, when it comes to education, the **private sector is required to operate on a not-for-profit basis.**
- Government may allow **private sector in education in the two ways**
 - **Private Finance Initiative (PFI):** A long-term contract, that normally refers to cases where there is significant asset ownership by the private sector.
 - **Contracting out or franchising:** A few specific asset investments by the private sector.



Issues faced by Indian education sector due to participation of private sector in education system

- **Exclusionary education:** Privatization of education provides wider choices to relatively affluent and rich students, but it has excluded very poor, girls and marginalized groups.
- **Commercialization of education:** The current regulatory regime also has not been able to curb the commercialization and economic exploitation of parents by many for-profit private schools. Also, it has all too often inadvertently discouraged public-spirited private/philanthropic schools.
- **Inefficient regulation:** Regulation and accreditation in India are centralized with poor outreach in the federal states. Also, corrupt practices within regulatory agencies like UGC and AICTE has often been reported in the various federal states
- **Negative perception:** Bringing public and private providers together with often conflicting objectives, raises doubts about the feasibility of such an arrangement.
- **Black money:** Most private education institutions operating as a trust or society that is not for profit, enters into transactions with entities that supply services or products needed by the school and generate a significant amount of black money.
 - To do away with this malice, many experts believe that education institutions should be allowed to operate as 'for-profit' entities as long as they provide quality education at a reasonable cost.



Way ahead

- **Comprehensive policy:** A clear and decisive policy on investment will demonstrate state's commitment to the whole initiative, boosting private investment in state higher education institutions.
- **Regulatory environment:** Civil society groups, NGO coalitions and the State should work together in creating an appropriate regulatory environment for the provision of education services.
- **Outsourcing management and administration to private sector:** This will free the existing faculty members of government institution to devote more time and opportunities to delve in their own research.
- **Monetary and non-monetary support to students:** CSR funding and private philanthropy can be a useful source of funding education of students from underprivileged backgrounds in these areas.

- **Conclaves and Investor Summits:** They are very effective ways to attract investors and introduce them to the government’s vision for private initiative in the education sector of the Country.

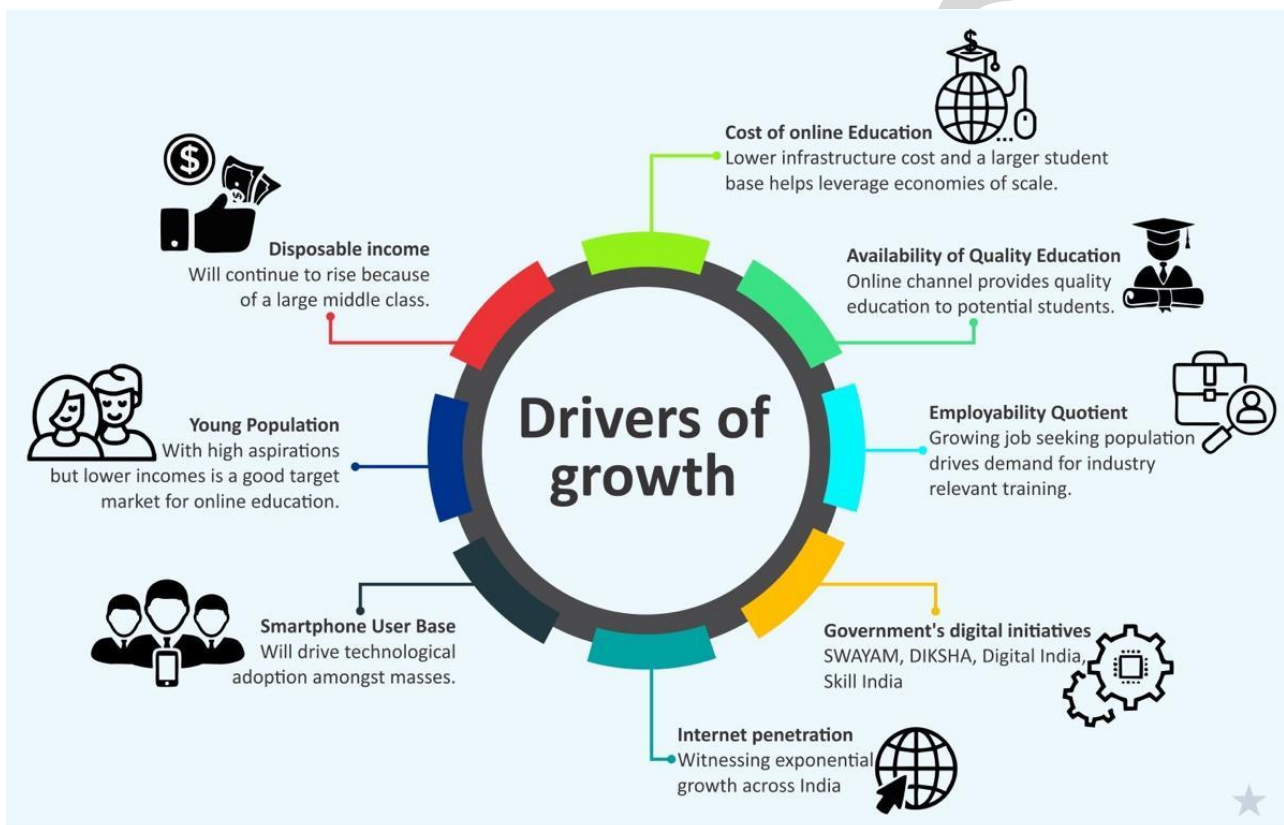
3.4. EDTECH SECTOR IN INDIA

Why in News?

Recently, Ministry of Education issued advisory to citizens regarding use of caution against EdTech Companies.

About EdTech

- **EdTech is short for “education technology.”** It uses computers, computer programs, and educational systems to provide learning and training to students and employees.
- **Major EdTech startups in India:** Global (Coursera, Simplilearn, Udacity, Lynda.com, Skissoft etc), Indian (BYJU’s, Unacademy, Toppr, UpGrad etc)



Need for regulation

- **Disruption to conventional learning due to pandemic:** As schools and universities switched to digital or online models to allow students to continue their learning, it is crucial to be mindful of the gaps in the digital experience.
- **Checking Cyber Threats:** To prevent cyberbullying, monitoring content for material unsuitable for minors, ensuring protection of students from cyberattacks or phishing scams, etc.
- **Privacy concerns:** Privacy policies of the EdTech companies are indecisive and ambiguous and assume that

DATA BANK

Digital Divide in Education

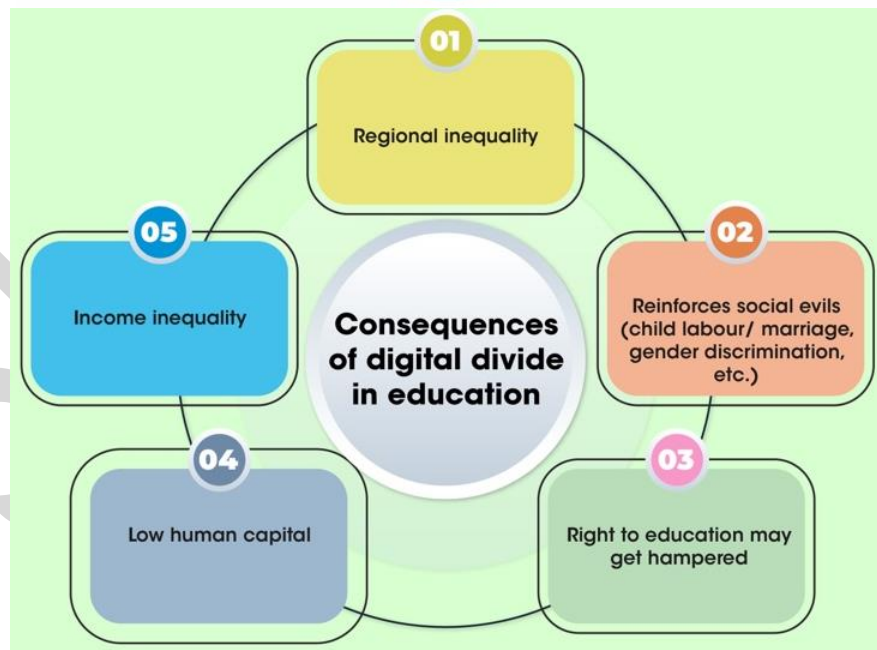
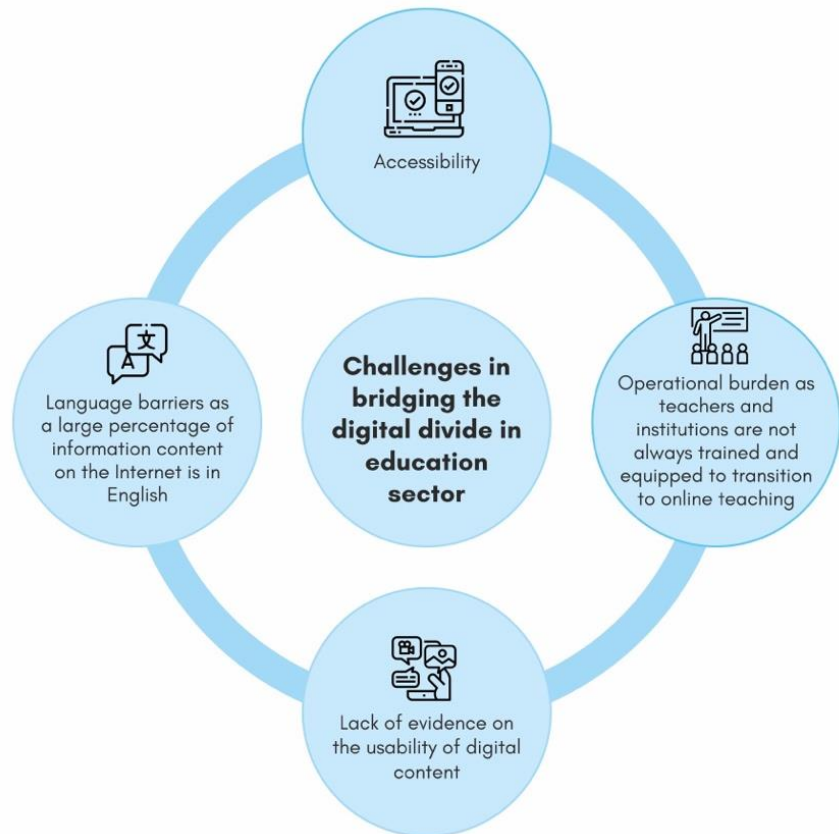
- **Internet penetration rate** is estimated to reach **above 55% by the end of 2025** in India.
- **Over 250 million students** enrolled in schools in India.
- **Only 1/3rd of India’s school children** are pursuing online education (ASER 2020).

consent and responsibility lie with the user. Most of the consumers are neither briefed nor have the legal know-how.

- **Neglect of social skills:** Students learning solely online may suffer from a failure to develop social skills that come only from interacting in person with other people.
- **False promises:** Some EdTech companies are luring parents in the garb of offering free services and getting the Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) mandate signed or activating the Auto-debit feature, especially targeting the vulnerable families.
- **Protecting rights of minors:** Majority of the EdTech players in India focus on K-12 curriculum and competitive exams training and most of their customers are minors. Under Indian laws, minors (i.e., individuals below the age of 18) are not competent to enter contracts.
- **Social and ethical concerns:** Biased content delivery, Implicit influence on career decisions, less upskilling and reskilling of educators, Standardisation, and moderation of content without regulatory approvals, etc.

Way forward

- **Strengthening digital infrastructure:** Need to explore the use of low-cost digital platforms (For Ex Kerala's neighbourhood study centres) for dissemination of learning content to the masses.
- **Socialisation:** It is important to ensure adequate



Steps taken to bridge the digital divide in education sector

- **E-pathshala:** This initiative allows the students, especially in rural areas to avail themselves of access to a plethora of study materials.
- **Digital India Campaign:** The campaign enables the availability of enhanced online infrastructure by prioritizing Internet connectivity.
- **Common Service Centers (CSC):** It facilitates digital reach even in unreachable areas.
- **Optical Fibre Network:** This initiative allows the population of India to ensure faster broadband connectivity.
- **PM DIKSHA:** Diksha serves as **National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers** and most of the modern teachers are having digital knowledge.
- **PMGDISHA:** 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) was launched in 2017 to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate.

opportunities for social bonding and invest in the emotional well-being of students to compensate siloed nature of digital lessons.

- **Data protection:** There should be well-documented processes and policies on how the data is being collected, stored, processed, analysed and used. Contact details of data privacy and legal offices of EdTech firms should be made available to end-users.
- **Raising awareness:** Educational institutions and government education departments should facilitate awareness campaigns, conduct regular auditing and performance reviews of these Edtech programmes.



Do's and Don'ts released by Ministry of Education (MoE) for various stakeholders

- Avoid Automatic debit option for payment of subscription fee.
- Do not blindly trust the advertisements of the ed-tech companies
- Go through the child safety guidelines mentioned in the PRAGYATA guidelines by MoE before using any ed-tech platform.
- Do not allow purchases without parental consent. To avoid in-app purchases; OTP based payment methods may be adopted as per RBI's guidelines.

MoE also asked EdTech companies to comply with the following:

- Ed-tech companies which may be considered e-commerce entities have to **comply with Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020.**
- Advertisements of Educational Institutions including the Ed-tech companies and Programs shall **comply with ASCI's Code for Self-Regulation in advertising.**

Related information

University Grants Commission (UGC) Reforms: Edtech firms can tie up with universities to develop online courses

- Through proposed amendments in **UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020**, EdTech companies will be allowed to **collaborate with higher education institutes offering online undergraduate and postgraduate degrees** to help develop course content and carry out evaluation of students.
- **Significance of the move**
 - **Huge market value** i.e., Indian EdTech industry was valued at US\$ 750 million in 2020 and is expected to reach US\$ 4 billion by 2025 at a CAGR of 39.77%.
 - Encouraging **greater flexibility** for colleges and universities.
 - Harnessing the **technological tools available** with the fast growing ed-tech sector.
 - Increase **transparency and formalisation** in EdTech sector & in digital schooling.
- Also, to strengthen digital education ecosystem, **Ministry of Education** organised webinar on **'Digital University: Making World Class Higher Education Accessible for All'**.
 - Digital University ecosystem will have **three important components**:
 - ✓ Technology Platform provider,
 - ✓ Digital content creator, and
 - ✓ Higher Education Institutions with the Digital University at core of ecosystem.

3.5. BRAIN DRAIN

Why in news?

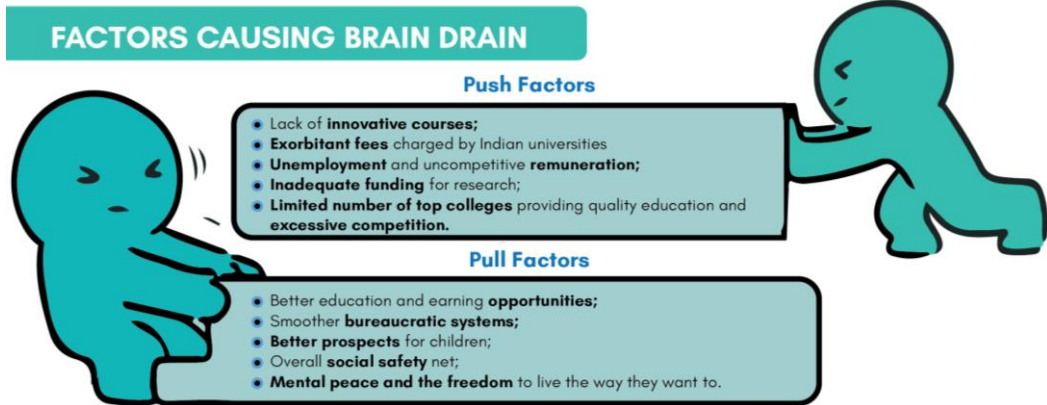
A recent report estimates that about **8 lakh students travel abroad for higher education** every year, this has again highlighted the issue of Brain Drain.

More about news

- These students spend \$28 billion or **1 per cent of India's GDP**.
- Of this, about **\$6 billion are fees (i.e., about Rs 45,000 crore)** that go to foreign universities. This is adequate capital to **start and run 10 new IITs, IISERs or JNUs or any such elite institution every year.**

About Brain Drain

The term “brain drain” refers to the **international transfer of human capital resources**, and it applies mainly to the migration of **highly educated individuals from developing to developed countries**. For example,



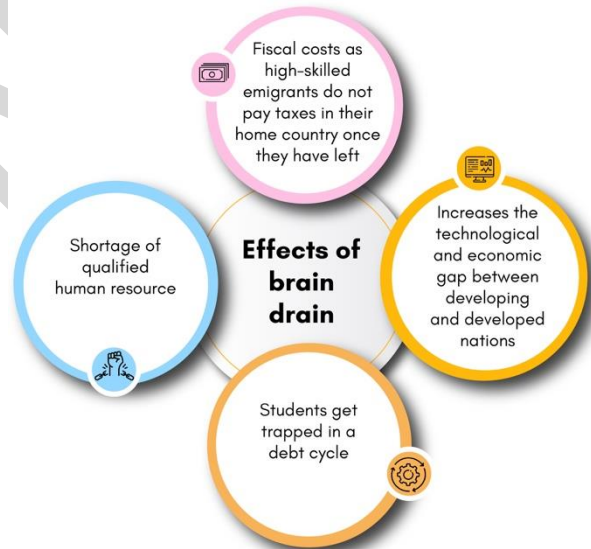
- **More than half of the first rankers** in Class 10 and Class 12 examinations during 1996-2015 had migrated and were **studying or employed overseas**, mostly in the US.
- **World's largest corporations** like Alphabet, Mastercard, Microsoft etc. are being led by **Indian CEOs**.
- Morgan Stanley's report found that around **35,000 Indian entrepreneurs of high net worth left between 2014-2020**.

Road Ahead

- **Circular migration or brain share:** Incentivise workers to return home after the completion of their training or studies.
- **Create opportunities at elite institutions:** Elite central institutions like IITs should look at the **problems of the day**, formalise them, and convert them into business models and job definitions which offer solutions that deliver value.
 - An example can be air pollution. An ICMR study estimates that air pollution **caused about 1.7 million deaths and Rs 2.6 lakh crore worth of lost output**.
 - With suitable **professional know-how and business models**, it could become a **Rs 26,000 crore industry** of measuring, mitigating, and managing air pollution and **employing 26,000 people** in posh jobs.
- **Making India attractive education destination for migrants:** Identifying the **target geographical areas like low-income countries** for attracting students under the ‘**Study in India**’ programme, and lowering **tuition fees**. Tailored courses to meet the demand of foreign students.
- **Creating cross border institutional mobility:** Institutional mobility takes place through different forms like-

Initiatives taken to prevent Brain drain

 - **Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme:** It aims to bring overseas scientists and academicians to India to work in **public funded Institutions and Universities** for a specific period of time.
 - **Ramanujan Fellowship:** For Indian researchers of high calibre, who are **residing abroad**, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities in all areas of Science, Engineering and Medicine.
 - **Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship:** To **encourage scientists (Indian Nationals)** working outside the country, who would like to return to the home country to pursue their **research interests in Life Sciences, Modern Biology, Biotechnology, and other related areas**.
 - **Other schemes:** Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP), Scientists/Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) in Indian research Laboratory, Senior Research Associateship (SRA) (Scientist's Pool Scheme), etc.



- **Branch campuses** which primarily provide face to-face instruction leading to award of a degree **from the parent institution or jointly with a partner institution.**
- **Franchising** that denotes the **delivery in-country** by an authorised domestic institution.
- **Twinning** which means **joint ownership and delivery** by institutions in the home and host countries.

Related information**Central panel to prepare roadmap for Indian universities to set up foreign campuses**

- The committee, under Dr. K Radhakrishnan, has been asked to "submit a **framework for opening of campuses abroad by Higher Education Institutes (HEI)**".
 - The development comes on the back of **IIT Delhi's proposal to open centres in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.**
- Earlier, **Centre had issued guidelines allowing institutions of eminence (IoE) to open overseas campuses** with the prior approval of the Ministry of Education and no-objection certificates from Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, proposed **internationalization of education** that allows foreign universities to operate in India, and similarly, encourages high performing Indian universities to set up campuses in other countries.
- **Benefits of Indian HEIs establishing campuses in other countries-**
 - **Global footprint** of Indian HEI would increase.
 - Helps **improve international ranking.**
- **Benefits of Foreign HEIs establishing campuses in India**
 - Indian students study **contemporary and globally recognised courses** from the comforts of a home environment.
 - **Widening the reach of such courses and world-class pedagogy** at affordable costs.
 - **Enhancement in pedagogical skills** for Indian teaching community.
 - Helpful to **improve Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50%.**

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4. POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

4.1. UNIVERSAL SOCIAL SECURITY

Why in News?

Recently, the government panel has recommended a **Universal Pension Scheme** for gig workers and the self-employed citing concerns on sustainability of the Employees' Pension Scheme (1995).

About Social Security

- **Social security** is defined as 'the measures of protection afforded to employees and other workers to ensure access to health care and to provide income security particularly in old age, unemployment, sickness, work injury etc. (Code on Social Security, 2020).
- According to the ILO, **social security is a human right**.

Help workers to **tide over periods of unemployment, sickness, accident** etc. and have an **assured monthly income** in old age

Better **Social Cohesion** because of **higher social economic justice**

Higher **economic growth** through **demand stability** at the national level



Ensure **material and emotional security**, especially to low skill level workforce

Promote **greater efficiency and higher productivity**

Build **positive attitude** toward structural and technological changes, encouraging innovation

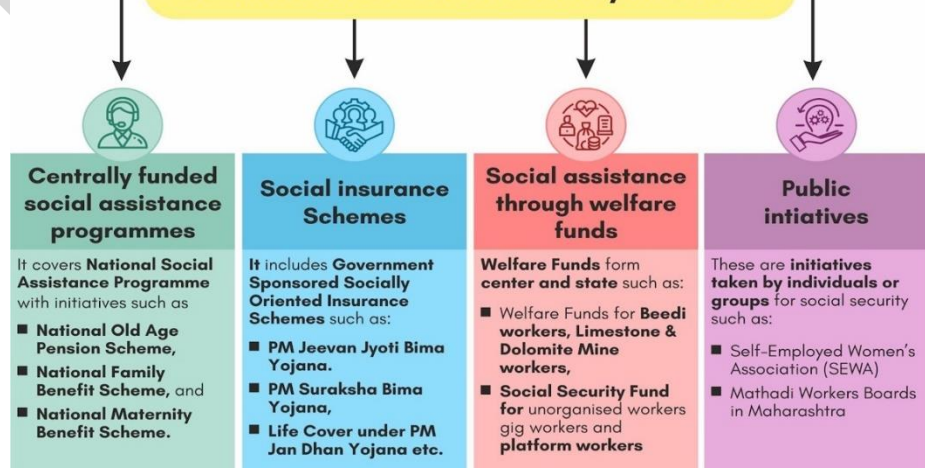
Social Security in India

- **Legal standing:** Though it is **not a fundamental right** in India, the state is under obligation via the **Directive Principles of the State Policy** such as **Article 41, 42 and 47** to provide social security.
 - Since the subject of **Labour** falls under the **concurrent list**, the extension of **Social Security** and **Social Assistance** benefits to citizens is from the **centre as well as from state governments**.
- **Extent of social security:** According to the Economic Survey 2021-22, **around 90% of the additional workers** who joined in 2019-20 were in the **informal nature of employment** and over 98% were in the **unorganized sector**. **Majority of these people lie outside the net of social security.**

Recent Government Initiatives

- **Code on Social Security, 2020** to consolidate nine central labour legislations on social security to **extend social security to all employees and workers either in the organized or unorganized** or any other sectors (including the new forms of jobs that are emerging).
 - The subsumed laws include Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 etc.
- **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)**, a voluntary and contributory pension scheme to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers.
- **National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons**, a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for traders, shopkeepers.
- **e-SHRAM Portal** to create a **national database** of Unorganized Workers, including migrant workers, to facilitate delivery of social security schemes to the workers.

Classification of Social Security Initiatives



Challenges in Universal Social Security

- **High Magnitude of Unorganized Workers (UWs)**, including a large section of distressed categories of workers with low earning and irregular (seasonal) employment patterns.
- **Ignorance, illiteracy, and lack of unionization of workers** leading to poor awareness.
- **Resource constraints of the State** with competitive demand of defence, infrastructure etc. and crippled state finances due to Covid-19.
- **Gaps in laws with relatively weak administrative structure**, particularly in rural areas. E.g. the Code on Social Security, 2020 suffers from issues such as:
 - **Lack of a minimum national benefit policy**,
 - **Lack of accountability of district administration** with responsibility to register UWs,
 - **Overlapping definitions**. E.g. a driver working for an app-based taxi aggregator is a gig worker, platform worker and unorganized worker at the same time.
- **Almost Stagnation of formal employment** in the organized sector with increasing workforce in the informal economy.
- **Fragmented administration systems** due to involvement of multiple ministries and departments at Union and State level with different initiatives.
- **Other issues** such as exclusion errors, lack of transferability/portability of benefits, gender inequality, technological disabilities etc.
 - E.g., the **Kattupaniya tribe** (nomadic) of Kerala got an **Aadhar card and free ration only post Covid-19**.



Conclusion

According to the ILO, recognition of **universal social protection as human right** is the cornerstone of a **human-centric approach** to achieve **social justice**. Hence, India must strengthen its social security programme on priority basis.

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4.2. FORCED DISPLACEMENT

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Forced displacement occurs when **individuals and communities have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence** as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of events or situations such as armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights abuses, natural or man-made disasters, and/or development projects.



Types of forced migration

- Refugees
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Climate refugees



Current status

- There are 82.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced at the end of 2020.



Causes of migration

- **Push Factors:** Humanitarian concerns, overpopulation, destruction of the local environment, wage stagnation, job scarcity
- **Pull Factors:** working opportunities, ease of travel, possibility of permanent settlement, opportunity to reconnect with family, community networks.



Impacts of forced migration

- **Country of origin:** Political fragility may increase if forcibly displaced remain engaged in the conflict; demographic shifts & loss of capital and human resources.
- **Host countries:** Demographic shock, stress on infrastructure, security risk, increase in social problems. demographic solutions to ageing populations of the host country.



Steps taken to address the issue of forced displacement

- **The UN 1951 Refugee Convention and its subsequent 1967 Protocol:** They define refugees and set out the Government responsibilities in this matter.
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 1950:** To promote voluntary repatriation; local integration; and resettlement.
- **The first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), 2019:** To bring the international community together. Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement: It is a research partnership between the UK, the UNHCR and the World Bank.
- **India:** it is not a signatory of the UN convention yet provides shelters to 1000s of refugees.



Way ahead

- **Preventing displacement:** Recognizing the 'right not to be displaced' be more firmly and Improving governance in the country of origin.
- **Managing displacement**
 - **Host countries:** Develop early warning systems, economic development and poverty reduction, Integration of displaced in the economy, etc.
 - **Country of origin:** Reducing vulnerability of people who are yet not displaced, supporting return of forcibly displaced by improving governance as well as law and order situation.
 - **Leveraging technology and innovation:** For more micro level and, and more tailored solution to problems of refugees.

4.3. INTERNAL MIGRATION

Why in news?

Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released a report named 'Migration in India 2020-21'.

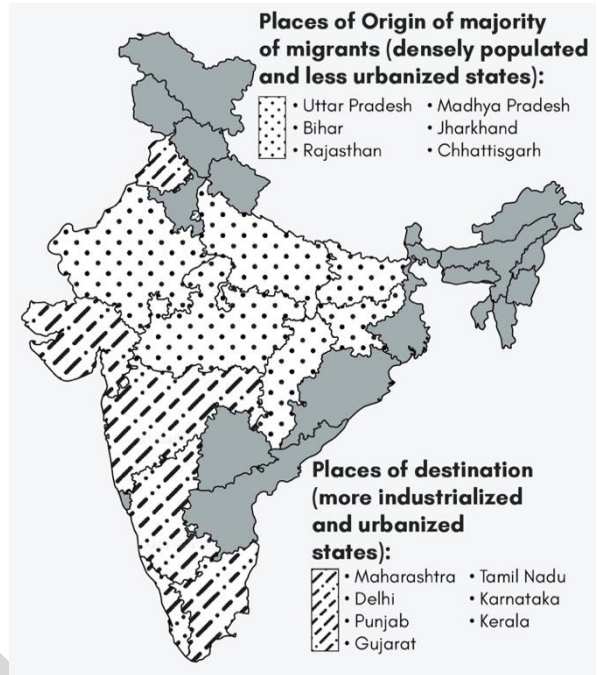
About Internal Migration in India

- **Definition:** It refers to the changes of usual residence within countries. Long term migration is relocation of an individual or household whereas short term (seasonal/circulation) migration is the back-and-forth movement of people between the source and destination.

- **Reasons:** Work, employment, business, education, marriage, etc.

Issues affecting internal migrants

- **Labour Market:** Migrant workers comprise nearly 60% of occupationally vulnerable workers (outside agriculture) who face problems of low wages, high risk jobs and the fear of being fired.
- **Lack of Social Security:** Almost all states are apathetic to the needs of migrants, which stops the latter from accessing welfare entitlements.
- **Education and Skilling:** 57.8% of female and 25.8% of male migrants are illiterate (Census, 2011). About 80% of seasonal migrant children in major destinations lack access to education near work sites.
- **Health:** Most low-income internal migrants live in slum accommodations, often facing difficulties in accessing basic amenities like sanitation which has adverse impact on their health and well-being.
- **Political Participation:** Interstate migrants cannot exercise voting right since voting is determined by one’s inclusion in the local constituency’s electoral roll. The process of enrolling is time consuming and has no relevance for seasonal migrants i.e., who are not permanent settlers at destination.

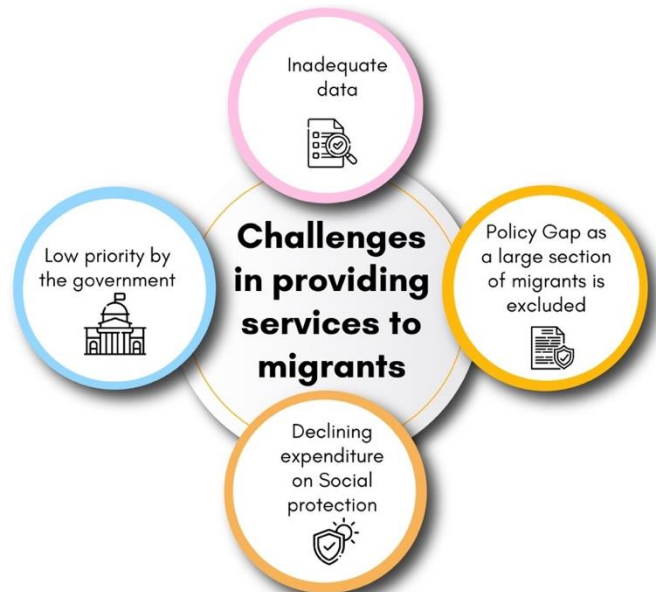


Interventions undertaken for migrants

Policy sub area	Description
Portability of welfare schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘One Nation One Ration Card’: It was launched for the nation-wide portability of ration cards through the operationalisation of biometrically authenticated ePoS transactions in the State/UTs. • Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 (PMUY 2.0): For LPG connection, migrants are not required to submit ration cards or address proof. A self-declaration for both ‘family declaration’ and as a ‘proof of address’ will suffice. • Ayushman Bharat Scheme: The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
Other initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Changathi: This is a literacy scheme by Kerala government targeted at migrant children for them to learn Malayalam. • Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (PM GKRA): To boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. It involved skill mapping of migrant labourers and linking women with self-help groups.

Way ahead

- **Fill the research gap:** Revise design of Census to adequately capture sex disaggregated data on migration.
- **Targeted policy framework:** Design targeted components and special outreach strategy for migrants within public services and government policies.
- **Institutional capacity building:** Build capacity of Panchayats to maintain a database of migrant workers, establish ‘migrant labour cell’ in each state and create inter-district and inter-state coordination committee to jointly plan institutional arrangements to improve service delivery.
- **National Minimum Social Security Scheme for Informal Workers:** This scheme was



recommended by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS). Many features include e nationwide portability in terms of registration, payment of premium and a national minimum social security package for all the workers.

- **Sensitization:** Sensitize and train policymakers, employers and financial institutions regarding obstacles in accessing public services by migrants.

Conclusion

Since migration has cross-cutting sectoral impacts, multiple and complementary interventions by different ministries and departments are needed, to facilitate migration and ensure integration of migrants into the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country.

Related News

Action Agenda on Internal Displacement

- Action Agenda **sets out commitments by UN system** to better resolve, prevent and **address internal displacement crises**.
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) **are people who are forced to flee their homes** due to armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, climate change impacts **but who remain within their own country**.
 - Number of IDPs has reached more than **59 million people (2021)**. **India also saw 4.9 million internal displacements in 2021**.
 - **Challenges face by IDPs:** High risk of physical attack, sexual assault and abduction, deprived of adequate shelter, food and health services etc.
- **Action Agenda sets out UN’s commitments to realize three goals:**
 - Help IDPs find a **durable solution** to their displacement.
 - **Better prevent new displacement crises** from emerging.
 - Ensure those facing displacement receive **effective protection and assistance**.
- **Action agenda also talks about solutions to internal displacement including**
 - **High-level leadership and a whole-of-government approach** by national and local authorities.
 - **Stepped-up, earlier and more predictable engagement** of UN.
 - **Engaging Private Sector-** particularly in supporting the recovery of livelihoods.
 - Relevant mechanisms to **collect, manage and use internal displacement data**.
- **In India, IDPs broadly fit into following categories:** Displacements due to **natural disasters, development activities, and instances of violence and conflict**.
 - **Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and Disaster Management Act, 2005** address first two categories.
 - Also, there is an **umbrella scheme of Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates** to provide financial assistance and other facilities.

4.4. STREET VENDORS

Why in news?

Recently, the Delhi High Court expressed concern over rising number of illegal street vendors in the national capital.

More about news

- The **Delhi High Court issued notices** seeking direction to strike down various provisions of the Government of National Capital Territory of **Delhi Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme, 2019**.



- This scheme was notified under the **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and**

Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 enacted by the Parliament

- The Act provides for a **survey of all existing street vendors**, and **subsequent survey at-least once in every five years**, and **issue of certificate of vending to all the street vendors** identified in the survey, with preference to SC, ST, OBC, women, persons with disabilities, minorities etc.

- It stated that no eviction or relocation should be enforced without consultation with **Town Vending Committees (TVCs)** formed by the states under the Act.

About Street Vendors

- Anyone **enterprise who doesn't have a permanent shop** is considered a street vendor.
- Street-vending accounts for **14% of the total (non-agricultural) urban informal employment** in the country.
 - Largest concentrations of street vendors are in the cities of **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad.**
- Other than being a **source of self-employment for the poor**, vending is vital to provide **convenient, affordable services to the urban populace.**
- Under Entries 26 (Trade and commerce) and 28 (Markets and fairs) in **State List** of the **Seventh Schedule** to the Indian Constitution, it is the **State Government which is empowered to enact laws** pertaining to markets, which includes street vending.

Initiatives for the welfare of Street Vendors

- **Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme:** Facilitates working capital loan up to Rs 10,000.
- **Main Bhi Digital Drive:** It is a **special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training** for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in the country. **The street vendors will be trained to accept and make digital payment transactions.**

Challenges faced by street vendors

- **Lack of Social Security:** They face problems of eviction, bribe payment, inability to access various government facilities, lack of basic amenities, etc.
- **Unrealistic License caps:** In most cities like Mumbai which has a ceiling of around 15,000 licences as against an estimated 2.5 lakh vendors. Thus, most vendors hawk their goods illegally, and are **vulnerable to exploitation and extortion** by local police and municipal authorities.
- **E-Commerce:** There has been negative impact of food delivery industry on retailers and street vendors.

Challenges faced by public due to street vendors

- **Urban sprawl:** Street vendors are usually associated with encroachment of public spaces, causes traffic congestion, inadequate hygiene, etc.
- **Concerns around Safety of food:** No Government agency is authorized to verify the content of food as they are not regulated by any government agency.

Way Forward

- **Facilitating mixed-use planning** that allocates **open public space to vendors** can boost local economies and encourage residents to shop.
- **Inclusive and thoughtful urban design** can play a key role in building connections between the citizens and the street vendors.
- The Government should build a **mechanism to authenticate or guarantee the quality of products** sold on the streets. This would curb the menace of counterfeit products

4.5. ALL INDIA SURVEY ON DOMESTIC WORKERS (AISDWS)

Why in news?

Recently, the **Union Minister for Labour and Employment** flagged off the **first ever AISDWS**.

More on news

- The AISDWS is **part of the 5 All India Surveys** being **undertaken by the Labour Bureau**. Other four are All-India Survey are on
 - Migrant Workers
 - Employment generated in Transport Sector
 - Employment Generated by Professionals and
 - All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES)

About domestic workers

- Domestic worker is a person who is **employed in any household on a temporary or permanent basis to do the household work.**

- India is a **signatory to ILO's 189th convention**, known as Convention on the Domestic Workers; but has **not ratified it yet**.
 - Convention mandates that **the domestic workers be given daily and weekly rest hours**, their payment must meet **minimum wage requirement**, and that they should be allowed to choose place where they live and spend their leave.

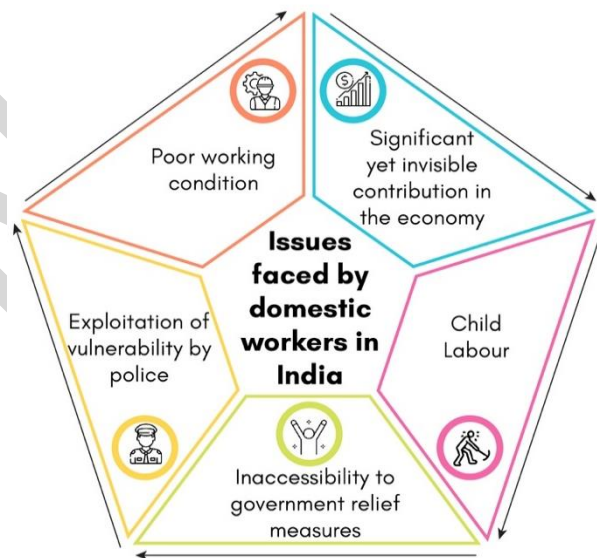
Way ahead

- Comprehensive legislation:** While the Unorganized Social Security Act 2008, Sexual Harassment against Women at Workplace Act 2013 and Minimum Wages Schedules notified in various states refer to domestic workers, there remains an **absence of comprehensive, uniformly applicable, national legislation that guarantees fair terms of employment** and decent working conditions for DWs.
- Organization & Voice:** Domestic workers should be organized into trade unions and to have representative voice not only in the policy making but also at workplace.
- Ratifying ILO's 189th convention:** Ratifying States are required to take the **protective measures against violence** against such workers and are required to enforce the **minimum age** for the employment purposes.
- Sensitisation of employer:** In this direction, the ILO has launched a campaign **"Your Work Is Important"** to generate public awareness on the value of the work undertaken by domestic workers.
- Emulating the best global practices:** A Magna Carta for Household Helpers in the Philippines; a right to organize, coverage under the Employment Ordinance, and contracts with minimum standards required by the Immigration Department in Hong Kong; a Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997, with a binding mandate to protect domestic workers in South Africa among others.

DATA BANK

ALL INDIA SURVEY ON DOMESTIC WORKERS (AISDWS)

- About 1 in 25 women workers in the world are domestic workers (ILO).
- There are at least 4 million domestic servants in India (ILO).
- In India most of the domestic workers are migrants, women, many are minors, Adivasis, Dalits or landless OBCs (ILO).
- Vast majority of the live-in domestic workers work a minimum of 15 hours a day, seven days a week.



Mains 365 - Social Issues

4.6. ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROGRAMME: BLOCK AND CITY LEVEL

Why in news?

Prime Minister at the national conference of chief secretaries said that the aspirational district programme (ADP) should be extended to block and city levels.

Aspirational Districts programme

- Aspirational Districts programme, **originally launched in 2018**, and facilitated by NITI Aayog **aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts** across the country.

How ADP at block and city level will work?

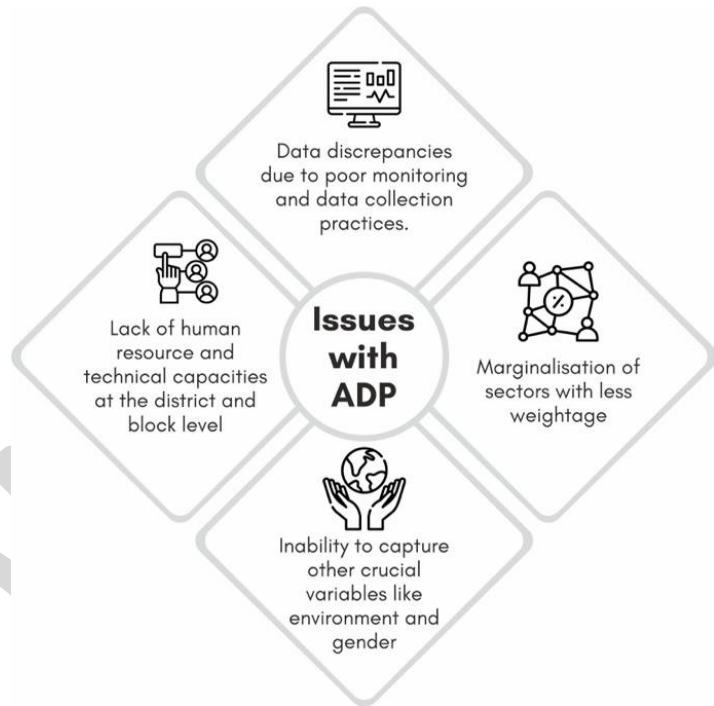
- The blocks and cities will be encouraged to first **catch up with the best blocks and cities** within district, and subsequently **aspire to become one of the best in the country**, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.
- Finally, each **district is encouraged to monitor the progress of the blocks** and cities that lead to the overall improvement of the district.
- To execute the ADP at block and city level, its original contours need to be diversified and modified as given below;
 - Convergence of Central & State Schemes** to be implemented at block and city level.
 - Collaboration** of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers, District Collectors along with block and city administration.
 - Competition** among blocks and cities in delta ranking.

- An appraisal report released by **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India has lauded the ADP as **'a very successful model of local area development.**
 - Concerted efforts made under the ADP, including those in remote locations and those affected by Left Wing Extremism have experienced more growth and development and **Aspirational Districts (AD) have outperformed non- Aspirational Districts.**
- Now, the **Centre has identified 500 'backward blocks'** and same strategy working at ADM will be decentralised and extended to block and city level.
- Through this ADP at block and city level is **committed to raising the living standards of its citizens.**

Themes under Aspirational Districts Programme	
Sector	Weight
Health and Nutrition	30%
Education	30%
Agriculture and Irrigation	20%
Financial inclusion and skill formation	10%
Basic Infrastructure	10%

Way ahead

- **Adequate focus** should be given to all the themes and indicators irrespective of their weightage.
- **To eliminate disparities** among districts, they could be further grouped together based on their common characteristics and could be supported accordingly.
- **Robust and transparent data collection** by revising indicators with further trainings and learning programmes, as well as reduced focus on a competitive approach which are likely to result in misreporting.
- **Dedicated personnel** such as Aspirational District Fellows or representatives of the programme and capacity building at the grassroots level.
- **Integrate environment and gender** within the governance model as indicators of inclusive and sustainable growth.



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5. NUTRITION AND SANITATION

5.1. SANITATION

SANITATION AT A GLANCE

In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized access to clean drinking water and sanitation as Human rights.



BENEFITS OF IMPROVED SANITATION

- **Tackling water borne diseases** (like diarrhoea) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) like trachoma
- **Reducing** severity of **malnutrition** and infant mortality rate (IMR)
- **Promoting dignity and safety** of women
- **Improving girls' school attendance** through separate sanitation facilities
- **Recovery of water, renewable energy and nutrients** from waste water



STEPS TAKEN

- **Sustainable Development Goal (target 6.2)** calls for adequate and equitable sanitation for all
- **The WHO monitors global burden of diseases** and the level of sanitation access
- **India:** Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Namami Gange programme, awareness campaign on benefits of washing hands, Swachh Survekshan Survey, etc.



CHALLENGES IN IMPROVING SANITATION

- **Accessibility:** At least 10% global population is thought to consume food irrigated by wastewater (WHO).
- **Finance:** India Needs to spend **3.2% of GDP** to deliver sustainable water management by 2030.
- **Unplanned:** To increase in slums where problems of sanitation is too much.
- **Polluted water:** Discharge of untreated waste water directly into rivers and other water bodies.
- **Use of toilets:** Many rural households do not use toilet and go for open defecation.



WAY AHEAD

- **Promote effective risk assessment** and management practice for sanitation in communities.
- Sensitisation for judicious use of water and prevention of pollution of water bodies.
- **Awareness campaign** for use of toilets and strict implementation of ODF+ provisions.
- Holistic approach for **converting hygiene related knowledge into practice.**
- **Effective regulatory and monitoring mechanism.**

5.2. MANUAL SCAVENGING

Why in news?

Recently, the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (NHoUA) informed the Parliament that the Government has formulated NAMASTE scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank.

More about news

- NAMASTE scheme is launched to promote **100% mechanization, specially cleaning of sewers, septic tanks, desilting of drains, garbage lifting, sludge handling, solid and medical waste disposal** etc.
- is a joint project of **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** and the Ministry of **Housing and Urban Affairs (MHoUA)**.
 - The scheme **replaces the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers**

About Manual scavenging

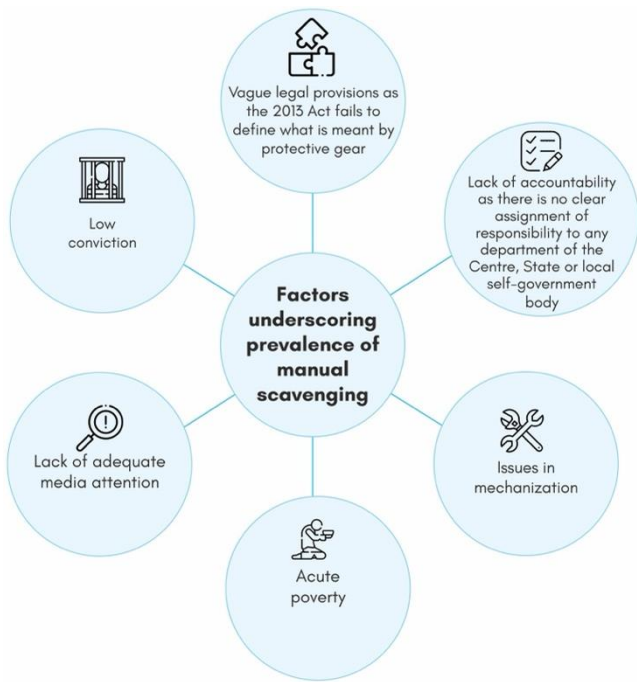
- Manual Scavenging is **lifting of human excreta from unsanitary latrines** as defined in Section 2 (1) (g) of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act 2013” or the MS Act 2013 (refer to the table).
- Manual scavengers die of the **potent mix of methane, hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide fumes** from septic tanks.
- Recently, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment said that of the 43,797 persons among the total 58,098 identified in manual scavenging, a staggering **97.25% are from communities classified as Scheduled Caste**. Other include Scheduled Tribes, communities classified as other backward classes.

Steps taken to address manual scavenging

- Swachhata Abhiyan app:** To create a database on location of unsanitary latrines and identifying manual scavengers who can be rehabilitated.
- Safai-mitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 cities:** Sewers and septic tanks in **243 cities will be mechanized and a helpline created** to register complaints if manual scavenging is reported.
- Changed terminologies:** Prohibiting use of the word ‘manhole’ anymore and instead using only ‘**machine-hole**’ to support the government’s decision to eradicate manual scavenging.
- Safai Karamchari vs Union of India, 2014:** The Supreme Court has ruled that the continuance of **manual scavenging in the country is in blatant violation of Article 17 of the Constitution of India** by which, “untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden”. The court was **emphatic about the duty cast on all states and union territories “to fully implement the law and to take action against the violators”**.

Key provisions of the ‘Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act 2013’

Who is a 'manual scavenger'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person who has been employed to handle undecomposed human waste from an insanitary latrine, open drain or pit or railway track is a manual scavenger under this law. The person could have been employed by anyone - say, someone from their village or by an agency or contractor. It does not matter if she was given regular employment or engaged on contract basis, she is covered under this law. Exception - Any person who has been employed to clean human waste and does so with the help of the appropriate protective gear and equipment will not be considered a manual scavenger under this law. Another group of people called 'safai karamcharis' are also sometimes considered as manual scavengers - however, they usually refer to people working as sweepers or cleaning workers in the municipalities, government or private organisations.
How does this law prevent manual scavenging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under this law, the first step to preventing manual scavenging is demolishing 'insanitary latrines'. It imposed certain time bound commitments by the local authorities (municipal bodies, cantonment boards and railway authorities). The local authorities are responsible for the building and maintenance of the community sanitary latrines and must make sure that they are functional and hygienic.
Law makes it an offence to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ people as manual scavengers to clean insanitary latrines. Employ people to clean sewers and septic tanks without protective gear. Construct insanitary latrines. Not demolish or convert insanitary latrines within a certain period of this Act coming into force
Rehabilitation of manual scavengers	it lays down the rules and procedure for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers through training in alternate employment, financial help and help with purchasing property.
Responsibility for identifying manual scavengers	Every local authority (municipality or panchayat), cantonment board or railway authority is responsible for surveying its area to identify manual scavengers.



Conclusion

Ending manual scavenging is one of the core initiatives to ensure dignified life to all as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. A multipronged and multi stakeholder approach is needed to curb this menace.

5.3. HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Why in news?

India was ranked 101 among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2021, trailing behind its South Asian neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Key Highlights of report

- Global hunger, represented by a **GHI score of 17.9**, is in the **moderate** category. The world as a whole will **fail to achieve** a low level of hunger by 2030.
- **Conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic** are the most powerful forces driving hunger.
- **Case in India:** With a score of **27.5**, India has a level of hunger that is **serious**. **Performance under various indicators:**
 - **Wasting** in children under five years (%): **17.3**
 - Proportion of **undernourished** in the population (%): **15.3**
 - Prevalence of **stunting** in children under five years (%): **34.7**
 - Under-five **mortality rate** (%): **3.4**

Why India has not been able to eradicate Hunger and malnutrition?

- **Low budget:** The allocation towards child nutrition in Union budget 2021-22 has **dropped by 18.5 per cent compared to 2020-21**.
- **Underutilisation of budget:** 2020 Comptroller and Auditor General of India audit of ICDS revealed that out of Rs 1,042 crore allocated, only Rs 908 crore was **actually disbursed** to state governments.



- **Lack of monitoring:** Common Application Software (CAS) was conceptualised in 2017 for **real-time monitoring** of the nutrition of pregnant / lactating women and children. It is **dysfunctional since September 2020**.
- **Food wastage:** 40% of the fruits and vegetables, and **30%** that are produced are lost due to **inefficient supply chain management** and do not reach the consumer markets.
- **Social factors:** Low **status of women** in Indian society, **child marriages**, **poor childcare practices**, such as not immediately starting breastfeeding after birth and child marriages.
- **Governance related issues:** **Centralised governance**, Lack of adequate **political and social will**, **Lack of accountability**, staff vacancies and **absenteeism** of field staff, Lack of disaggregated data of district level and Inefficient and ineffective implementation of, and **huge leakage** in, government's schemes.

Impact of Hunger and malnutrition

At individual level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentally, cognitive function decreases and physically, starvation substantially affects a person's muscles, bone, skin, and internal organs. • A lack of sufficient nutrients also weakens the immune system, making people more susceptible to chronic diseases.
On Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts are multi-generational as malnourished girls and women often give birth to low birth-weight infants. Thus, Undernourishment being passed on from generation to generation creates a vicious circle • The reduced physical and mental capacity reduces earning opportunities, increasing the risk of poverty.
On Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies reveal that India loses up to 4 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) and up to 8 per cent of its productivity due to child malnutrition. • The bane of child and maternal malnutrition is responsible for 15 per cent of India's total disease burden.

Way Ahead

- **Increased budgetary allocations** as research suggests that **\$1 spent** on nutritional interventions in India **could generate \$34.1 to \$38.6 in public economic** returns, three times more than the global average.
- **Expanding early detection and treatment services** for stunting, wasting, etc. and integrate it within routine primary health-care services.
- **Health and nutrition awareness** in schools, public places, print and social media would help children in understanding how they should **respond to their nutritional needs**.
- **Address gaps and inefficiencies in governance** through **public awareness** for their rights and entitlements. It will also help in developing community-based solutions to malnutrition.
- **Society activism** like the **Right to Food Campaign** (launched in March 2014) is an informal network of individuals and organisations to persuade State governments to attend to the most pressing demands of society, including **proper nutrition**.
- **Learn from International experience:**
 - **Thailand** reduced child malnutrition (underweight) rate **from 50 per cent to 25 per cent** in the period 1980-1988. This was achieved through a mix of interventions including intensive growth **monitoring and nutrition education, strong supplementary feeding provision, etc.**
 - The National Plan of Action for Nutrition of **Bangladesh** is based on a **multi-sectoral convergence strategy** involving health, education, fisheries and livestock, environment, social protection, disaster management etc to **combat child malnutrition**.

Initiatives taken by the Government

- **Direct targeted interventions:** Government implements several schemes and programs like **Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** under the Umbrella **Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)**, **Poshan Vatikas** at Anganwadi centres to meet **dietary diversity gap leveraging traditional knowledge** in nutritional practices, etc.
- **POSHAN BHIYAAN:** To prevent and reduce prevalence of **stunting, underweight and anaemia** among children (0-6 years) and reduction in **prevalence of low birth weight**.
- **Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy:** For reducing anaemia prevalence among children, adolescents and women in reproductive age group.
- **Nutrition Smart Village:** To **75 villages across India** with the objectives of promoting **nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change**, harnessing traditional knowledge and implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

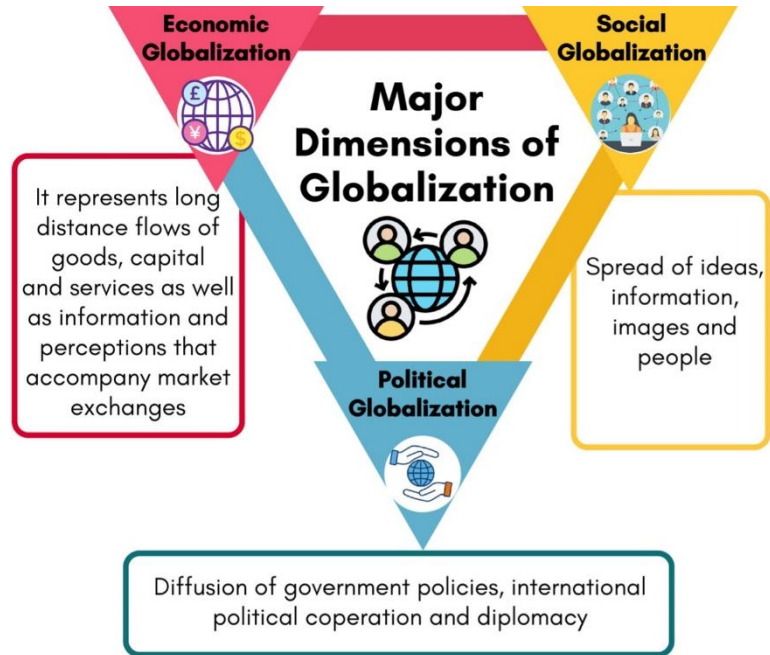
6.1. GLOBALIZATION: SLOWDOWN OR MUTATING?

Why in News?

With global interconnectedness emerging as an essential mechanism behind the spread of changing coronavirus variants, the world is going through debate on the future of globalization.

Globalization and its Growth

- Globalization is defined as ‘a process associated with **increasing openness, growing economic interdependence and deepening economic integration** in the world of economy’.
- Such economic integration and interdependence are not new. But **in the last 3 decades, following global economic conditions** have encouraged the spread of Globalization-
 - Faster and safer transportation** with sharp decline in costs
 - Advancements in communication and technology** due to the Internet and IT Revolution
 - Rule-based global trade system** with help from World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - Promotion of Privatization** for Innovation and competition
 - Easy flow of capital** between different economies.



01	Increased Financial Risks due to financial globalization. E.g. 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, 2008 Global Recession.
02	Creation of International Tax Havens enabling super-rich to evade taxes.
03	Rise in Protectionism from political leaders. E.g. in USA, UK etc.
04	Strategic Concerns among certain nations due to rising fear on Rise of China.
05	Environmental Concerns due to global warming with key role of fossil fuels for transportation.

REASONS FOR DISSATISFACTION FROM GLOBALIZATION

01	People Dissatisfaction due to loss of jobs, rise in economic inequalities etc.
07	Rise in traditionalism due to concerns over cultural and ethnic dilution.
08	Behavioral Concerns over decreasing value of humans. E.g. Rise in Society McDonalidization.
09	Decreasing WTO role with frequent breakdown of WTO talks.
10	Concerns over Privacy, Cybercrimes etc. with demand for greater regulation.

Slowdown of Globalization: Dissatisfaction and Reducing Significance

- The rapid growth in globalization has given rise to **multiple domestic and international problems** as well.
- Prevalence of these reasons was further aggravated with **rising concerns over use of global infrastructure** E.g., ‘Belt and Road’ initiative and **threat to sovereignty** arising from deeper global economic integration.

COVID-19 and Globalization: Phase of Slow Down or Mutation

The outbreak of COVID-19 and its repercussions have acted like an inflection point for the already fragile ecosystem of globalization.

- **Economic Globalization:** Breakdown of global supply chains due to lockdowns.
- **Social Globalization:** Travel restrictions on domestic and international travelers. Reduced migrant's remittances due to job loss.
- **Political Globalization:** Increased blame game among nations (USA-China), expansionism (e.g. China) leading to global tensions as well as cooperation (e.g. AUKUS, QUAD). Some countries have also worked to fight the pandemic jointly (e.g., Vaccine Maitri by India).

These trends point towards a **different form of globalization**.

Future of Globalization: Globalization 4.0

- **Structural shifts in the Global Value Chain (GVC):**
 - **Goods-producing value chains have grown less trade-intensive** which is indicated by the falling value of trade intensity (that is, the ratio of gross exports to gross output).
 - **Trade in services has grown faster than trade in goods** with the former growing almost 60% faster.
 - **Share of trade based on labor-cost arbitrage has been declining.**
 - **GVCs are growing more knowledge intensive and are becoming more regional and less global.**
- Geography of **global demand is continuously shifting towards developing countries** with rising domestic consumption in countries such as India and China.
- **Technological developments** like growth of digital platforms, 5G technology, 3D Printing, artificial intelligence could **boost trade and simultaneously change the nature of trade.**
- **Fundamental shift in the definition and behavior of a customer in a highly digitized world.**
- Globalization will need to be built on exchanges and learning on a more equal footing, **stressing more on diversity, rather than in contrast to erstwhile single-minded homogenization of societies.**

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6.2. SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIETY

SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIETY AT A GLANCE



Social Media

A grouping of interactive **Web 2.0 Internet-based applications** that facilitates the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and information through the **building of virtual networks and communities**. Examples include **Joint projects** like Wikipedia, **Blogs** like Twitter, **Content Communities** like YouTube, **Social Networking Sites** like Facebook etc.



Benefits of Social Media for Society

- Facilitated **political and economic empowerment of Youth**.
- Acted as a **transformational tool for education**.
- Provides a **platform for marginalised communities to fight for their rights**.
- Helps in **women empowerment** and bridging gender divide.
- Provided a social **support system for elderly population**.
- Provides a platform for **collective social action and facilitates cultural integration**.
- Facilitates **better governance and health care management**.



Need for Social Media Regulation

- Increasing polarisation of society: Social Media is dividing people on the basis of their views** resulting in **people cultivating rigid opinions of issues and narrower world views**.
- Ethical and privacy concerns such as financial frauds, human rights violation, online abuse etc.**
- Social costs** in the form of **Adverse impacts on mental health, Altered human behaviour and society's inability to check anti-social behaviours**.
- Rising incidences of misinformation and Fake news consequences of which range from riots, death threats to actual murders.
- Threats to democratic institutions and security landscape due to the illegal and terrorist activities taking place on social media.**



Challenges in Social Media Regulation

- Tackling misinformation:** Difficult to decide which content is fake and which is not.
- Regulating hate speech:** Challenging to draw an official line between permitted and prohibited speech.
- Lack of resources and know-how** to detect and remove objectionable social media content at the requisite scale or speed.
- Issue of accountability** since the content is user generated and not created by the social media platforms.
- High cost of complying with government regulations **inhibits competition and innovation and may create monopolies**.
- Regulating content **might harm freedom of expression and suppress dissent** that may negatively affect country's democratic framework.



Ways to strengthen Social Media for the emerging era

- Self-Regulation by the platforms to the public to limit spread of misinformation by taking steps such as:**
 - Following a set of **Human Rights Principles for Content Moderation**.
 - Expanding the number of moderators and investing to improve quality of content review**.
- Redefining the role of the Government through**
 - Defining and periodically update content standards** and enforcement guidelines.
 - Supporting positive measures to address online disinformation**.
 - Formulating Transparency requirements** related to all platforms' core functions.
- Building Societal capacity building for better usage of social media by **increasing accessibility for disadvantaged sections of society**.

6.3. HATE CRIME

Why in News?

Recently, perpetrators of mobile apps, which featured a humiliating mock auction of more than a hundred Muslim women active in public life, were arrested.

About Hate Crimes

- Hate crimes, or bias-motivated crimes, are defined as **offenses motivated by hatred against a victim** based on his or her race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, or national origin.
- Hate crimes are the **most extreme expression of prejudice**.
- Hate incidents **may result in severe harms, and/or escalate over protracted periods of time** into more serious forms of emotional, sexual and/or physical abuse.

Hate Crimes	Related provisions in India
Hate Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punishable under various sections of Indian Penal code (IPC)- 153A, 153B, 295A etc. • Representation of People Act, Information Technology Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the like also contain provisions concerning hate speech and its prevention.
Lynching and Mob Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court guidelines in Tehseen Poonawala case. • Various sections under Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and IPC.
Violence against Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections under IPC, Specific acts like Child marriage Restrain Act, Dowry Prohibition Act etc.

Causes of hate crime

- **Prejudices:** Perpetrator may have intense feelings of prejudice against an entire identity group leading to him or her feeling disgust and even hatred towards members of that group.
- **Lack of Understanding:** about differences among people, and their traditions, contributes to fear and intolerance. Left unaddressed, these sentiments can lead to acts of intimidation and hate-motivated violence.
- **Perception of threats:** Such as perceived competition over jobs, housing and other resources. Immigrants and disabled people are two groups often targeted. Other symbolic threats relate to people's social identities, such as different way of life, including culturally important values and norms.
- **Armed conflict:** Political tensions and armed conflicts can pit communities, defined by ethnicity, origin, language or religion, against one another
- **Administrative Failure:** Given the state of the police and judiciary in the country, there is a wide-ranging perception that 'culprits' go unpunished and that there is a chance that the accused in hate crimes will go scot-free.
- **Political Patronage:** In the competitive electoral politics, the culture of political mobilization based on religion, ethnicity, languages, etc. has gained momentum

Impact of hate crimes

- **Fear Psychosis:** emotional and psychological trauma experienced by both individuals as well as the community to which they belong.
- **Attacks on core of victim's identity:** Hate crimes increase feelings of vulnerability, anxiety, anger, and sometimes shame; these emotional reactions motivate specific behavioural responses:
 - Anger leads to pro-active behaviours and less avoidance
 - Anxiety leads to avoidance and security concerns
 - Shame is linked to avoidance, pro-active behaviours, security concerns, and uniquely to retaliation
- **Hate crimes tend to escalate:** Offenders who start by committing minor crimes often go on to commit increasingly violent acts if they are not caught and stopped.
- **Hate crimes tend to spiral:** If victims and their communities feel unsafe and unprotected by state authorities, they are likely to retaliate. This can lead to further attacks, creating a spiral of violence that leads to serious social breakdown.

Way forward for responding to hate crimes

- **Prevention:** Hold registered political parties and other registered entities accountable for the acts of commission or omission by their members involved in hate crimes.

- **Conviction:** Where a hate crime is proven, the **punishment should be increased**, disciplinary action against concerned police and administration officials for their failure to prevent hate crimes, etc.
- **Sensitise subordinate judiciary:** They should be sensitised by holding seminars and workshops at regular intervals involving social activists, psychologists, other activists, lawyers from all communities.
- **Imbibing tolerance and harmony to school kids:** Systematically educate all students about prejudice and intolerance.
- **Civil society:** The relevant authorities can work with civil society to improve the identification, registration and monitoring of hate crimes/incident as well as raising awareness against hate crime.

6.4. INDIA'S PERFORMANCE IN SPORTS

Why in News?

Recently, the PM called youth to consider careers in sports and others to encourage the youth in the country to foster a sports culture in the country.

How has India's performance been in Sports?

Despite sports being an integral component of all-round human personality development and entertainment, India has very little to show as achievement in international sports. This can be evidently seen through the following-

- **Limited international participation:** India has had **very few big names in international sports** except in some sports like cricket.
- **Poor performance in Olympics:** At the recent Tokyo Summer Olympics and Paralympics, India had its best performance till date with **7 and 19 medals** respectively.
 - Overall, India has won only **35 medals** at the **summer Olympics since 1900 edition**.
 - In the Winter Olympic Games India is yet to win a medal. Similarly, it **qualified only once for FIFA World Cup in 1950**.



Reason for Poor performance in International Competitions

What are the steps that have been taken to address the poor performance?

- **National Sports Policy** for broad basing of sports and achieving excellence in sports at national and international level.
- **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**, an autonomous organization, was set up to provide training facilities to athletes and to identify and develop young talent.
- **Support and Promotion Schemes like Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** to provide assistance to a selected set of athletes, **Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports** to infuse sporting culture and achieve sport excellence in the country (see image).
- **National Sports Repository System (NSRS)** as a digital platform for online registration of athletes, coaches, and sports training centers.



- **Sports Education Development** to provide higher education in branches of knowledge related to Physical Education and Sports Science. E.g., Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education.
- **Incentives to Sportspersons** like National Sports Award to recognize outstanding performances. E.g., Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award etc.



Way Forward

- **Creation of world-class sports infrastructure** to provide necessary training facilities. It will also help in creation of **new job opportunities** for the youth and encourage them to pursue **sports as a career**.
- **Building of Institutions**, i.e., School, colleges, and universities to develop dedicated staff, infrastructure, competitions to foster the culture of sports.
- **Governance reforms in sports federations/bodies** to reduce political interference and ensure transparency in their functioning ensuring fair selection.
- **Use of scientific knowledge** (e.g., Kinanthropometry) in the process of early identification of talent and training them for sports.
 - Kinanthropometry is defined as the **study of human size, shape, proportion, composition, maturation, and gross function**, in order to understand growth, exercise, performance, and nutrition.
- **Engaging the private sector in sports promotion**. E.g., Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) with corporate participation has helped Kabaddi as a sport and its players to gain recognition.
- **Develop an assured Career Progression** for athletes with clearly identified opportunities. This can be done by supporting a complete ecosystem which includes coaches, infrastructure, trainers and leagues at every level.
- **Promotion of Physical Fitness** among people through sports by encouraging existing players to interact with people. E.g., the recent call from PM to Olympians for visit to 75 schools by the 2023 Independence Day.
- **Develop India as a manufacturing hub** for sports to ensure availability of equipment. It will also help in promotion of R&D to aid in performance of athletes.

Related News

Funding of sports

- Recently, the Delhi HC ordered the Central Government to stop **funds to sports bodies that do not follow National Sports Development Code of India (NSCI)**.
- The order stopped the Centre from extending **grants, funds and patronage** to those **National Sports Federations (NSFs)** that do not comply with the **NSCI, 2011**.
 - In 2014, Delhi HC **declared NSCI the law of the land** for sports bodies.
- NSCI is an amalgamation of orders issued by Government of India since 1975 for NSFs.
 - NSCI **defines the areas of responsibility of the various agencies** involved in promotion and development of sports.
 - It **identifies NSFs eligible for coverage under code**, to **set priorities**, and to detail the procedures to be followed by Federations.
 - It states the **conditions for eligibility to receive government recognition and grant**.
- NSFs are **fully responsible and accountable for overall management, direction, control, regulation, promotion, development and sponsorship** of discipline for which they are recognized by concerned International Federation.
- **Benefits of NSCI Compliance:** Bring Fairness and Legitimacy in NSFs; Overcome issues of mismanagement of the Sports Sector; Improved sports outcomes.

- **Issues with NSFs**
 - Lack of good-quality sporting infrastructure.
 - Lack of transparency and accountability.
 - Lack of competency as federation is headed by politicians.
 - Shortage of funds.
 - Conflict of interest among members of federations.

ANTI-DOPING BILL

- Recently, the government introduced a National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha.
 - **Doping is the consumption of certain prohibited substances by athletes to enhance performance.**
 - **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** monitors doping in all kinds of competitive sports. At the national level, there is the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**, an independent body under Union Ministry of Sports.
 - In the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency, **152 (17% of the world total) Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) were reported in India in 2019.**
 - ✓ India ranks third in the list with the maximum dope offenders coming from bodybuilding (57).
- **Key features of the Bill**
 - **Prohibition of doping:** The Bill prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel and other persons from engaging in doping in sport.
 - ✓ **Anti-doping rule violation may result in:** Disqualification of results, ban from competing for a prescribed period, financial sections etc.
 - ✓ **Exemptions:** If any athlete requires a prohibited substance or method due to a medical condition, they may apply to the National Anti-Doping Agency for a therapeutic use exemption.
 - **National Anti-Doping Agency:** Bill seeks to provide statutory framework for the functioning of NADA, empowering it to conduct raids besides strengthening measures to tackle drug abuse in Indian sports

“ The Secret To Getting Ahead Is Getting Started ”



ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM PROGRAM *for*

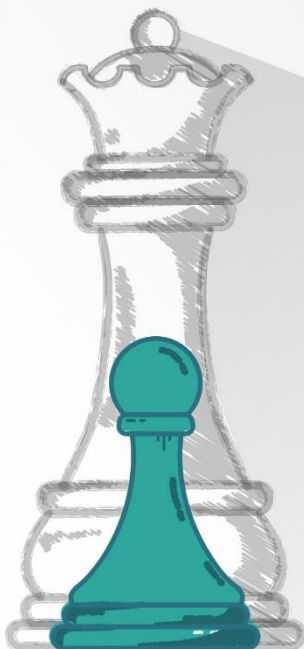
GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS & MAINS 2024 & 2025

DELHI: 30 AUG, 9 AM | 19 AUG, 1 PM | 5 AUG, 9 AM
26 JULY, 1 PM | 17 JULY, 5 PM | 7 JULY, 1 PM

- Approach is to build fundamental concepts and analytical ability in students to enable them to answer questions of Preliminary as well as Mains examination
- Includes comprehensive coverage of all the topics for all the four papers of GS Mains, GS Prelims and Essay
- Includes All India GS Mains, Prelims, CSAT and Essay Test Series of 2023, 2024, 2025
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APPENDIX: KEY DATA AND FACTS



WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The Women Reservation Bill (**Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2010**) proposed to **reserve 33% seats in Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies** for women.
- ⊕ **Only 9.1% women ministers** are there in the Parliament, against international average of nearly 22%.
- ⊕ **Ensuring reservation within political parties** is an alternative to women's reservation in legislative bodies.
- ⊕ **Way Forward:** Changing male dominated value system and organizing awareness and leadership development programs for women.



FEMINIZATION OF AGRICULTURE

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The rise in **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** to 45.6% in 2019-20 from 42.5% in 2018-19 was driven by rise of women participation in Agriculture.
- ⊕ **Reasons:** Migration of men, preference to women for labour intensive works and low cost production etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Land ownership, Gender budgeting, Women centric extension services, Strengthen alternative economic opportunities, etc.



WOMEN IN STEM

Data/Facts

- ⊕ **~43% of STEM graduates are women yet only ~15% of faculty positions** in science are occupied by **women in India**.
- ⊕ **Challenges:** Patriarchal culture, Gender gap in payment, undue burden of family responsibility, etc..
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Eliminating stereotype, safe travel, paternity leave, political representation of women, etc.



PERMANENT COMMISSION (PC)

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Permanent commission means **a career in the armed forces till retirement**.
- ⊕ **In Secretary, Ministry Of Defence vs Babita Puniya (2020)** case the Supreme Court ruled for granting **permanent commission** to women.
- ⊕ Currently, Indian **Army, Air Force and Navy** enlist only **0.56%, 1.08% and 6.5%**.
- ⊕ **Benefits:** Improving sex ratio in defence, more opportunities for women, voice in decision making etc..
- ⊕ **Way Forward:** Establishing provisions for resuming defence services after maternity leave, opening combat wings for women, making military lucrative for women etc.



MARRIAGE AGE OF WOMEN

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The rise in **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** to 45.6% in 2019-20 from 42.5% in 2018-19 was driven by rise of women participation in Agriculture.
- ⊕ **Reasons:** Migration of men, preference to women for labour intensive works and low cost production etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Land ownership, Gender budgeting, Women centric extension services, Strengthen alternative economic opportunities, etc.



WASH AND GENDER INEQUALITY

Data/Facts

- ⊕ WASH is a collective term for **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**.
 - It relates to **SDG 3** (good health and well-being) and **SDG 6** (ensuring availability and sustainable management of water sanitation for all).
- ⊕ Gender inequality in WASH connotes to **Knowledge gap, Accessibility gap, Affordability gap, Discriminatory laws, etc.**
- ⊕ **Way Forward:** Gender sensitive legal guarantee for WASH, women participation and empowerment, build local governments' capacities, coordination with the private sector etc.



POSH (PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT) ACT, 2013

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The purpose of the Act is **preventing, prohibiting, and redressing acts of sexual harassment against women at workplace**.
It broadened guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in **Vishaka & Ors vs State of Rajasthan (1997)**.
- ⊕ **Provides for Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- ⊕ **Issues with POSH:** Gender inequality, punitive measures are not defined, exclusion of informal sector etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Make the law gender neutral, establishing standard operating procedure for deciding compensation and punishment, covering informal sectors under it etc.



DOWRY SYSTEM IN INDIA

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Dowry is a **cognisable offence** in the **Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961**.
- ⊕ **Dowry death is a criminal offence** under Section 304B of the IPC.
- ⊕ **Challenges:** Subordination of women, lack of financial Independence, lax implementation of law, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Stigmatisation of dowry, Outlawing extravagant weddings, women empowerment, etc.



MARITAL RAPE

Data/Facts

- ⊖ **1 in 3 Indian women** aged 18-49 have suffered some form of spousal abuse (NFHS 5).
- ⊖ **Section 375 of IPC** defines rape and lists several notions of consent but **decriminalises marital rape** if wife is not under 15 years of age.
- ⊖ India is one of the **only 36 countries where marital rape is still not criminalized**.
- ⊖ **JS Verma Committee** and 172nd Law Commission Report have recommended marital rape's criminalisation.



RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS

Data/Facts

- ⊖ **8.25 lakh female in India** are sex workers.
- ⊖ Supreme Court recently re-asserted that **sex workers and their children cannot be deprived of their right to live with dignity and human decency**.
 - Earlier in **Gaurav Jain v. Union of India (1997)** and **Budhadev Karmaskar v State of West Bengal 2011** the the Supreme Court had reiterated for rights of sex workers and their children.
- ⊖ **Issues faced by sex workers:** Stigma, criminalization and marginalisation, lack of access to justice, high HIV prevalence etc.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Decriminalize all aspects of sex work, ensuring healthcare services, community sensitization, participation of sex workers in policy making etc.



CARE ECONOMY

Data/Facts

- ⊖ Only **1% of the GDP** is spend on care economy.
- ⊖ **Women's unpaid work is valued at 3.1% of GDP in India**.
- ⊖ **Challenges:** Low payment to care workers, no mechanism for proper identification of care economy workers, gender disparity etc.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Identifying care workers, formalisation of economy, women sensitive employment generation, making Child Care Leave (CCL) gender neutral, etc.



JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT ACT, 2021

Data/Facts

- ⊖ The Act has been **challenged in the Supreme Court for categorising certain offences as non-cognizable** including use of children for drugs peddling, use of children by terrorists, exploitation of child employee and cruelty against children.'
- ⊖ A juvenile is a person **less than 18 years of age**.
- ⊖ The Act fulfils India's **commitment as a signatory** to the
 - United Nations Convention on the rights of the child,
 - Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993)



CHILD ADOPTION IN INDIA

Data/Facts

- ⊖ Permanent commission means **a career in the armed forces till retirement.**
- ⊖ In **Secretary, Ministry Of Defence vs Babita Puniya (2020)** case the Supreme Court ruled for granting **permanent commission** to women.
- ⊖ Currently, Indian **Army, Air Force and Navy** enlist only **0.56%, 1.08% and 6.5%**.
- ⊖ **Benefits:** Improving sex ratio in defence, more opportunities for women, voice in decision making etc..
- ⊖ **Way Forward:** Establishing provisions for resuming defence services after maternity leave, opening combat wings for women, making military lucrative for women etc.



TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Data/Facts

- ⊖ **Constitutional rights** under Article 14, 15, 16, 19 and 21.
- ⊖ In **NALSA vs Union of India (UoI), 2014** the Supreme Court recognised the rights of Transgender.
- ⊖ **Navtej Singh Johar vs UoI, 2018** decriminalises same sex marriage.
- ⊖ **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** defines transgender and enlists their rights.
- ⊖ **Challenges faced by transgender:** Lack of education, jobs, higher prevalence of HIV, vulnerable to violence, etc.
- ⊖ **Way Forward:** Alternate means of livelihood, Gender neutral Sexual harassment mechanism, adequate provisions of health and education, etc.



ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS (ASHAS)

Data/Facts

- ⊖ ASHAs have received the WHO Director-General's **Global Health Leaders Award.**
- ⊖ There are **around 10.4 lakh ASHA workers** across the country.
- ⊖ **Difficulties faced by ASHAs:** Inadequate Compensation, Poor infrastructure, High Workload, etc.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Improving employment conditions, Capacity Building, Community sensitization, etc.



PRADHAN MANTRI-JAN AROGYA YOJANA (PM-JAY)

Data/Facts

- ⊖ PM-JAY is **one of the two components** under Ayushman Bharat.
- ⊖ It is the **largest health insurance scheme of the world.**
- ⊖ **Reasons for limited effectiveness:** underfunded public healthcare system, exclusion error, poor regulation etc.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Proper Beneficiaries identification, creating an integrated Digital health Infrastructure to overcome supply issues, community mobilization and engaging Self Help Groups etc.



DIGITALISATION OF HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Data/Facts

- ⊕ **Benefits:** Evidence based planning and decision making, bridging geographical divide between rural and urban areas, efficient utilisation of human and financial resources etc.
- ⊕ **Challenges:** inadequate infrastructure, Fragmented healthcare delivery, Internet accessibility, Data Safety, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Leveraging Aadhar, consent for sharing data, penetration of telemedicine services, etc.



HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDIA'S MISSING MIDDLE

Data/Facts

- ⊕ There is a **gap in India's insurance coverage for 30% of population** named as the '**missing middle** (the non-poor segments of the population who has the financial capacity to pay for contributory health insurance.)
- ⊕ **Reasons:** Low awareness, negative perception, geographical disparity etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Expanding private voluntary insurance, expanding government subsidized health insurance, increasing consumer awareness, swift grievance redressal, etc.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

Data/Facts

- ⊕ SRHR includes **access to SRH services, care, and information, as well as autonomy in decision making about their SRHs** including the spacing and timing of children.
- ⊕ **Challenges:** Ideological opposition to family planning, underfunding of reproductive health care, lack of freedom for women, etc..
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Promoting gender equality and women's autonomy, Comprehensive Sexuality Education, etc.



SURROGACY (REGULATION) RULES, 2022

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The rules are issued under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 which defines surrogacy and **prohibits commercial surrogacy**
- ⊕ The act is being seen as **exclusionary in nature as only legally married couple** are allowed to choose for surrogacy.
→ In **Devika Biswas v. Union of India**, the Apex Court held that Right to Reproduction was an essential facet of the 'Right to Life' under Article 21.
- ⊕ The definition of infertility is also restrictive under the Act.
- ⊕ **Rescinding the time-frame for IVF treatment** (as mentioned in the Act) could make the law more progressive.



MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

Data/Facts

- ⊖ **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (amendment) Act 2021** allows termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks of gestation period.
- ⊖ **Challenges in implementing the MTP Act:** shortage of qualified doctors and Health Infrastructure, religious opposition, social stigma, lack of awareness about law.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Engage religious leaders, make people realize value of human life, family life education for a planned parenthood, etc



RARE DISEASE

Data/Facts

- ⊖ WHO defines rare disease as often debilitating lifelong disease or disorder with a prevalence of less than 10 per 10,000 people.
- ⊖ **Issues with rare diseases in India:** No standard definition, challenges in early diagnosis, prohibitive cost of treatment, etc.
- ⊖ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) approved the **National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021**.
 - It aims to **lower the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases**
 - **Categorization of rare diseases in 3 groups**
 - Provides for assistance of Rs 20 lakh to patients suffering from rare disease by Centre



MENTAL HEALTH

Data/Facts

- ⊖ Overall 970 million people are living with mental health disorders like anxiety & depression.
- ⊖ \$ 1 trillion is lost to anxiety and depression alone every year.
- ⊖ **Reasons:** Social media and peer pressure, urbanisation and modernisation, old age issues etc.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Awareness and community participation, healthy lifestyle, School-based mental health programmes etc.



ONLINE GAMING

Data/Facts

- ⊖ India's online gaming industry is expected to be worth ₹15,500 crore by 2023.
- ⊖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted an **AVGC (Animation, Visual, Gaming and Comics) Promotion Task Force** for framing policy in this matter.
- ⊖ **Benefits:** Government revenues, generate employment, Promote Innovation, etc.
- ⊖ **Issues:** Social dysfunction, poor educational performance, longer financial losses, increase violence etc.
- ⊖ **Way forward:** Supervise Children at Home, Establish a single regulatory body, Proper regulations on games involving betting etc.



DRUG ABUSE

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act regulates abuse of drug in India.
- ⊕ **Reasons:** India being sandwiched between Golden triangle and the Golden crescent, criminalising drug abuse, stigma, treatment gap, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Evidence-based substance use prevention programmes, Minimizing the stigma, awareness campaign, etc.



PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Data/Facts

- ⊕ In education sector, **private sector is required to operate on a not-for-profit basis.**
- ⊕ **Need:** Improving quality of education, retreat of public spending etc.
- ⊕ **Challenges:** exclusionary education and commercialisation, negative perception of motives of private sectors, Inefficient regulation, corruption and black money.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Improving regulatory environment, outsourcing management and administration to private sector, monetary and non-monetary support to students etc.



EDTECH SECTOR IN INDIA

Data/Facts

- ⊕ **Internet penetration rate** is estimated to reach **above 55% by the end of 2025** in India.
- ⊕ **Benefits of edtech:** Supplement government's digital push, flexible and cost effective learning, etc.
- ⊕ **Issues:** disruption to conventional learning due to pandemic, Checking Cyber Threats, Neglect of social skills.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Strengthening digital infrastructure, improving socialisation and data protection etc.



BRAIN DRAINS

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Students spend \$28 billion or **1 per cent of India's GDP.**
- ⊕ **Factors:** Lack of innovative courses, better prospects, unemployment and uncompetitive remuneration etc.
- ⊕ **Issues:** shortage of qualified human resource, increases the gap between developing and developed nations, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Creating cross border institutional mobility and opportunities at elite institutions, making India attractive education destination for migrants, incentivise to return home after completion studies, etc.



UNIVERSAL SOCIAL SECURITY

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Article 41, 42 and 47 of the Constitution direct the state to provide social security.
- ⊕ Code on Social Security, 2020 extends social security to all employees and workers either in the organized or unorganized.
- ⊕ Significance: Ensure material and emotional security, promote greater efficiency and higher productivity etc.
- ⊕ Challenge: High Magnitude of Unorganized Workers, Ignorance, illiteracy, Fragmented administration systems, etc.
- ⊕ Way forward: Recognition of Social Security as fundamental right, improving policy implementation, awareness campaign, enhance financing.



INTERNAL MIGRATION

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Migrant workers comprise nearly 60% of occupationally vulnerable workers (outside agriculture).
- ⊕ 'One Nation One Ration Card' and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 (PMUY 2.0) are especially focused on migrant workers.
- ⊕ Issues affecting internal migrants: Lack of Social Security, slum accommodations, lack of access to education etc.
- ⊕ Challenges: Inadequate data, Low priority by the government, policy gaps, etc.
- ⊕ Way forward: National Minimum Social Security Scheme for Informal Workers, Sensitize and train policymakers, filling the data gap.



STREET VENDORS

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 provides for Act provides issue of certificate of vending to all the street vendors identified in the survey, with preference to SC, ST, OBC, women, persons with disabilities, minorities, etc.
- ⊕ No eviction or relocation should be enforced without consultation with Town Vending Committees (TVCs) formed by the states under the Act.
- ⊕ Other initiatives: Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme and Main Bhi Digital Drive.



ALL INDIA SURVEY ON DOMESTIC WORKERS (AISDWS)

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The survey is undertaken by the Labour Bureau.
- ⊕ There are at least 4 million domestic servants in India (ILO).
- ⊕ India is a signatory to ILO's 189th convention (Convention on the Domestic Workers) but has not ratified it yet.
- ⊕ Issues faced by domestic workers: Poor working conditions, exploitation of vulnerability, child labour etc.
- ⊕ Way forward: Sensitisation of employer, emulating the best global practices, Ratifying ILO's 189th convention, comprehensive legislation, etc.

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROGRAMME (ADP): BLOCK AND CITY LEVEL

Data/Facts

- ⊕ The UNDP has recognised ADP as ‘a very successful model of local area development.
- ⊕ **Theme under ADP:** Health, education, Agriculture & irrigation, financial inclusion & skill formation, basic infrastructure.
- ⊕ **Issues with ADP:** Data discrepancy, marginalisation of sectors with less weightage, lack of human resource, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Robust and transparent data collection, Dedicated personnel, integrating environment and gender within the governance model etc.



HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Data/Facts

- ⊕ India was ranked 101 among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2021.
- ⊕ **Challenges:** Low budget, underutilisation of budget, food wastage, lack of monitoring, centralised governance, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Expanding early detection and treatment services for stunting, addressing gaps and inefficiencies in governance, health and nutrition awareness, etc.



HATE CRIME

Data/Facts

- ⊕ Punishable under 153A, 153B, 295A of the IPC.
- ⊕ **Representation of People Act, Information Technology Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act** and the like also contain provisions concerning hate speech and its prevention.
- ⊕ In **Tehseen Poonawala case** the Supreme Court laid down guidelines to prevent mob lynching.
- ⊕ **Reasons:** Prejudices, political patronage, administrative failures, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Upholding accountability of registered political parties, sensitise judiciary, impart tolerance and harmony in school kids, etc.




INDIA'S PERFORMANCE IN SPORTS











Data/Facts

- ⊕ India has very little to show as achievement in international sports.
- ⊕ **Reasons:** Poor Health, lack of sports culture, lack of popularity, no assured career progression, etc.
- ⊕ **Way forward:** Creation of world-class sports infrastructure, governance reforms in sports federations/bodies, promotion of physical fitness, an assured Career Progression for athletes, etc.

WEEKLY FOCUS

Social Issues

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	LEARN MORE
 <p>Social Media and Society</p>	<p>We all have witnessed the evolution of social media platforms from being a medium of entertainment to becoming an indispensable part of our life. This document explains how social media during its journey of evolution, has impacted the human society in myriad ways. It also discusses the need and ways to regulate this new age platform for it to become more relevant in the new age digital era.</p>	
 <p>Unpaid Work: Women's Responsibility or an Economic Activity?</p>	<p>Unpaid work performed by women undermines their rights, limits their opportunities, capabilities and choices and thus impeding their empowerment. This document analyses the reasons behind skewed distribution of unpaid work in our society and its implications. At the same time, Goal 5 of SDGs includes a target for recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work. The document discusses the need and challenges with recognizing unpaid work as an economic activity and shows a way ahead to deal with the issue using 'Triple R' Approach.</p>	
 <p>India's Vaccination Drives: Strategy, Obstacles and Opportunities</p>	<p>Launching the most awaited COVID vaccine, India started its journey on the road to recovery from a pandemic that has unprecedentedly disrupted and taken lives. India is now also the fastest country in the world to achieve the 100 million vaccination mark. This document takes us through the story of India becoming the global leader in vaccine manufacturing and analyses the success stories, existing bottlenecks in the system and the potential opportunities. It also delves into the ongoing debate over the efficacy of vaccine diplomacy as pursued by India.</p>	
 <p>Universal Immunisation Towards A Healthier And A Safer World</p>	<p>The recently launched global immunisation agenda aims for a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age, fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being. The document provides an insight into the science of how a vaccine activates immune system of our body and protects us against deadly diseases. Going ahead, it discusses why universal immunisation across the globe is the need of hour and assesses India's progress in this direction.</p>	







 <p>India Vs Bharat: Is Rural-Urban divide a reality or a metaphor?</p>	<p>The current debate on inequality and social cohesion has recognized growing differences in living standards between urban and rural areas. The existing disparity impacts the growth and development of the nation in myriad ways. This document discusses factors contributing to the urban-rural divide and the symbiotic relationship that exists between the two counterparts. Taking the discussion forward, it analyses whether India and Bharat can be reconciled for a better future.</p>	
 <p>CIVIL SOCIETY IN INDIA: Necessary ingredient in development or a Contested Idea?</p>	<p>In the current model of economic growth, the voluntary/ civil society sector has been recognized as a key player in in the process of nation building and achieving equitable, sustainable and inclusive development goals. Invariably, this has raised public debate about their legitimacy and role in the official policy space. Through this document we will understand the significance of civil society in a democracy and how civil societies can overcome the obstacles being faced by them and perform their desired objective in the emerging era .</p>	
 <p>Violence against Women: Recognize, Respond, Prevent and Change</p>	<p>Volumes can be written about the status of our women and their heroic deeds from the Vedic period to the modern times. But later on, because of social, political and economic changes, women lost their status and were relegated to the background. This document digs deep into the factors behind rising number of cases of violence against women across the globe in the current times. Going ahead, it analyses what can be done to tackle this gruesome issue in India and restore the respectable status of women.</p>	
 <p>Forced Displacement: A Humanitarian Crisis and a Development Challenge</p>	<p>Every year, millions of people are forced to leave their home due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, persecution and natural hazards. It speaks louder than ever to the need for solidarity and ensuring that the world's refugees, internally displaced and asylum-seekers are properly protected and cared for while solutions are pursued. This document offers an overview of international forced displacement trends, its widespread implications across the countries, efforts that have been taken to deal with the same and suggests ways to manage this increasingly protracted issue.</p>	
 <p>Sports in India- Olympics and beyond</p>	<p>In the past few years, the Indian sports culture has moved beyond the game of cricket which resulted in the growth of viewers, participation and changed the outlook towards fitness. The document analyses the pertinent problems faced by the sports sector in India, gives details of the measures taken by the government to overcome them and suggest measures to revive our ancient sports culture and achieve excellence in our performance.</p>	

Education Series

“Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.” – Confucius

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is India’s first education policy of the 21st century that proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the present education structure in to order to address the existing and emerging developmental imperatives of our country.

Education Series is a **three document series** starting with Basics of education to understanding the criticality of School education to exploring the world of Higher education where we will learn about the entire spectrum of India’s Education system. This aims to facilitate better understanding of the need, purpose and goals of NEP 2020.

 Philosophical Foundations of Education	<p>In today’s world, science and technology are exploding but wisdom is imploding. Knowledge is expanding but personality is shrinking. This scenario is leading to gradual decline in society’s and humankind’s morals and values. This calls for reviewing our understanding of what we call as “Education”! Is Education just a tool to earn money or is it more than that? Through this document we will understand the true meaning of education through various philosophies and to what extent our education system actually provides us the needed Education.</p>	
 School Education: Mind is a Tabula Rasa	<p>Foundational learning forms the basis of all future learning. Just as we would not build a house without solid foundations, we cannot expect a child to thrive without solid foundational skills. Yet today, most of the these foundations of learning are not strong enough. This document analyses what India has achieved in terms of improving the quality and accessibility of school education and how NEP 2020 envisions to fill the gaps.</p>	
 Higher Education in India: The Cornerstone of our Future	<p>Throughout history, universities have brought a lot of benefits to the individuals as well as the society in general. In the 21st century, as new discoveries keep appearing coupled with constant technological innovation, higher education has never been more beneficial to the individual and the society. But as several recent studies have revealed the overall state of Indian higher education is dismal and therefore poses a severe constraint on the supply of qualified manpower. The document digs deep into this issue and suggests ways and means to implement the fundamental principles, vision and goals of NEP 2020 so as to improve the quality and relevance of higher education in India.</p>	

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8 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2021

from various programs of **VisionIAS**

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020

2
AIR



**ANKITA
AGARWAL**

1
AIR



SHUBHAM KUMAR

3
AIR



**GAMINI
SINGLA**

4
AIR



**AISHWARYA
VERMA**

5
AIR



**UTKARSH
DWIVEDI**

6
AIR



**YAKSH
CHAUDHARY**

7
AIR



**SAMYAK
S JAIN**

8
AIR



**ISHITA
RATHI**

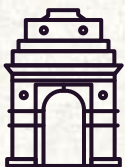
9
AIR



**PREETAM
KUMAR**



**YOU CAN
BE NEXT**



DELHI

HEAD OFFICE Apsara Arcade, 1/8-B, 1st Floor,
Near Gate 6, Karol Bagh Metro Station

+91 8468022022, +91 9019066066

Mukherjee Nagar Centre

635, Opp. Signature View Apartments,
Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar



JAIPUR

9001949244



HYDERABAD

9000104133



PUNE

8007500096



AHMEDABAD

9909447040



LUCKNOW

8468022022



CHANDIGARH

8468022022



GUWAHATI

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