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INSPIRING INNOVATION

SOCIAL ISSUES

Classroom Study Material

April 2022 - December 2022

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SOCIAL ISSUES

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NOTE

Dear Students,

PT 365 documents comprehensively covers the important current affairs of last 1 year (365days) in a consolidated manner to aid Prelims preparation.

In our endeavour to further enhance the document in the interest of the aspirants, following additions have been incorporated:

Summary Infographics: They have been made for ease of understanding and memorization. For instance,
- Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.
- Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.
- Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961.
- POCSO Act, 2012.

Organization infographics: Prelims oriented information for key organisations have been consolidated alongside the respective article for quick revision.

Important Reports: Given **separately** in crisper format

Do You Know: They have been used to provide prelims related additional information on several topics.

Know the Term: Certain keywords have been identified and explained in a simplistic format.

Different colours have been used in the document for easy classification and recollection of a variety of information.

QR based Smart quiz has been added to test the aspirant's learnings and understanding.

SMART QUIZ

You can scan this QR code to practice the smart quiz at our open test online platform for testing your understanding and recalling of the concepts.

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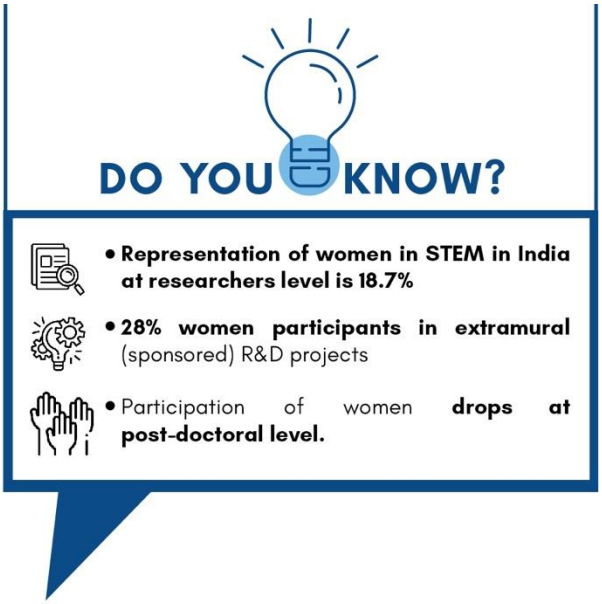
1. WOMEN AND CHILD

1.1. WOMEN IN STEM

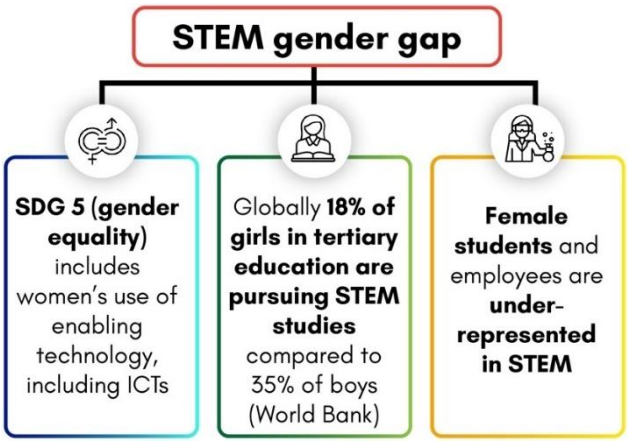
Why in News?

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser **(PSA) has launched a new initiative Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST)** to promote women in STEM.



About Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST)

- **Basics of WEST**: WEST is **a new I-STEM** (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map: Linking Researchers and Resources) **initiative.**
  - STEM is a common abbreviation for four closely connected areas of study: **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**.
  - I-STEM is a **national web portal for sharing research equipment/facilities** and for promoting collaborations in R&D and technological innovation in academia and industry.
  - I-STEM is an **initiative of PSA** under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council **(PM-STIAC) mission.**
- **Objective**: Through the **WEST initiative**, I-STEM shall provide **a separate platform to scientifically inclined women researchers,** scientists, and technologists **for pursuing research in science and engineering.**
  - It will provide **skill development programs, access to R&D facilities and R&D software platforms**.
- **Target**: Under the WEST initiative, the current support being provided to S&T **startups by women entrepreneurs by I-STEM will be enhanced.**



Other initiatives take to promote women in STEM

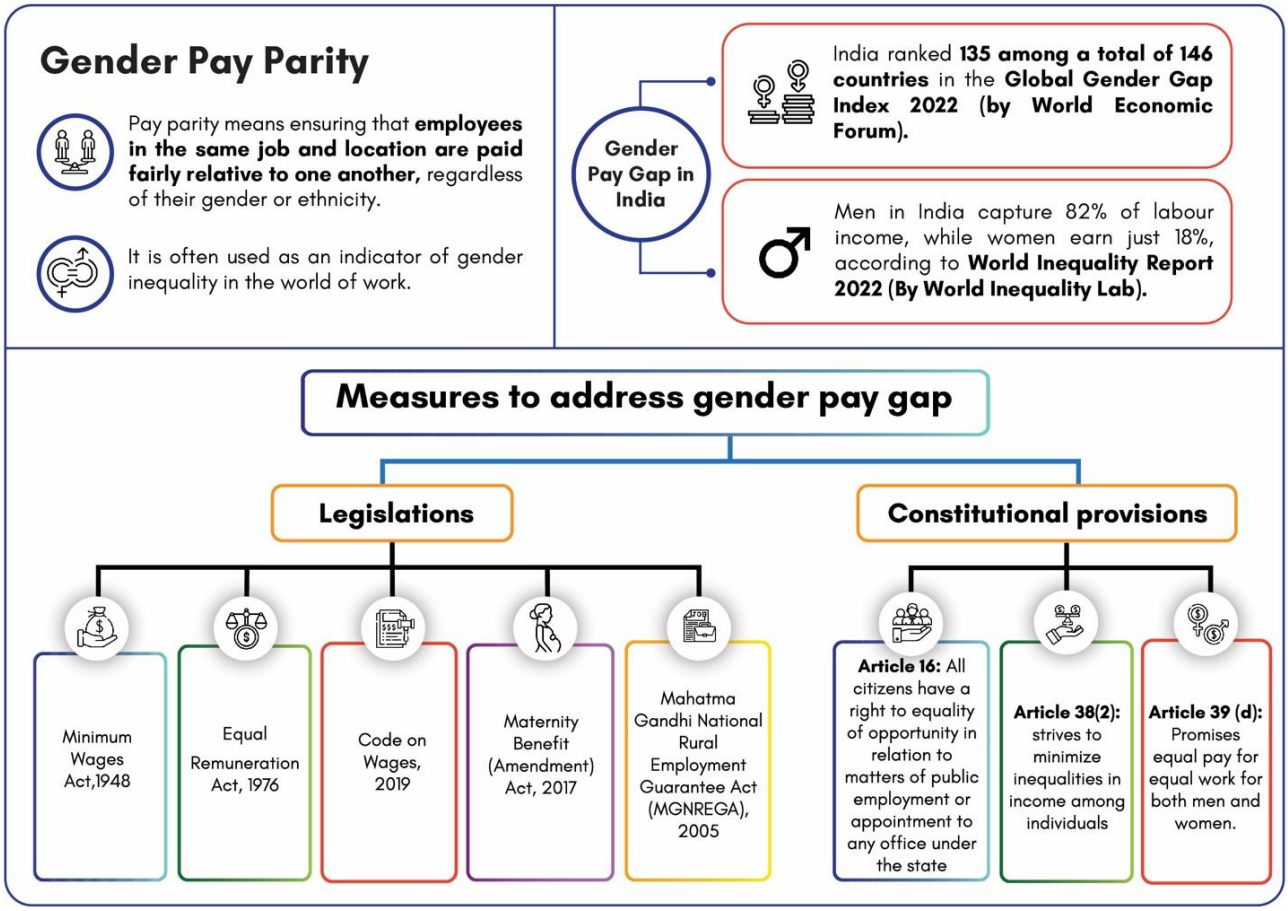
- **Vigyan Jyoti:** By the Department of Science & Technology (DST) to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue STEM.
- **Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN):** This scheme of DST encourages women scientists in the field of S&T.
- **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI):** It seeks to bring institutional reforms to facilitate women in STEM and medicine disciplines at all levels.
- **Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE):** It provides support to women universities in improving their R&D facilities.
- **Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARe):** By the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for Career Development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists upto 45 years of age for whom it is the first extramural research grant.

1.2. GENDER PAY PARITY

Why in news?

Recently, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a **"pay equity policy"** for its contracted women cricketers in the country.

Gender Pay Parity



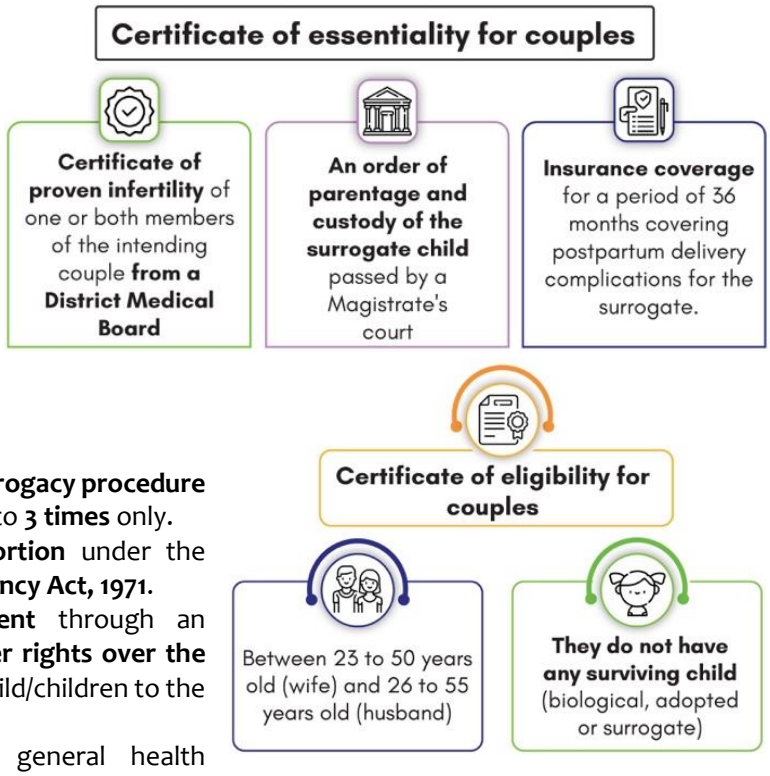
1.3. SURROGACY (REGULATION) RULES, 2022

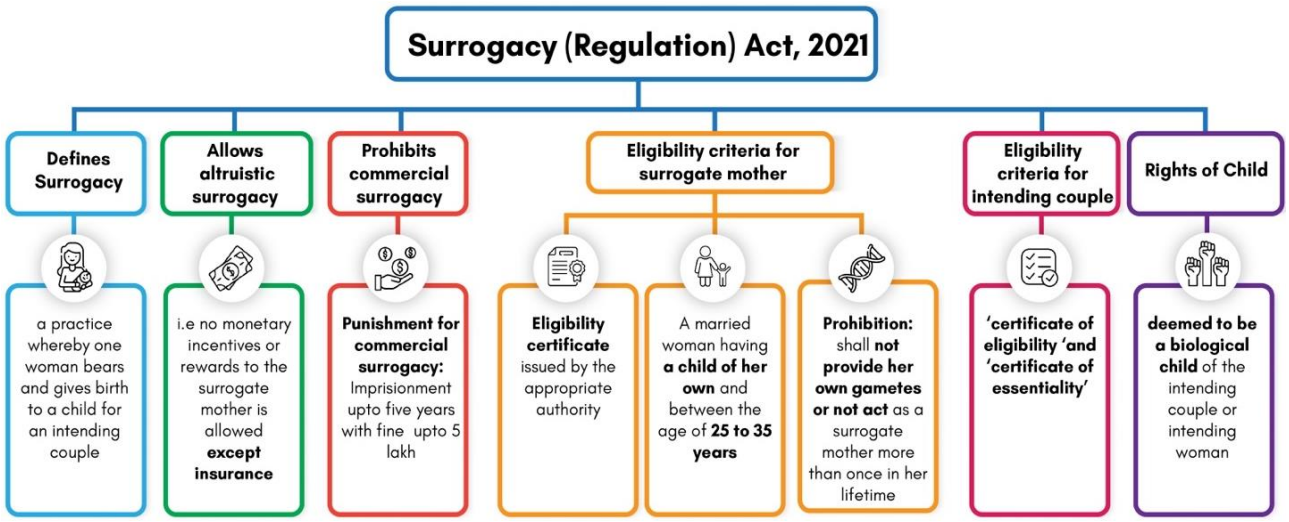
Why in news?

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

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**
  - **Surrogate Mother**
    - ✓ **Number of attempts of any surrogacy procedure** on surrogate mother is limited to **3 times** only.
    - ✓ **She may be allowed for abortion** under the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.**
    - ✓ She 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**.
  - **Intending couples:** Purchase a general health **insurance cover in favour of the surrogate mother** (for a period of **36 months**) to cover **all expenses for all the complications** arising out of pregnancy and **postpartum delivery complications**.





Other provisions of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

- **Punishment for commercial surrogacy:** Imprisonment which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees.
- **National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board (NARTSB):**
  - **Chairperson:** Minister of Health and Family Welfare
  - **Functions:**
    - ✓ **Advise the Central Government**
    - ✓ **Review and monitor** implementation
    - ✓ Lay down the **code of conduct to be** for persons working at surrogacy clinics
    - ✓ Set the **minimum standards of** physical infrastructure, laboratory and diagnostic equipment and expert manpower
    - ✓ To supervise the functioning of **State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Boards (SARTSB)**
- **NART and Surrogacy Registry:** An online public record system of ART Clinics/Banks and Surrogacy Clinics in India.

1.4. ABORTION LAW IN INDIA

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme **Court (SC) extended the right to safe and legal abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy to** all women in the country, **regardless of marital status**.

Significance of Supreme Court Judgment

- **Constitutional rights:** Judgment states that distinction among women on the grounds of marital status is violation of the **right to equality under Article 14 and Right to life under Article 21.**
- **Acknowledges marital rape:** SC ruled that **pregnancy** of a married woman due to **forcible sex** by her husband can be treated as **"rape" under MTP Act.**
  - Women can go for **an abortion without the requirement of anybody else's consent.**
- **Expands the definition of 'women':** Judgment clarifies 'woman' includes cis-gender women also **people for the purpose of safe abortion.**
- **Protects the privacy of minors:** SC allowed minor females to abort their pregnancies from consensual sex without disclosing their identity to the police under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.**

Abortion Laws in India

- **Abortion is Illegal** under Section 312 and 313 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), **unless** it is performed in the manner prescribed under the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.**
- The Act was **amended in 2021** to make the make the **MTP more accessible** to women.

DO YOU KNOW?

Abortion in India

- Close to **8 women die every day in India** due to unsafe abortions.
- About **67% of abortions** between 2007-2011 in India were **unsafe.**
- Women between the **ages of 15-19 years** are at the **highest risk of dying** from an **abortion-related complication.**

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

the termination of certain pregnancies by **registered medical practitioner** under certain specified conditions

- MTP **upto 20 weeks** of pregnancy → available to **'Any women'**, on the **advice of one doctor**
- **MTP for 20-24 weeks of pregnancy** → limited to **only few specific categories of** women prescribed in the rules on the advice of two doctors
  - Categories of such women include 'survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (differently abled women, minors, among others)' but **not unmarried women.**
  - Supreme Court called this provision as **an 'artificial distinction between married and single women'** and declared it "not Constitutionally sustainable".
  - Thus, SC **extended the provision** of MTP upto 24 weeks of pregnancies to **'unmarried women' also.**
- MTP **up to 24 weeks of pregnancy on the grounds of**
  - **Child** born would suffer from a **serious ailment**
  - **Risk** to the life of the **pregnant woman** or of **grave injury** physical or mental health
- MTP **beyond 24 weeks** of pregnancy → is permitted **only** on the ground of **foetal abnormalities** on the advice of a Medical Board

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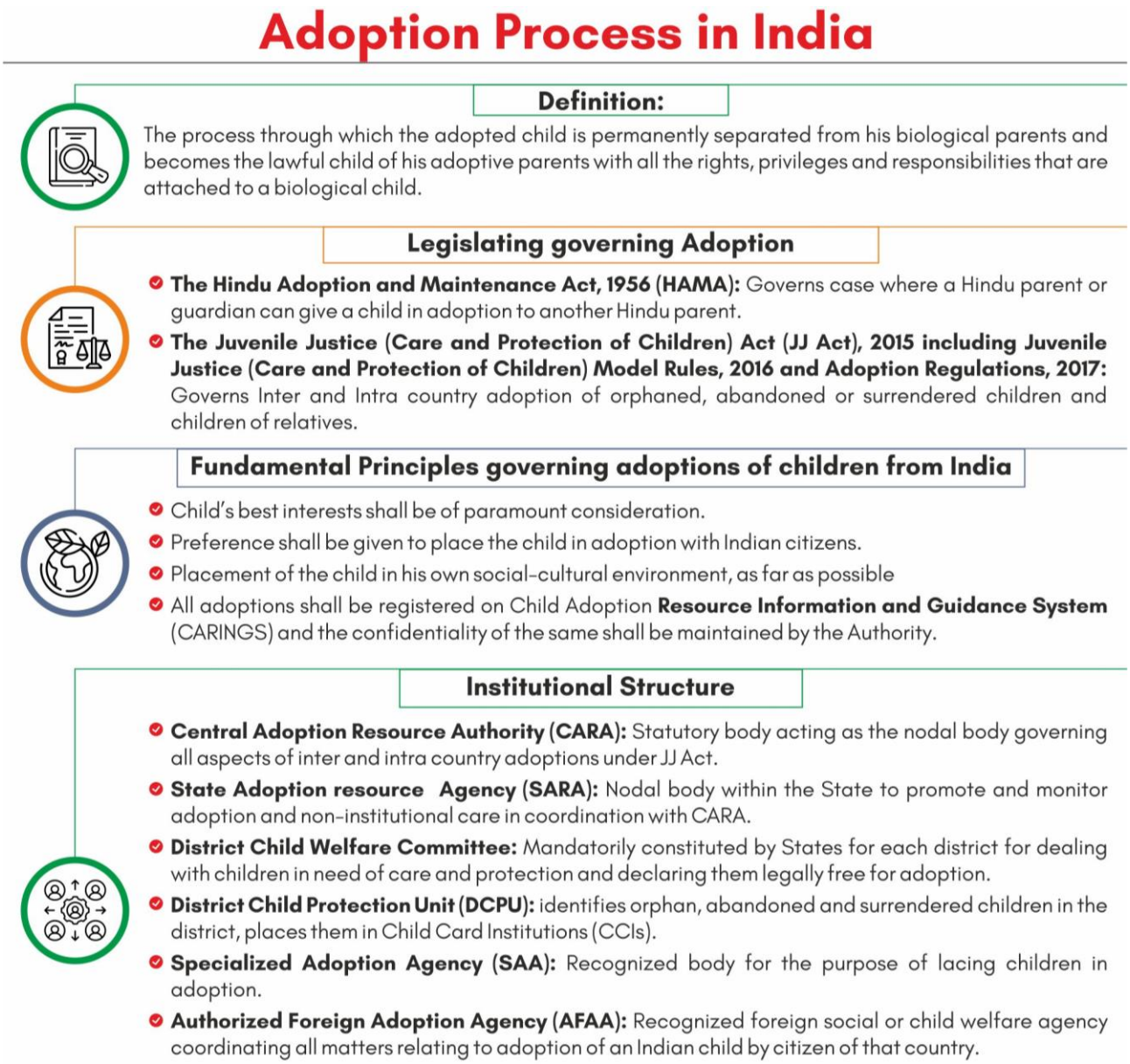
1.5. CHILD ADOPTION



1.5.1. REVIEW OF GUARDIANSHIP AND ADOPTION LAWS

Why in news?

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, presented the **118th Report on the Subject 'Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws'.**

Area	Observations
Review of Laws on Adoption	• **Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (HAMA), 1956** (applicable only to Hindus) and **the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** (JJ Act) (all religion) both deal with adoption **yet have differing criteria.** • Parents adopting a child **under HAMA are not** required to register with **Central Adoption Resource Authority** (CARA). • Parents are willing to adopt a child, but there are **not many children available for adoption.** • **Unregistered Child Care Institution (CCI)** and their poor functioning led **to death of 762 children.** • Adoption related matters are being dealt by **Ministry of Law and Justice and Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
Review of Laws on Guardianship	• **The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act** makes use of the term **'illegitimate'** in reference to a **child born out of wedlock.**

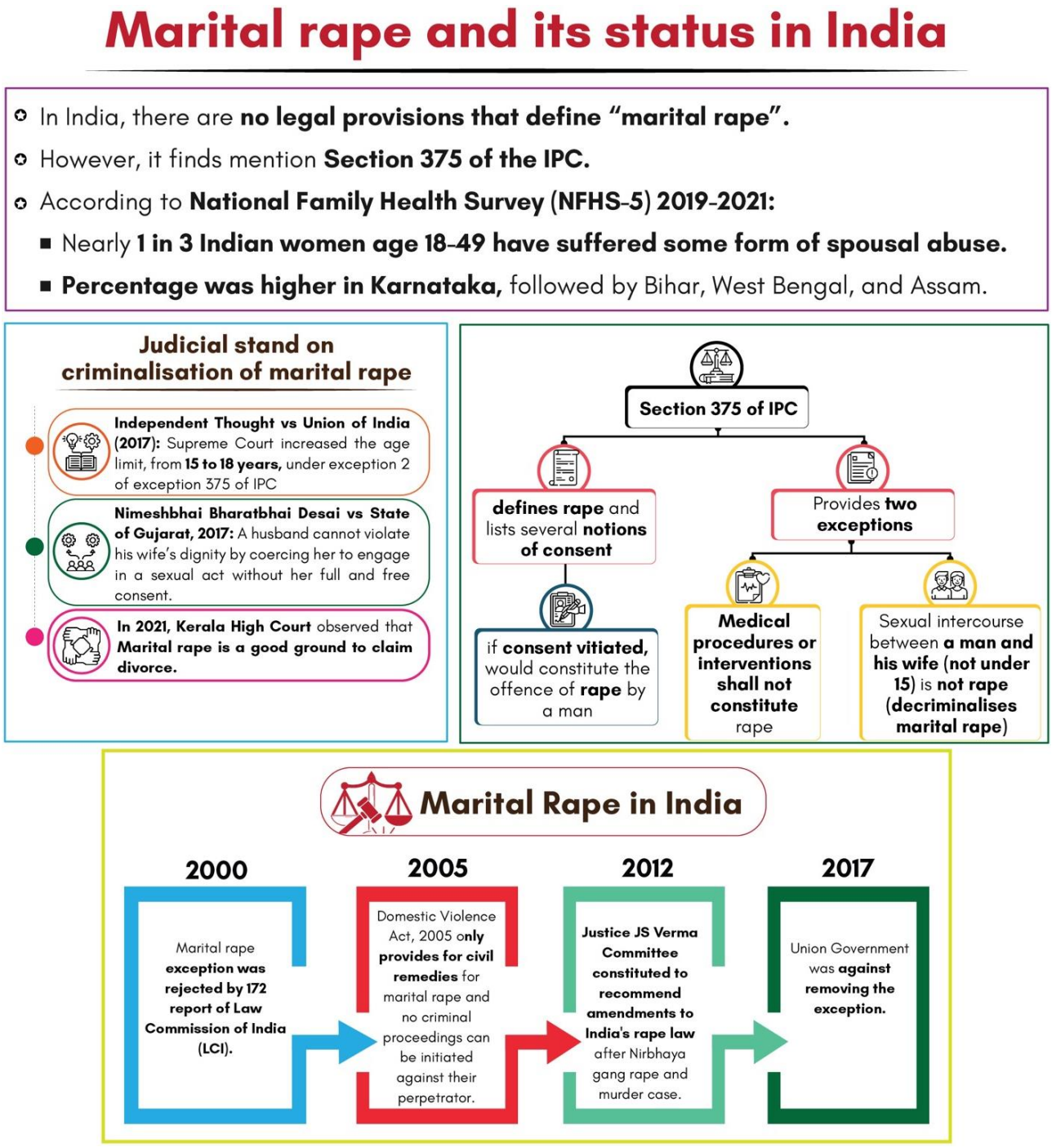
1.6. MARITAL RAPE

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 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** (refer to the infographics).
- The petition was filed to **challenge exception 2 of rape** under Section 375 of IPC.



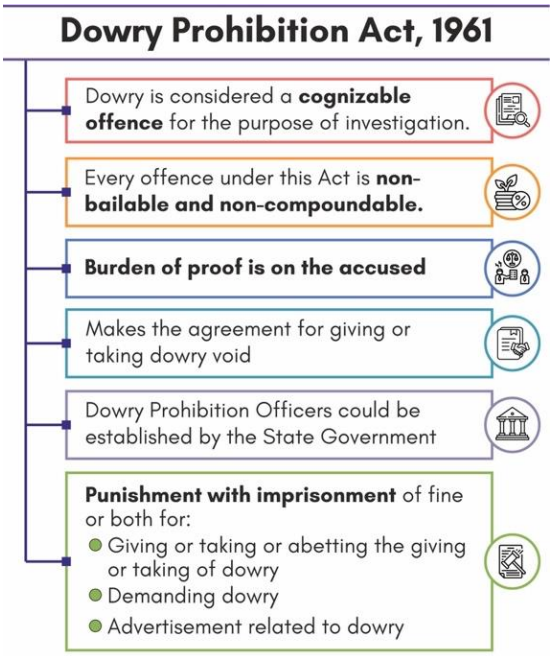
1.7. DOWRY SYSTEM IN INDIA

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.**
  - 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 in case of an emergency.
- 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.**



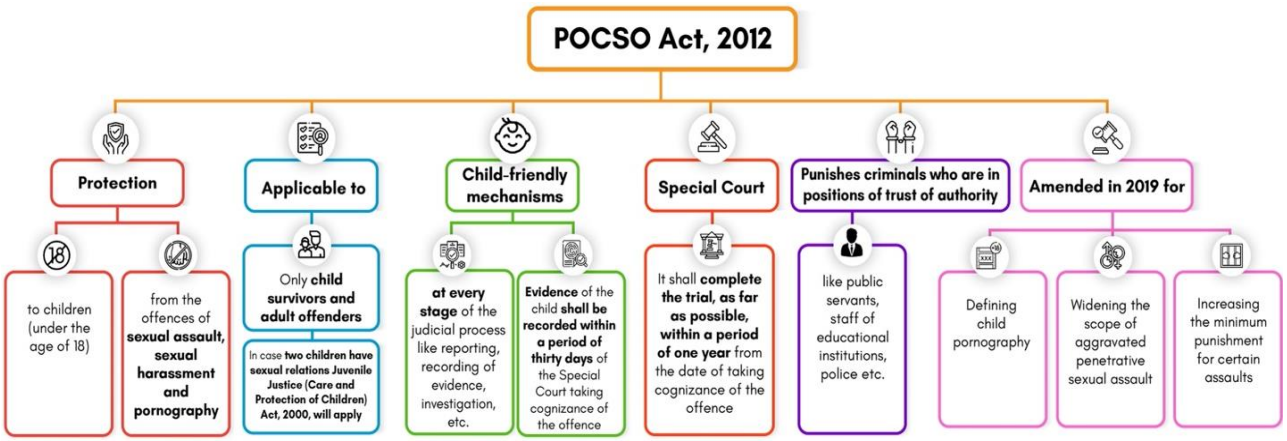
1.8. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012

Why in news?

Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) requested the Parliament to examine the age of consent issue under the POCSO Act, 2012.

More on news

- CJI made the appeal as POCSO Act, 2012 poses **difficulties for judges examining cases of consensual sex involving adolescents.**
- CJI referred to **'India analysis of Judgements of Special Courts in West Bengal, Assam and Maharashtra - Romantic Cases under POCSO Act Study'** by Enfold Proactive Health Trust and UNICEF-India. As per this study,
  - **One in every four cases** under POCSO Act constituted romantic cases.
  - **93.8% cases** ended with acquittals.
  - In 46.6% cases, **girl** was between **16 to 18 years.**



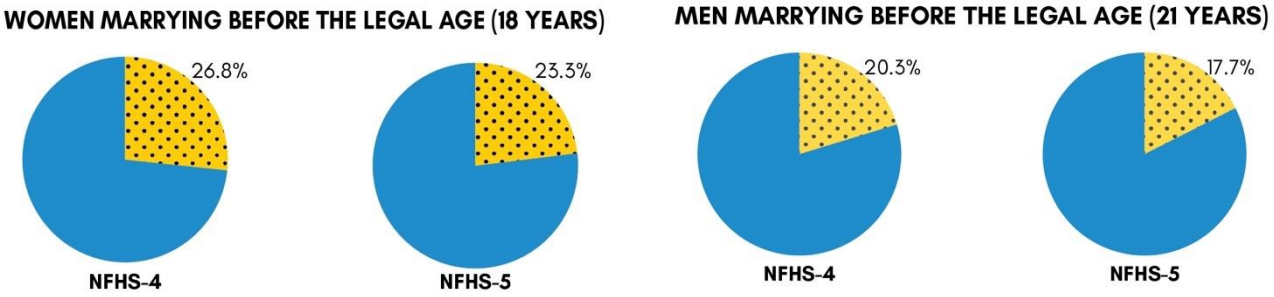
Difference between Section 354 IPC vs. POCSO Act, 2012

Specifics	Section 354 IPC	POCSO, 2012
Age of the victim	Punishment for the offence **irrespective of age of the victim.**	For the protection of **children only.**
Gender of the victim	Female.	Gender neutral.
Definition of sexual assault	Definition is **generic.**	The Act for the first time, defines **"penetrative sexual assault", "sexual assault" and "sexual harassment".**
Burden of proof	Lies on the prosecution. The accused in **'deemed to be innocent until proven guilty'.**	Lies on the accused. The accused is **'deemed to be guilty until proven innocent'.**
Punishment	**Minimum 1 year** this may extend to five years along with a fine.	**Minimum 3 Years** this **may extend to 5 years,** in addition to a fine.

1.9. CHILD MARRIAGE

Why in news?

Every fourth woman surveyed in the age group of 20 to 24 was married before they turned 18: **National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5).** An overall **declining trend of early marriage** in both the sexes has been observed.



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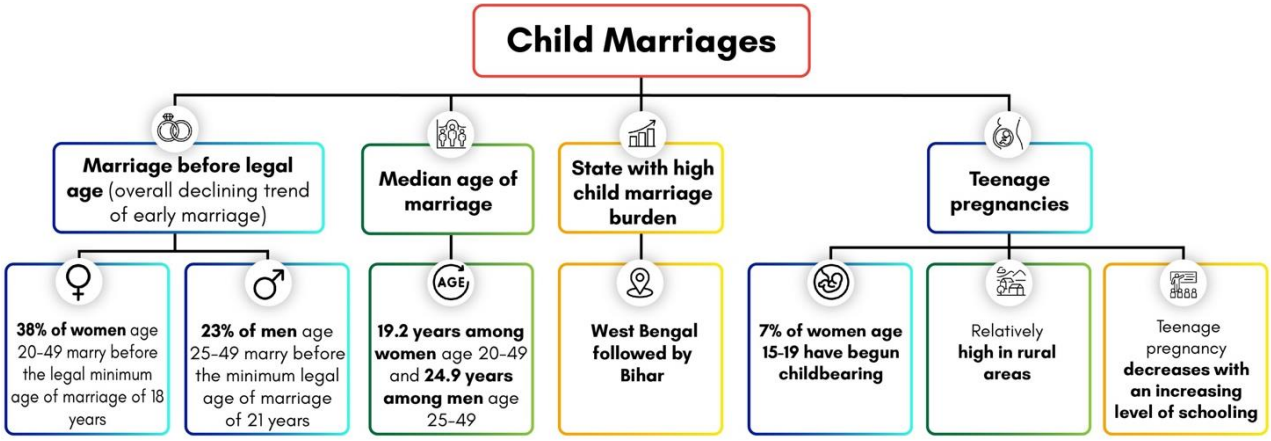
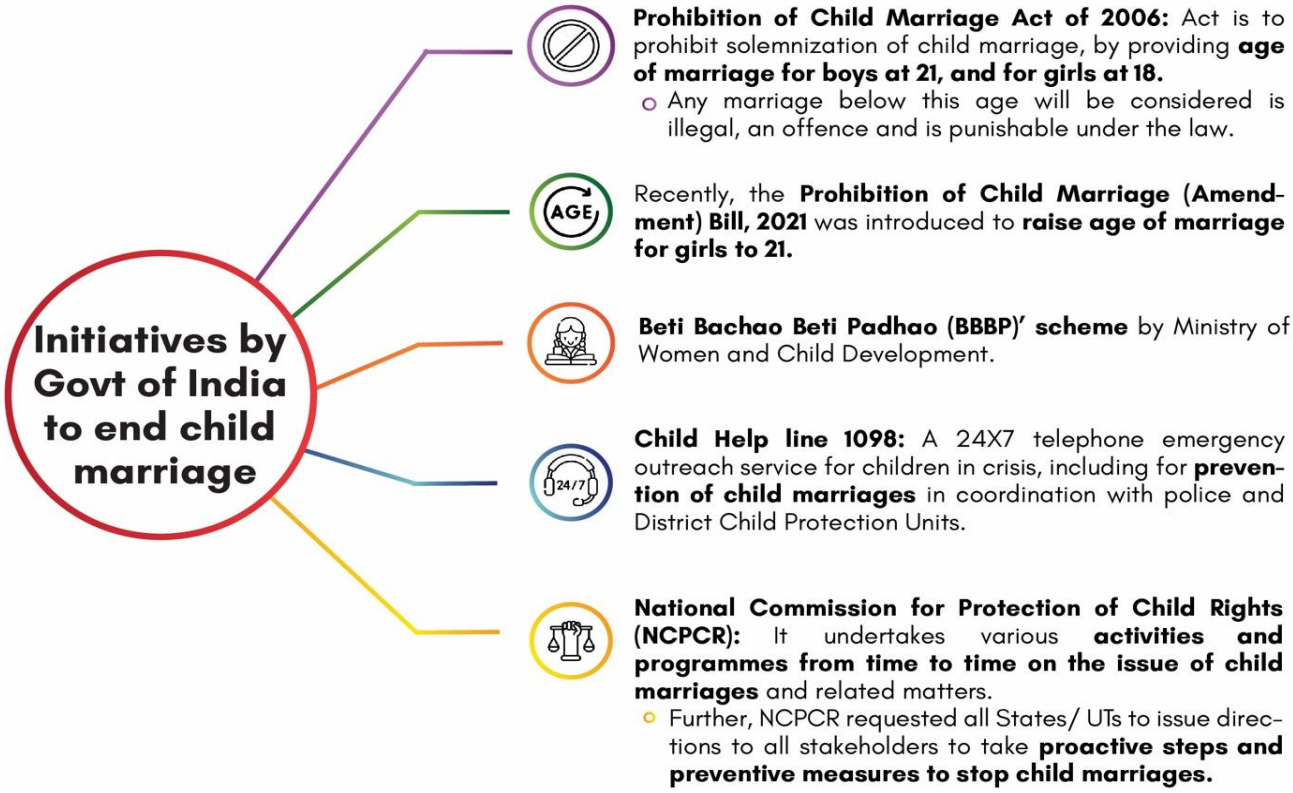




1.10. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Digital Shakti 4.0	• **Launched by: National Commission for Women, CyberPeace Foundation and Meta to create safe cyberspace for women and girls.** • It is a pan-India project for making **women digitally skilled** and **aware to** stand up against **any illegal/inappropriate activity online.** o It aims to sensitize **more than 1 million women across India.** • Its **first phase** was launched in **2018.**

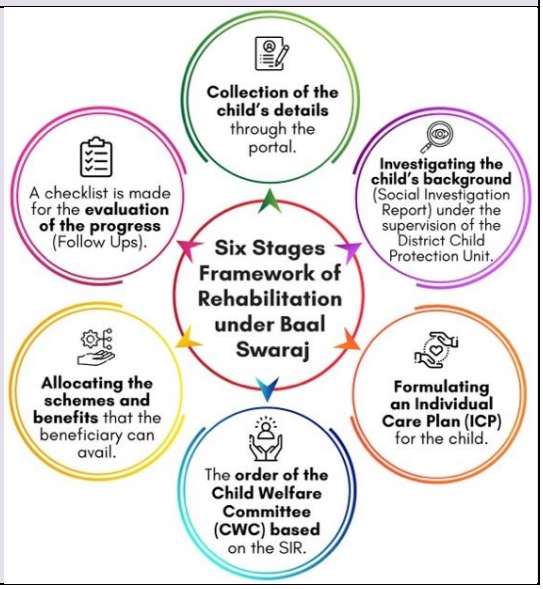
Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)	• Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched **women centric challenges** under its **ANIC program** to address the major issues faced by women from all spheres of life.
	• ANIC is a **flagship program** of **AIM, NITI Aayog**.
	  ○ It aims to **seek, select, support** and **nurture technology-based innovations** that **solve** sectoral **challenges** of national importance and societal relevance.
	• It provides **funds** up to **₹1 crore** through a **grant-based mechanism** and open for:
	  ○ **Any Indian Company** incorporated under the **Companies Act,**
	• **Any company registered** as a **Start-up,** recognized by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**.

Thiruvananthapuram Declaration	• **The 'First National Women Legislators' Conference** in Kerala held in 2022 with adoption of Thiruvananthapuram Declaration. • **Thiruvananthapuram Declaration laments the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill (since 1996)** for 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures.

Revamped E-Baal Nidan portal	• National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has **revamped the online portal E-Baal Nidan.**
	• E-Baal Nidan is a **Complaint Management System of NCPCR.**
	  ○ Through this, **any individual or organisation can file complaint relating to the violation of child rights** through internet facilities.
	• **Some of the revamped features include:**
	  ○ **Bifurcation of complaints** based on subject matters like POCSO, Labour, Education etc.
	  ○ **Tracking of complaints at every stage** in a time bound manner.
	  ○ Option of **transferring complaints from NCPCR to the concerned State Commission.**

Operation Megh-Chakra	• **CBI** recently launched a **major operation code named "Operation Megh-Chakra" against circulation and sharing of child sexual abuse material online.** ○ A similar operation **"Operation Carbon"** was carried out by CBI in **November 2021.** • CBI has an **International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image and video database,** which allows investigators from member countries to **share data on cases of child sexual abuse.**

'Children in Street Situations (CiSS)'	• National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a **"CiSS application" under Baal Swaraj portal** to help in **rehabilitation process of Children in street.**
	  ○ **Baal Swaraj** is a portal launched by NCPCR **for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children** in need of care and protection.
	  ✓ The portal has **two functions- COVID care and CiSS.**
	  ○ The initiative is taken under **direction of Supreme Court.**



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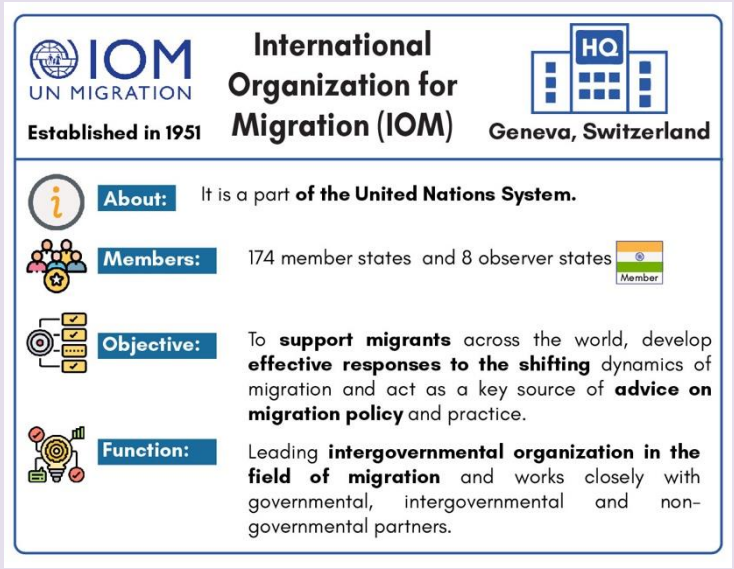
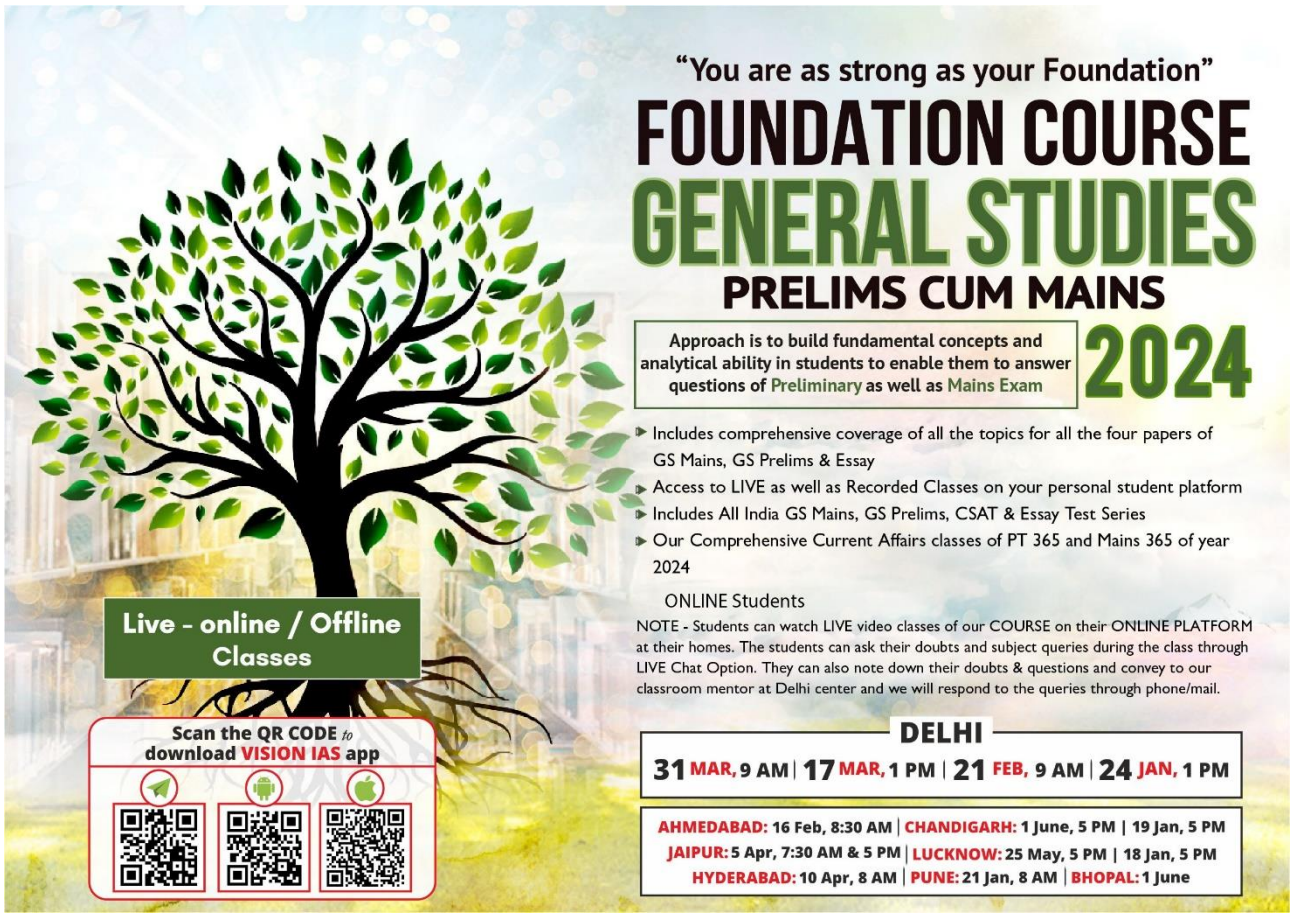
	• CiSS application is used for **receiving data of children in street situations from all states and union territories,** tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process. • The program **embodies Article 51 (A)** of the Constitution, as it provides a **platform** to the public **to report** any child in need of assistance and **provide any help** that they can to children in need. • **NCPCR is a statutory body** under **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.**
Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change	• **Released by: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),** the IOM among others • Provides a set of **9 principles** that address the unique and layered vulnerabilities of children on the move **both internally and across borders** as a result of the adverse impacts of climate change. • The principles are derived from the **Convention on the Rights of the Child,** and **do not create new international legal obligations.**





2. OTHER VULNERABLE SECTIONS

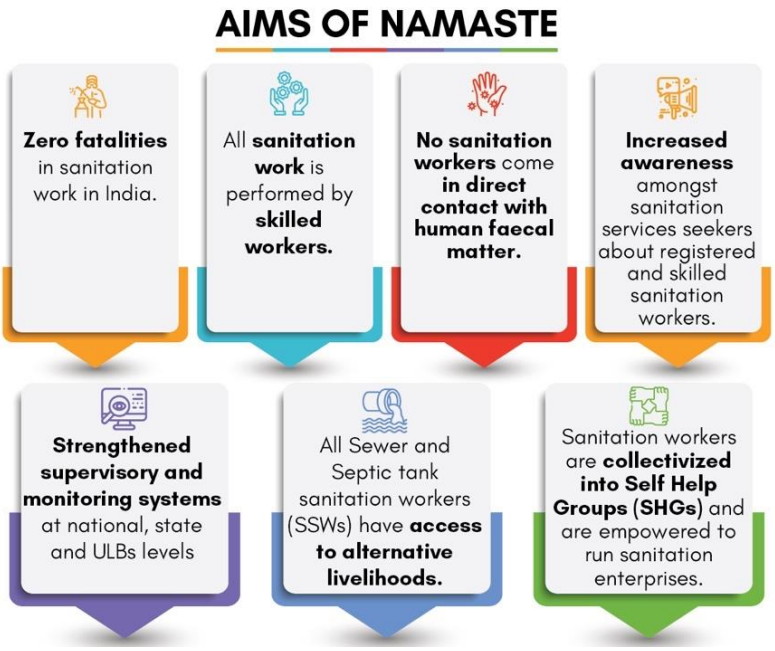
2.1. MANUAL SCAVENGING

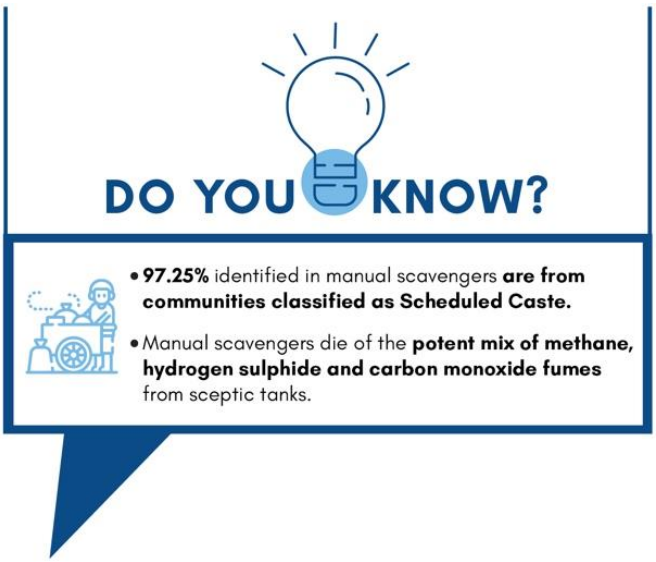
Why in news?

The Government has formulated NAMASTE scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank.

About National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)

- It 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.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme.**
- It is a joint collaboration **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** and **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHoUA).**
- I**mplementing agency:** National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC)
    - **NAMASTE Management Units will be setup at the National, State and City level** to facilitate proper coordination for the scheme.
- It envisages **identifying the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) with a focus on informal workforce** who are engaged in hazardous cleaning operations.
    - The identified SSWs and their families will be covered under the **Ayushyaman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** and will also **be provided livelihood assistance including** capital subsidy and interest subvention.
    - **Five hundred cities,** converging with AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) cities, will be taken up **under this phase of NAMASTE.**
    - The **identified sanitation workers and their family members will be extended benefits of all the social security schemes** being implemented by various departments like PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, etc.





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PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT AS MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND REHABILITATION ACT 2013

Who is a 'manual scavenger'?	• 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 in regular or contractual basis.** • **Exception** - Any person who has been employed to clean human waste and does so with the help of the **appropriate protective gear and equipment.** • Another group of people called **'safai karamcharis'** are also 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?	• The first step is by **demolishing 'insanitary latrines'.** • Certain time bound commitments by the local 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:	• **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	• **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.

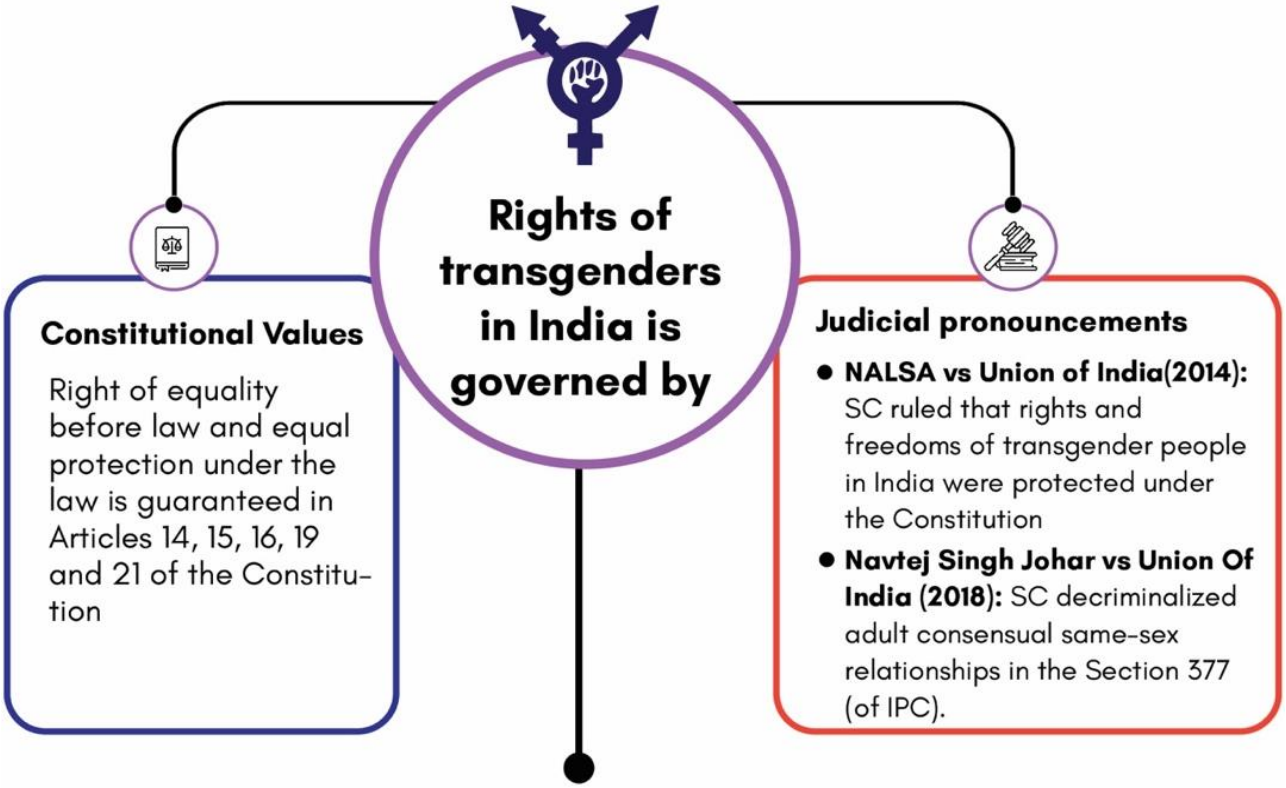
2.2. TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

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.**
  - It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
- 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.**



The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

Prohibits discrimination against Transgender: In employment, education, housing, healthcare and other services.

Allows self-perception of gender identity: However, each person would have to be recognised as 'transgender on the basis of a certificate of identity issued by a district magistrate.

Grievance redressal mechanism: Mandates every establishment shall designate a person to be a complaint officer to deal with the complaints relating to violation of the provisions of this Act.

Right of residence: No child shall be separated from parents or immediate family on the ground of being a transgender, except on an order of a competent court, in the interest of such child.

Obligation of educational institutions: Every educational institution funded or recognised by the appropriate Government shall provide inclusive education and opportunities for sports, recreation and leisure activities to transgender persons without discrimination on an equal basis with others.

National Council for Transgender Persons: To advise the Central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.

2.3. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

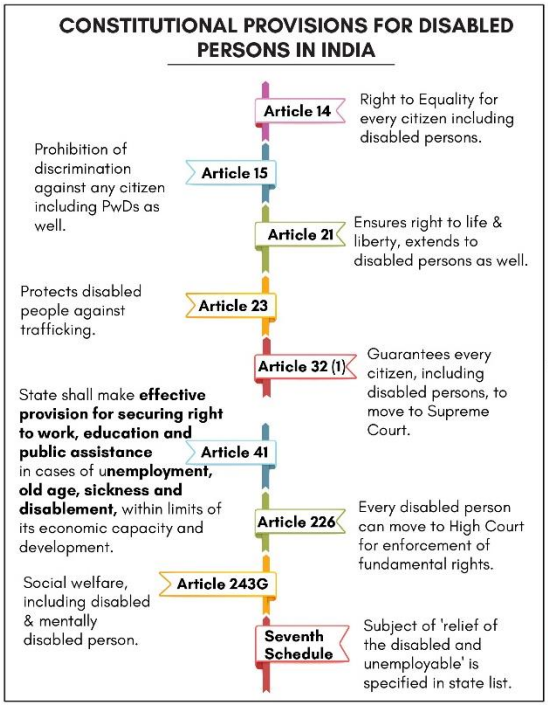
Why in news?

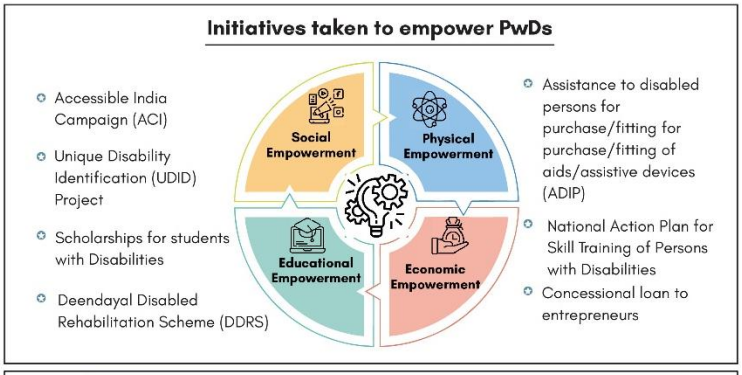
Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has released the **draft of the national policy for persons with disabilities** for public comments.

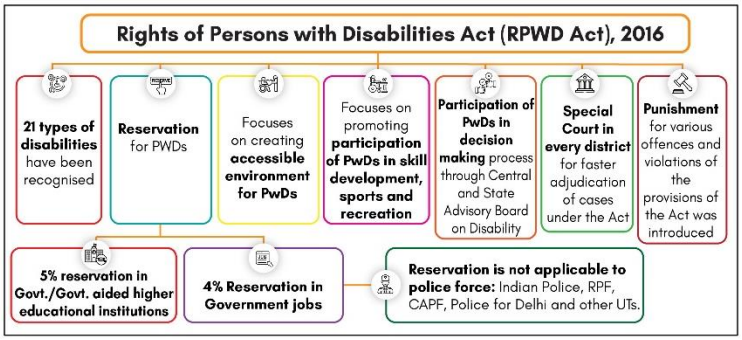
About Draft National policy on PwD

- It seeks to replace the **National Policy on Disability, 2006.**
- **Draft policy is needed due to multiple factors including:**
  - Signing of **United Nations Convention on Rights of Person with Disabilities** (UNCRPD) by India in 2007.
  - Enactment of **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016** which increased the number of disabilities from seven conditions to 21.
  - India is a party to the **'Incheon Strategy for Asia Pacific Decade for PwDs, 2013-2022'** prepared under aegis of **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP).**
    - ✓ It identifies **10 goals for Asia-Pacific countries** to ensure the inclusion and empowerment of PwDs in conformity with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)



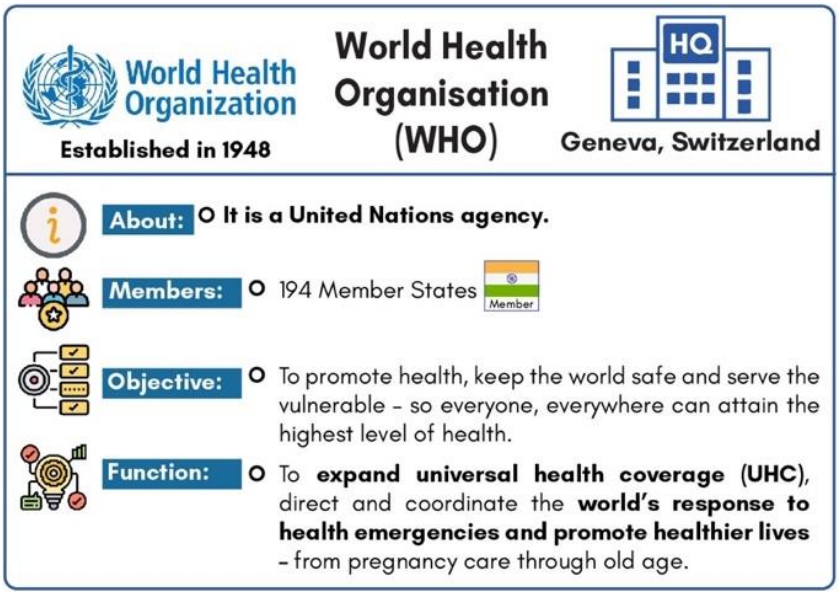




2.3.1. FIRST GLOBAL REPORT ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (GREAT)

Why in News?

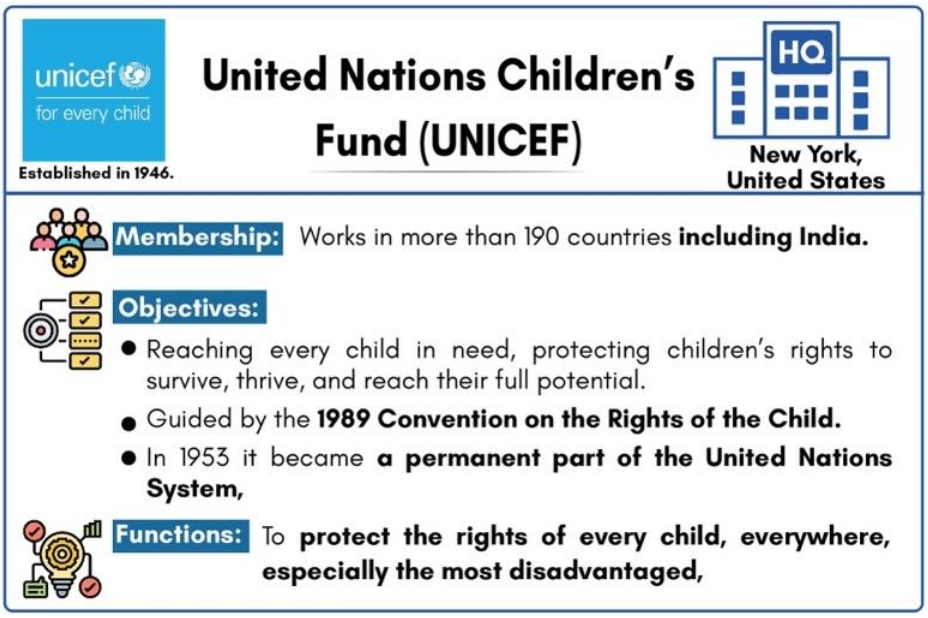
The **World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has jointly launched the **first Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT)**.



About GReAT Report

- The GReAT report was **developed in response to the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA71.8) on improving access to assistive technology adopted in May 2018.**
  - WHO defines assistive technology is the **application of organized knowledge and skills related to assistive products, including systems and services.**
  - Assistive technology is a **subset of health technology that includes GPS, power chairs, walkers, etc.**

- The Global Report **recognizes assistive technology and enabling environments** as a precondition for people in need to realize their human rights, and shares evidence-based best practice.
- **GReAT report aims to:**
  - Present a **comprehensive dataset and analysis** of current global access to assistive technology.
  - Support the implementation of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**
  - Contribute towards **achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** especially in making **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** inclusive, leaving no one behind.



Initiatives for development of assistive technology in India

- As per the Census 2011, the **differently abled population in India 2.21 % of the total population.**
- **Centre for Assistive Technology and Innovation (CATI)** was the first Assistive Technology Center (ATC) **established in 2015 at the National Institute of Speech & Hearing (NISH), Kerala.**
- **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO):**
  - It is a **Miniratna Category Central Public Sector Enterprises**, registered under Companies Act 2013, and functioning under **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)**.
  - It is **100% owned Govt. of India** and started manufacturing artificial aids in **1976.**
  - Its objective is to benefiting the PwDs to the maximum extent possible by **manufacturing, promoting, encouraging and developing artificial limbs and Rehabilitation Aids for persons with disabilities.**
- **Seamless Affordable Assistive Technology for Health (SAATH):** It is resource center by the National Trust and is a Joint venture between **India** (IIT Kanpur and IISc Bangalore) and **Sweden** (KTH Sweden and Gavle University working for assistive devices for PwD in India.

Schemes for promoting assistive technology in India

- **Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)**
  - The ADIP Scheme initiated by the **MoSJE** and is in **operation since 1981.**
  - The **aids and appliances supplied under the Scheme must have due certification**.
  - The scheme also **envisages conduct of corrective surgeries, wherever required**, before providing an assistive device.
- **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan or Accessible India campaign (AIC):** It is a program launched in 2015 to provide equal opportunities to PwDs to participate in all the aspects of life and live independently with help of assistive devices.

2.4. DENOTIFIED TRIBES (DNTS)

Why in news?

31st August marked the **70th year of the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.**

About Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

- All **nomadic tribes (NTs) are not DNTs**, but **all DNTs are NTs.**
- Nomads and Semi-Nomads are **social groups who undertakes a fairly frequent, usually seasonal physical movement** as part of their livelihood strategy and moves from one place to another.
- **Three types of nomadic communities:**
  - **Hunter/trappers** of birds and animals, gamer, etc. such as Konda Reddis, Chenchus etc.
  - **Pastoral communities** such as Pardis, Guzzars, Banjaras, Bhils, Kurabas, Madhuras, etc.
  - **Peripatetic groups of peddlers**, fortune tellers, storytellers, acrobats, dancers and dramatists.

Denotified Tribes

About Denotified Tribes

DNTs were **'notified' as being 'born criminal'** during the British regime under **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**.

DNTs are a **heterogenous group engaged in various occupations** such as transport, key-making, salt trading, entertaining – acrobats, snake charmers, jugglers – and pastoralists.

Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 was repealed by **Habitual Offenders Act, 1952.**

Several DNTs were included in Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Caste (OBC) lists.

Issues faced by DNTs

- **Identity:** DNTs are **not recognised under the Constitution.**
- **Isolation:** DNTs were relocated from their natural habitat and denied human rights.
- **Economically Vulnerable:** As per Renke committee **they are extremely vulnerable economically due to lack of land ownership.**
- **Lack of Data:** The absence of reliable data makes it hard to plan an effective intervention strategy for the DNTs.
- **Political representation:** DNTs lack leadership and the patronage of a national leader.
- **Social issues:** DNTs have **poor access to educational and health institutes.**

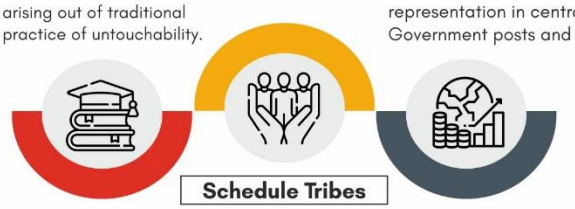
Criteria for Inclusion of community in SC, STs, OBCs

Schedule Castes

Extreme social, education and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

Other Backward Caste (OBCs)

Social, education, economic backwardness and inadequate representation in central Government posts and services.



Schedule Tribes

Indication of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with community at large and backwardness.

Current Status

- As per Renke Commission, 2008, there are nearly **1,500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes** and **198 Denotified tribes,** comprising 15 crore Indians.
- **31 August** is celebrated as **Vimukta Jatis day** in India by the DNTs communities.

Steps taken by Government for Denotified Tribes

- **National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT):** It was constituted by Government of India to prepare a state-wise list of castes belonging to NCDNT. → It was headed by **Balkrishna Sidram Renke.**
- **Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs Boys and Girls:** It is a **Centrally sponsored scheme to improve the educational empowerment** of the DNTs who are not covered under SC/ST/OBC category. → Funding pattern of **State and Centre** would be in **ratio of 25:75.**
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of construction of Hostels for DNTs Boys and Girls:** Centrally sponsored scheme run through State Governments/UT Administrations.
- **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT Communities (SEED):** Launched by **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** to provide free competitive exam coaching to DNTs students, provide health insurance to families, etc.
- **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities** has been constituted in 2019.

2.5. URBAN POVERTY

Why in news?

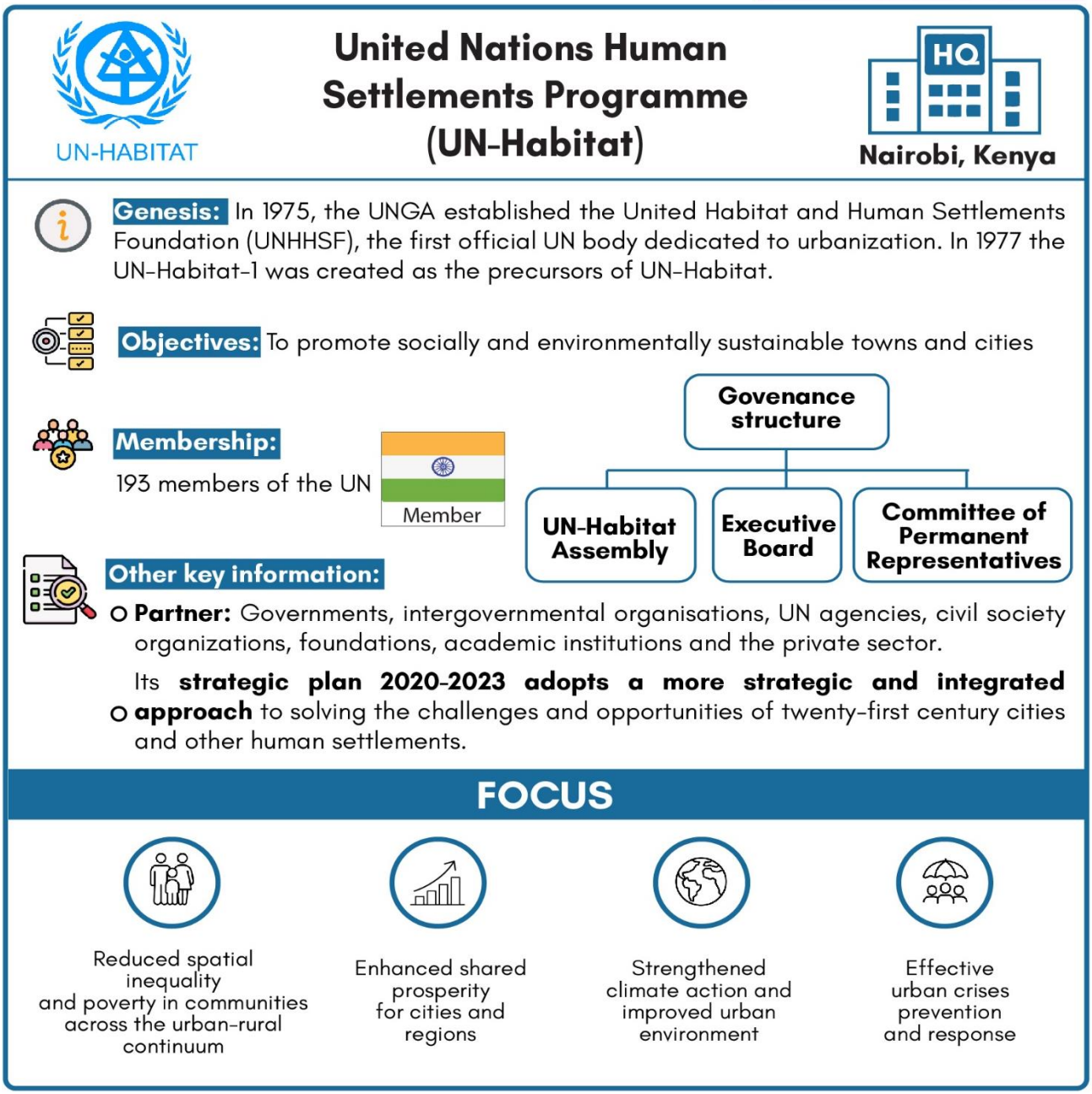
According to report of UN habitat, poverty and inequality are increasingly spreading in cities globally.

KNOW THE TERM

- **Urban poverty** is a form of poverty that is **particularly visible in megacities,** characterized by poor living circumstances and income, as well as a lack of essential utilities and a bad quality of life.

What is the extent of urban poverty in India?

- According to the report of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (2001) about **23.5% of urban households are slum dwellers.**
  - This percentage had decreased to 17% by 2011 even though the total **number of households living in slums had gone up.**



2.6. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) Programme phase 2	• **Launched by:** The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs with Facebook India** • **Aim: To digitally upskill** 10 lakh **youth from tribal communities** and **open up opportunities** for them using **digital technology.** • It **will create a platform** for **Self-Help Groups** and families associated with **TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India)** to take their products global.

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National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI)	• It will work as a **premier national level institute** and nerve-centre of tribal concerns, issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields. • It will provide **policy inputs** to the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and State Welfare Departments with studies and programs to **showcase tribal cultural heritage** under one umbrella. • It will **collaborate and network** with other institutions and **monitor projects** of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Centres of Excellence (CoEs), etc.

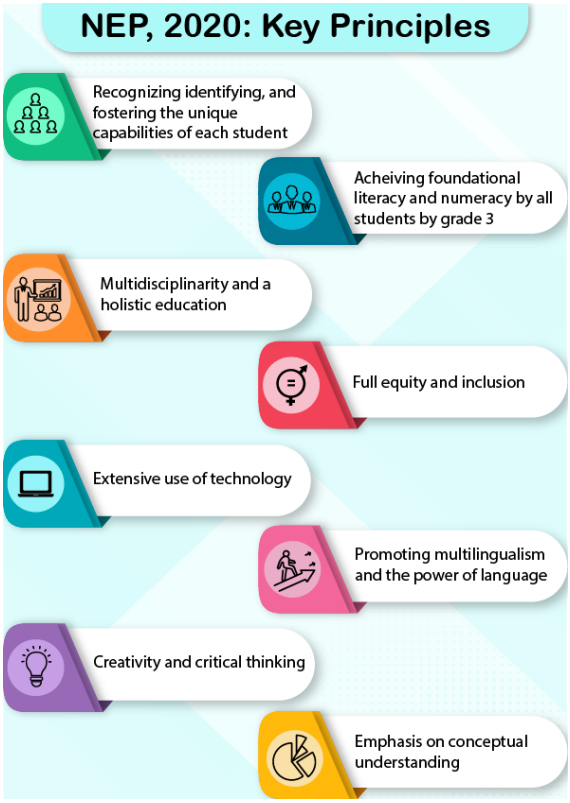
Supreme Court (SC) Recognizes Sex Work as Profession	• SC has issued directions under **Article 142** of the Constitution to make conditions conducive for sex workers to **live with dignity as per Article 21.**
	• Article 142 provides discretionary power to the SC to do complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.
	• **Directions from SC**
	  ○ **No police interference or criminal action** against adult and consenting sex workers,
	  ○ **No separation of child** from mother merely on the ground that she is in sex trade,
	  ○ **Media should not publish their pictures or reveal their identity** while reporting rescue operations.
	  ○ Centre and States must **involve sex workers or their representatives to reform laws.**
	  ○ **UIDAI to provide Aadhaar cards to sex workers** even if they are unable to furnish residence proof.
	  ✓ It is issued by the **National AIDS Control Organization** (NACO) or the **State Health Department**.
	• **Legal Position of Sex Work in India:** Under IPC, **Voluntary sex work or prostitution is not considered illegal** but pimping, owning and running a brothel is unlawful under the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**

3. EDUCATION

3.1. NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP), 2020

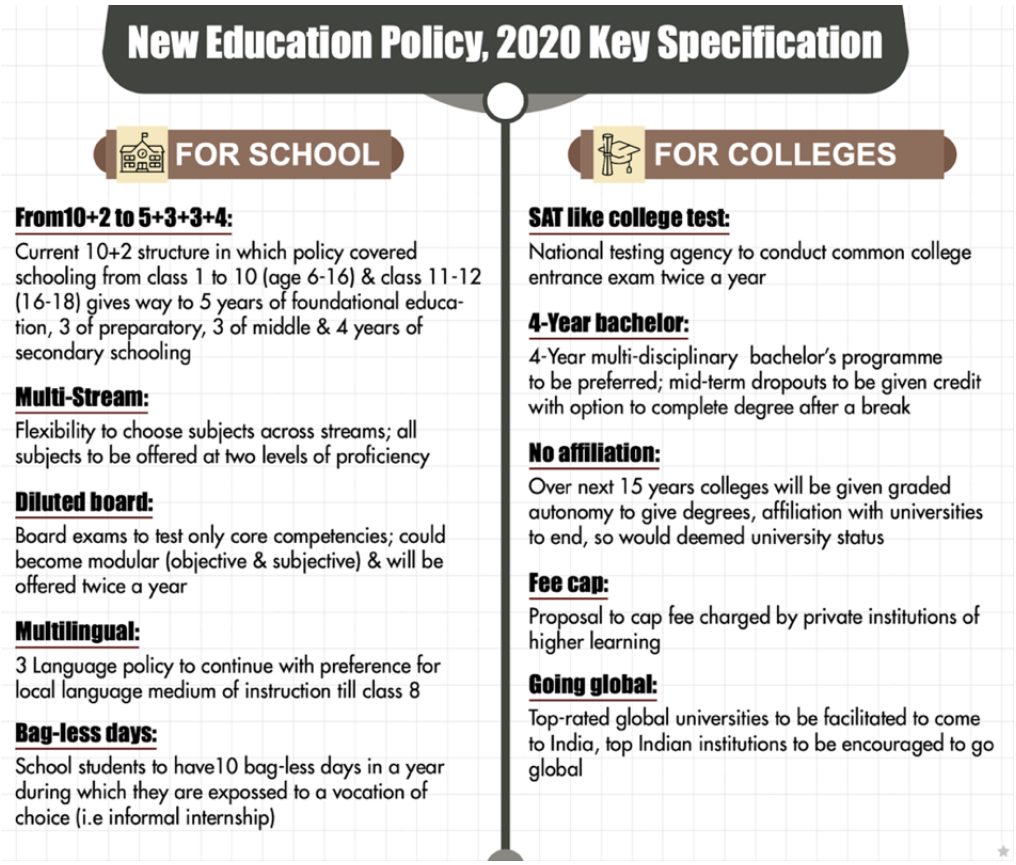
Why in news?

Recently, the Union Minister of Home Affairs launched several initiatives on the **second anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**

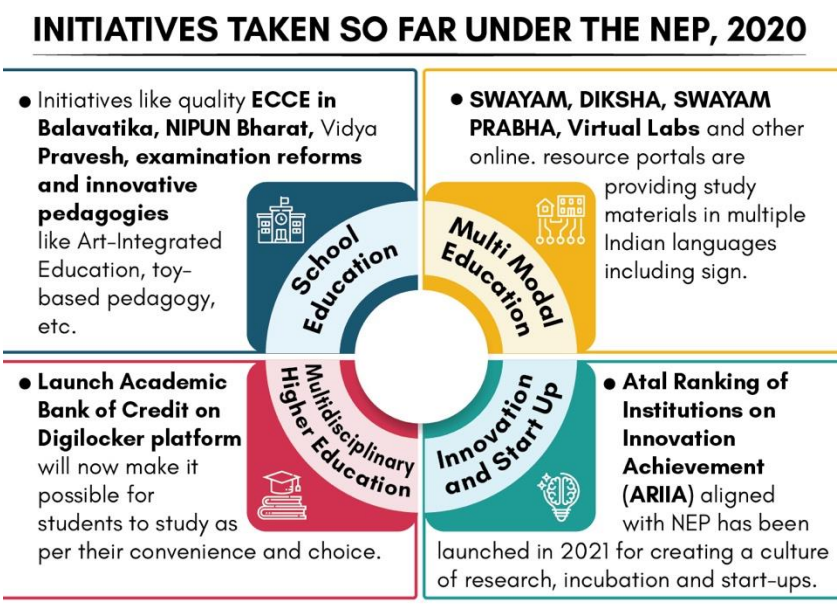


Key initiatives launched

- **Establishment of IKS-MIC program for technology demonstration:** It is joint program of the **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** Division and the Ministry of Education Innovation Cell.
  - Aim: **Promote the development of products, processes** inspired from the **Indian's traditional knowledge systems.**
- **National innovation and entrepreneurship policy:** To foster the culture of Ideation, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (IIE) in schools.
- **Skill India Partnership with IGNOU:** For the three-year degree programme and Skill Hubs under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- **Creation of Labs: 750 virtual labs in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs** for simulated learning environment, will be set-up in 2022-23.
- **NSQF Qualifications: 100+ National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)** aligned future skill qualifications to be developed under various areas.
- **National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)**
  ECCE: To prepare an initial cadre of high-quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) Teachers in Anganwadis.
- **Introduce 75 Bharateeya games in schools:** Each month, a seasonally appropriate Bharateeya game will be introduced in schools through the PT teachers.



- **Public Consultation Survey for National Curriculum Framework (NCF):** To conduct a Public Consultation survey in 23 languages to seek inputs and suggestions for the development of the NCF with a target respondents/ citizen of **1** Crore.



About NEP, 2020

- It was launched to **replaces NEP, 1986** (modified in 1992) with an aim of **transforming India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower.**
- It is built on the foundational **pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability,**
- This policy is aligned to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

3.2. NATIONAL CREDIT FRAMEWORK

Why in news?

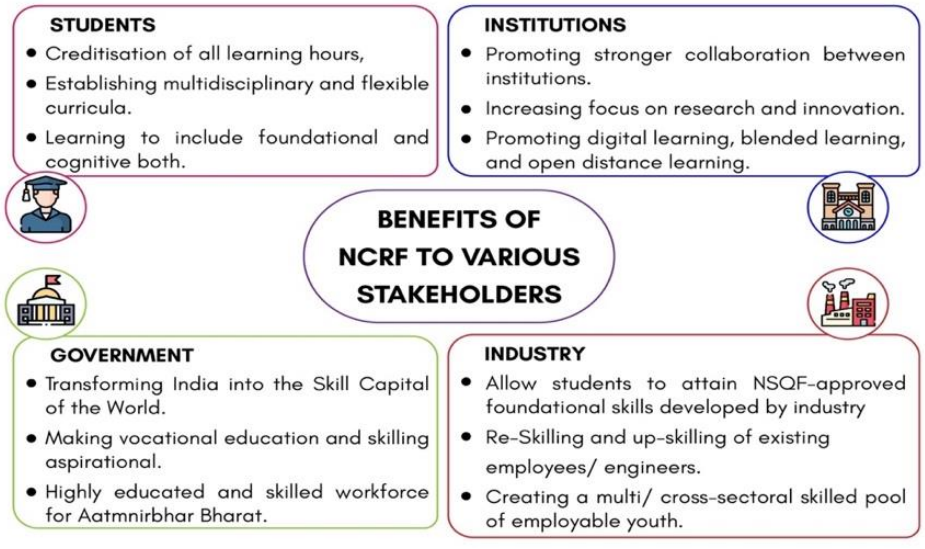
Union Minister of Education launched the draft of National Credit Framework (NCrF) for public consultation.

About National Credit Framework (NCrF)

- **Purpose:** NCrF, proposed as part of NEP 2020, is an **umbrella framework for skilling, re-skilling, up-skilling, accreditation and evaluation** in educational and skilling institutions and workforce.
- **Developed by: Jointly developed by a High-Level Committee** with members from UGC, AICTE, CBSE, NCERT, etc.
- **Aim:** It **seeks to integrate the credits earned** through school, higher and vocational & skill education **to ensure flexibility and mobility among them.**
  - It will **act as guidelines to be followed** by schools, colleges and universities **in adopting the credit system.**

Credits in Indian Context

- **School Education:** At present, there is no established credit mechanism for regular school education. However, under the open schooling system, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) follows the credit system.
- **Higher Education**
  - **Choice Based Credit System (CBCS):** Under CBCS, requirement for awarding a degree or diploma or certificate is prescribed in terms of number of credits to be earned by the students.
    - ✓ This framework is being implemented in several universities across States in India.
  - **Skill Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY):** A credit framework for skill based vocational courses which was launched by Ministry of Education.
  - **UGC guidelines for providing skill-based education** under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).
    - ✓ NSQF is a national **competency-based skill framework** to facilitate mobility both within vocational education and training/ skilling and between vocational education and training/ skilling and general education.



- **Key Features: NCrF will enable learners to earn credits** not just through classroom learning but through co-curriculars, extracurriculars, recognition of prior learning etc.
  - Framework **enables seamless integration and coordination across regulators and institutions** to enable broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic education.
  - **NCrF would be only one credit framework** for higher education, school education and skill education and **shall encompass the qualification frameworks for:**
    - ✓ Higher Education i.e., National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF),
    - ✓ Vocational & skill education i.e., National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF),
    - ✓ School Education i.e., National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF) also known as National Curricular Framework (NCF).

3.3. PROMOTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

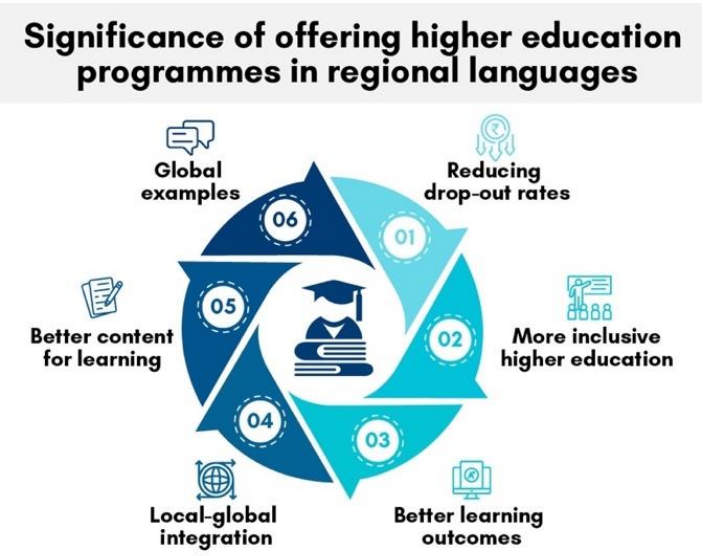
Why in News?

Recently, Union Minister of Home Affairs launched the Hindi version of MBBS course books in Madhya Pradesh.

Development of Education in different mediums

Colonial Debate

- **Anglicists-Orientalist Controversy:** While Orientalist advocated Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian, the Anglicists wanted English as the medium of instruction.
  - In this regard, **English triumphed as the main language,** supported by the Anglicists and Evangelists.
- **Macaulay's minute of 1835 batted for English education** and suggested downward filtration theory.
  - Aim was to **impart modern education to a hand full of people** who will spread the knowledge to the masses.
- **Wood's Despatch (1854)** recommended **primary education in vernacular languages** for the masses, **but secondary and higher education exclusively in English.**



Post-Independence Developments

- **Government Committees**
  - **Radhakrishnan Committee report of 1948-49,** known as Report of the University Education Commission, recommended that **English be replaced by an Indian language** as the medium of instruction for **higher education**.
  - **Official Language Commission, 1956,** that made recommendations on the progressive use of the Hindi language for all official purposes of the Union.
  - Later **Emotional Integration Committee (1962), National Education Policies (1968, 1986)** also discussed about medium of instruction in higher education.

3.4. REPORTS ON SCHOOL EDUCATION IN INDIA

Why in news?

Recently, **Department of School Education and Literacy** (Ministry of Education) released two reports on school education, **Unified District Information System for Education Plus report 2020-21 and the Report on Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21.**

Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2020-21 (refer infographic for key highlights)

- **UDISE+ Mandate: It has a mandate of collecting information from all recognized and unrecognized schools** imparting formal education from Pre-primary to XII.
- **Utility:** It is utilized for the planning, optimized resource allocation and implementation **of various education-related programs** and **program** assessments.
- **Collection Process: Through an online Data Collection Form.**
  - The schools which get onboarded successfully on the platform are provided a UDISE Code, which acts as a **national level unique identifier.**
  - UDISE+ has the **school as the unit of data collection** and the **district as the unit of data distribution.**
  - In UDISE+ 2021-22, additional data on important indicators viz., **digital library, peer learning, hard spot identification, number of books available in the school library**, etc. have been collected for the first time to align with the NEP 2020.

Key highlights

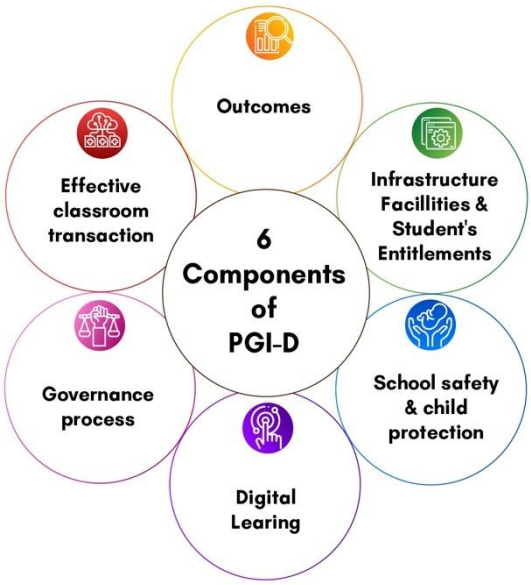
Parameters	Trends in 2021-22 in comparison to 2020-21
Total enrolment in schools (Class 1 to 12)	▪ **Increased by 0.76 %** ▪ **Enrolment:** Boys- 13.28 Crore and girls-12.28 Crore ↑
Number of teachers	▪ **Declined by 1.95 %** ▪ **More than 51% are female teachers.** ↓
Major infrastructural facilities	▪ **Improved in** electricity connection, Drinking water, Girls toilet, Library/ Reading room, Playground etc. ↑
Gross enrolment ratio (GER)	▪ **Primary level: Increased to 104.8% in 2021-22** in comparison to 101.3% in 2018-19 ↑ ▪ **Secondary Level: Increased to 79.6% in 2021-22** from 76.9% in 2018-19. ↑
Dropout rate	▪ **Primary:** Increased ↑ ▪ **Secondary:** Declined ↓
Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR)	▪ **Improved to 26 in 2021-22** from 28 in 2018-19. ↑
Total number of schools	▪ **Declined to 14.89 lakhs** in 2021-22 from 15.09 lakhs in 2020-21. ▪ The decline is **mainly due to the closure of schools under private** and other management. ↓

Others highlights

▪ **Gender Parity Index (GPI) of GER** is 1 or more at all levels of school education.
★ **GPI value 1 or more** shows that the **GPI is favorable to the girls,** while GPI of less than 1 shows relative under representation of girls.

Report on Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21

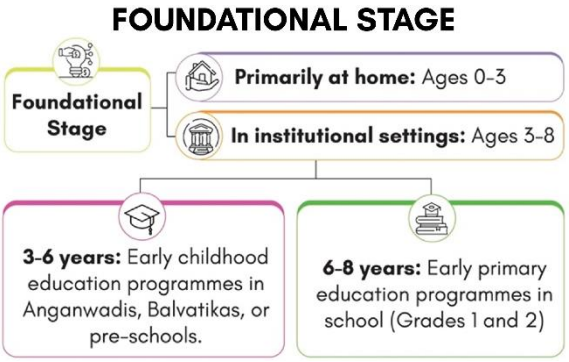
- **Key Features:** It is a tool to **provide insights on the status of school education** in States and UTs.
  - It **pinpoints the gaps** and helps States/UTs in **prioritising the areas for intervention.**
  - So far, **3 PGI reports** were released, **starting 2017-18.**
  - PGI evaluation **classifies States and UTs into grade**/ levels, as opposed to ranking.
  - PGI comprises of total weightage of **1000 points across 70 indicators.**
- **Indicators:** Grouped under **2 Categories:**
  - **Outcome** (which includes, Learning Outcomes, Access, Infrastructure & Facilities, Equity).
  - **Governance & Management** (Governance Process).
- **Key highlights of PGI-District**
  - **None of the States attained the highest Level** (Level 1- points above 950).



- No state reached the top 2 levels in 2017-18 and 2018-19 whereas in 2020-21, **7 States have reached Level-2.**
- **No state has performed below Level VII (points below 650) in 2020-21.**
- The deviation between the **maximum and minimum scores** obtained by States is 39 %, of the minimum points.
  - ✓ This disparity was 51 % in 2017-18 indicating that, PGI **helped to bridge the performance gap among States/UTs over the years.**

3.5. NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FOR FOUNDATIONAL STAGE

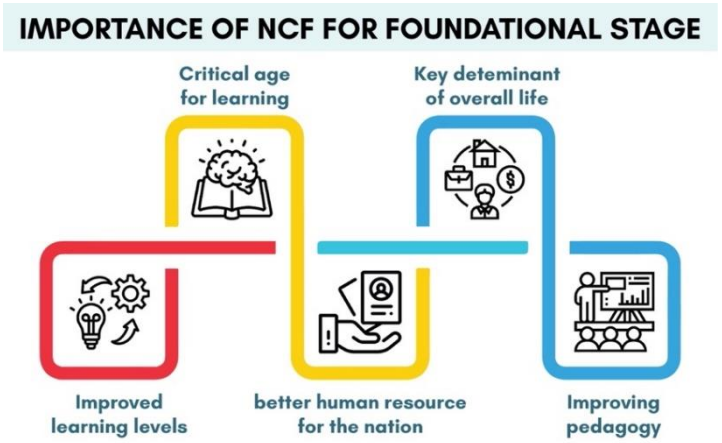
Why in News?



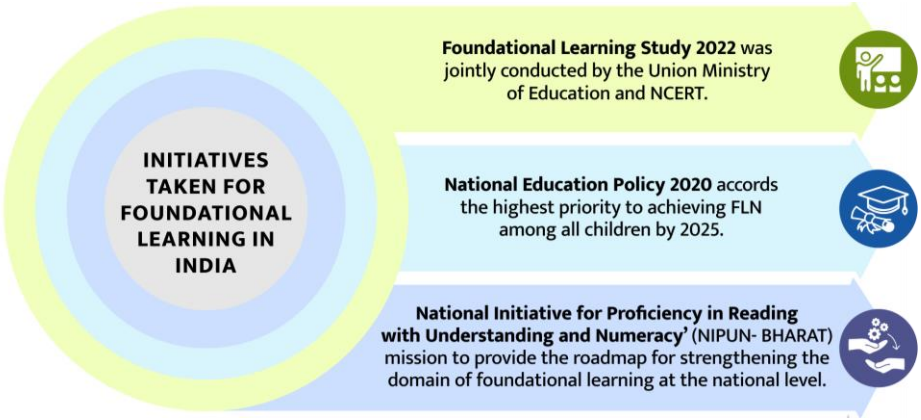
Union Minister for Education and Skill Development launched the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage.

About National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for Foundational Stage

- **NCF Development:** As per the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, **following four NCFs will be developed**
  - National Curriculum Framework for **Early Childhood Care and Education** (NCFECCE)
  - National Curriculum Framework for **School Education** (NCFSE)
  - National Curriculum Framework for **Teacher Education** (NCFTE)
  - National Curriculum Framework for **Adult Education** (NCFAE)
- **Integrated Framework:** NCF, under NCFECCE, for foundational stage **is the first ever integrated Curriculum Framework for children between ages 3-8 in India.**
  - This is the **first Stage in the 5+3+3+4 Curricular** and Pedagogical restructuring of School Education covering education for children up to the age of 18.



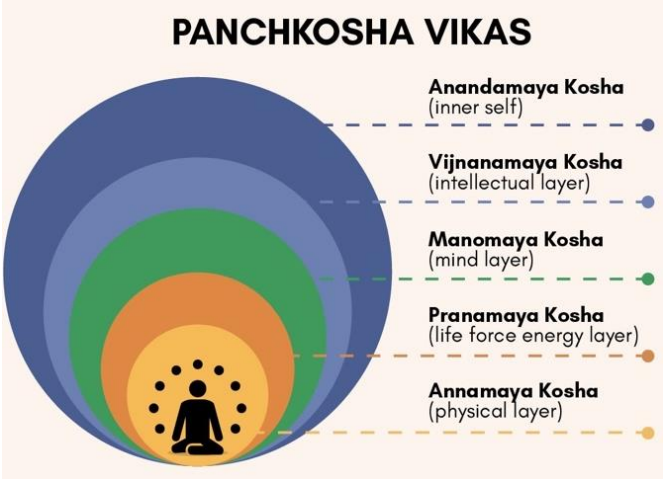
- **Objective: To help in positively transforming the school education system** as envisioned in NEP 2020.
  - **It will be the basis for all pedagogy adopted** by schools, pre-schools and anganwadis for children studying between nursery and Class 2.
- **Coverage:** It **covers a raft of topics,** ranging from curriculum goals, approach to language education and literacy, home-based learning, teaching styles, and methods of assessment.



Key highlights of NCF for Foundational Stage

- **Importance to mother tongue:** Students should be taught **exclusively in their mother tongue until the age of eight.**
- **Less burden on children:** For ages **three to six,** there should **not be any prescribed textbooks** for the children, instead NCF recommended simple worksheets for curricular goals and pedagogical needs.

- **Panchakosha system for education:** The framework has listed the 'panchakosha' concept for children's education. The Panchakosha description is in the **Taittiriya Upanishad.** It comprises:
  - **Physical development** (sharirik vikas),
  - **Development of life energy** (pranik vikas),
  - **Emotional and mental development** (manasik vikas),
  - **Intellectual development** (bauddhik vikas)
  - **Spiritual development** (chaitsik vikas)
- **Others:** Other areas include ethics, learning through play, gender balance, avoiding stereotypes in textbooks and better learning environment.



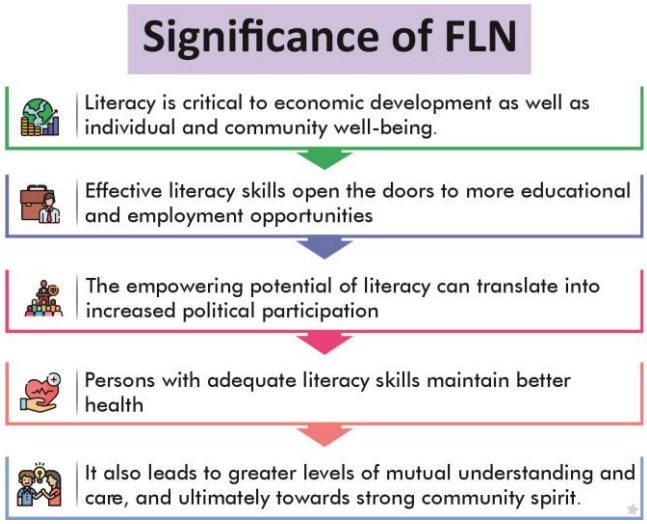
3.6. FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING STUDY (FLS)

Why in news?

Study titled "Foundational Learning Study 2022" was jointly conducted by the **Union Ministry of Education and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).**

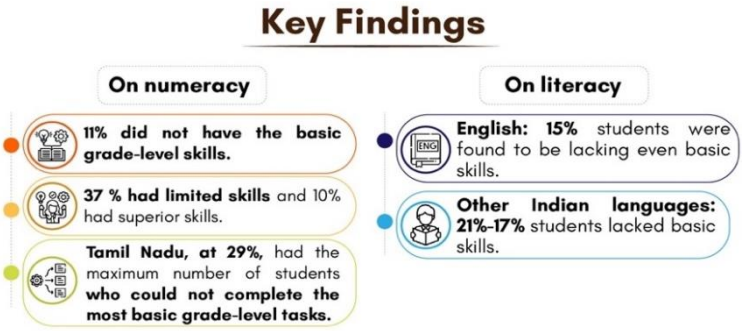
More about news

- It is a **one-of-a-kind study to arrive at the benchmarks in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** under the FLS 2022.
  - FLN is the **ability to read with meaning and perform basic math calculations by the end of Class 3.**
  - The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** accords the **highest priority to achieving FLN among all children by 2025.**
- It is also the **largest study that assessed the learning levels of approx. 86,000 grade 3 students from 10,000 schools across India.**
  - It is the **only study that has been conducted in 20 different languages.**
  - **Parameters for foundational literacy skills** included oral language comprehension, reading comprehension, oral reading fluency with comprehension, etc.
  - **Parameters for foundational numeracy skills** included number identification & comparison, number operations, data handling etc.
  - **Depending on performance, students were categorised into 4 groups:**
    - ✓ Lacking the most basic knowledge and skills;
    - ✓ Having limited knowledge and skills;
    - ✓ Developed sufficient knowledge and skills;
    - ✓ Developed superior knowledge and skills.



Comparison between NAS and FLS

Comparison	Class	Methodology
National Achievement Survey (NAS) - Released by the Ministry of Education.	Evaluates learning outcomes of **students in Classes III, V, VIII and X.**	**MCQs based, conducted** every three years.
Foundational and Literacy Study (FLS) - Released by Ministry of Education.	Only for grade **III students.**	**One-to-one interviews** with each participant.



About NIPUN Bharat or National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy

- **NIPUN Bharat has been launched under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Samagra Shiksha'.**
  - **Vision**: To create an enabling environment to **ensure the universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy.**
    - ✓ **So that by 2026-27** every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and **numeracy at the end of Grade III and not later than Grade V.**
  - **Implementing agency:** Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
  - **Beneficiaries:** Children in the age group of 3 to 9 years including preschool to grade 3 & children who are in class 4 and 5 and have not attained the foundational skills.
  - **Implementation strategy:** A five-tier Implementation mechanism will be set up at **National-State-District-Block-School level.**

3.7. NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY (NAS) 2021

Why in News?

Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report.

About National Achievement Survey (NAS)

- **Purpose**: It **assesses the health of school education system in the country** by conducting comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies **at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years.**
  - NAS provide system-level feedback **by administering standardized survey to students.**
- **Information Collection: It collects information on relevant background variables such as school environment, teaching processes, and student home and background factors.**
  - **NAS is not a school-based examination.**
  - NAS provides a summary of performance at the District, State, and National levels, with the district as the unit for reporting.
  - The **last NAS was held in 2017.**

About NAS 2021

- **Coverage**: It **covered Government Schools** (Central Government and State Government); **Government Aided Schools; and Private Unaided Schools.**
  - Only the schools selected in sample can participate.
- **Subject Matter: Subjects covered are Language, Mathematics & EVS** for class 3 & 5; Language, Mathematics, Science & Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10.
- **Conducted by: CBSE was the conducting organisation** and **NCERT designed its framework** and tools.

Key findings

Overall	• Learning levels of school students in almost all subjects, including Mathematics and Language, **dropped** as they progressed to higher classes.
State-wise	• State-wise government schools in Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have performed better. • The states which performed poorly here are Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh.
Gender-wise	• Number of states and UTs in which performance of girls was better than boys increased significantly this year in comparison with the 2017 survey.
Rural/Urban	• Average performance of schools in rural areas remained "significantly below" those urban areas in same states and UTs.
Category-wise	• Performance of students from the schedule caste (SC)/ schedule tribe (ST)/ Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories remained lower than that of students from the general category.

3.8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION (AIED)

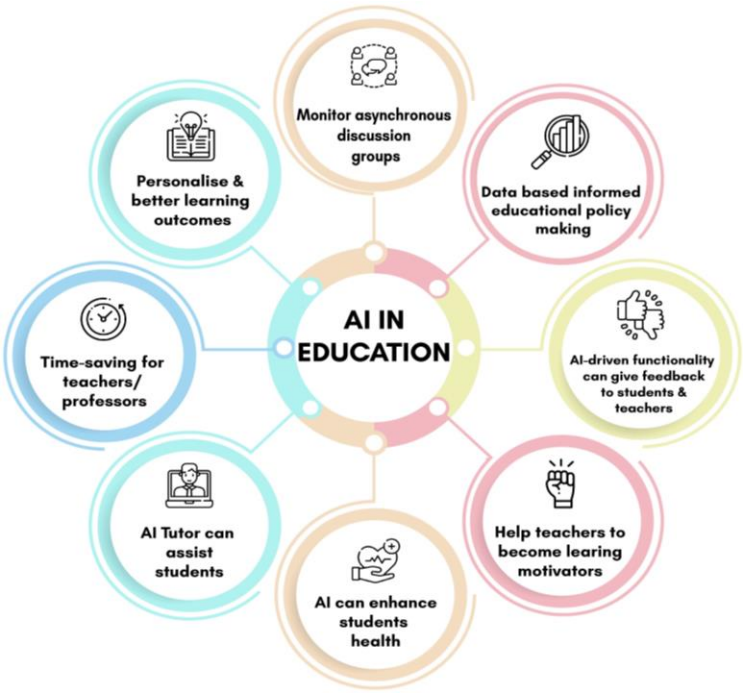
Why in news?

Recently, The State of Education Report for India, 2022: Artificial Intelligence in Education' was released by UNESCO.

DELHI | JAIPUR | PUNE | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | RANCHI | ALLAHABAD | BHOPAL © Vision IAS

About the report

- 2022 report aims to guide stakeholders for **leveraging AI in Education** (AIED) systems and outlines **major opportunities and challenges for AI in the education system** in India.
- This report is the **4th edition of the annual State of Education Report (SOER)** of UNESCO.

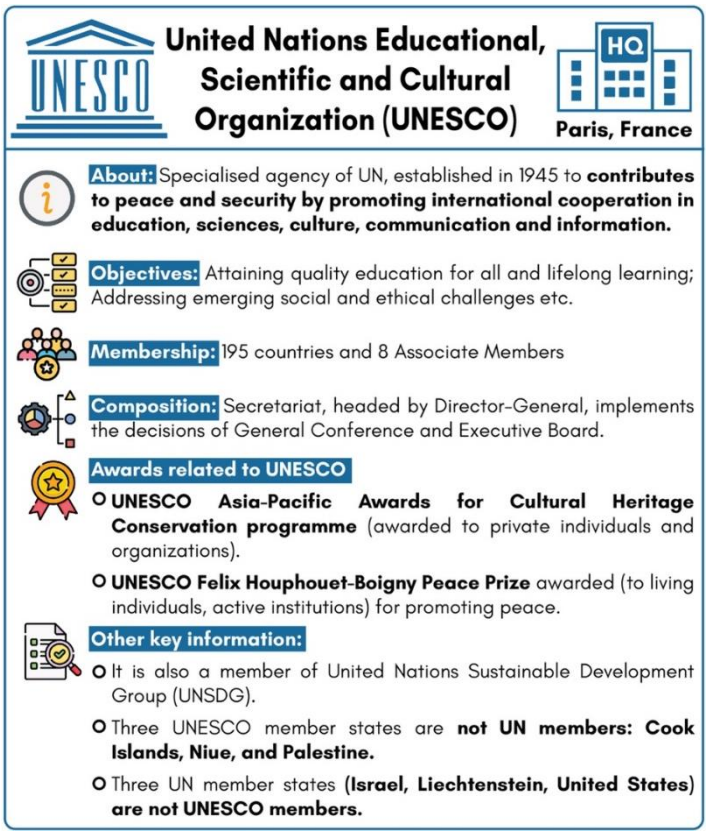


Key highlights of the report

- **India's current status in AI**
  - India has the **highest relative AI skill penetration rate** (3.09 times the global average).
- AI in Education systems have **contributed** ed to reach **US$7.8 billion by 2025 at a rate of 20.2% CAGR.**
- **AI & Women**
  - India **leads the world** by far in terms of **women with AI skills.**
  - **Women** account for a **third of AI-related scientific publications** in India.
  - In 2018, India had the **world's second-largest AI talent pool,** of which **22% comprised women.**
  - **Intelligent Tutoring Systems**: Report also

Initiatives taken by India to Promote research in AI

- **Responsible AI for Youth:** It was created by the **Ministry of Electronics & IT** in collaboration with **Intel India** and the support of the **Ministry of Education**.
  - It is open to **school students studying** in classes 8-12 across India to **foster a deeper understanding of AI-tech** and encourage youngsters to become human-centric designers.
- **US-India Artificial Intelligence Initiative:** To foster AI innovation by sharing ideas and experiences, identifying new opportunities in research and development, and bilateral collaboration.
- **National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Mission:** It was launched by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (**PM-STIAC**).
  - It works with extensive academia-industry interactions on developing core research capability at the national level including international collaborations.
- **AI in Schools:** As part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, AI will now be a part of the Indian school curriculum.



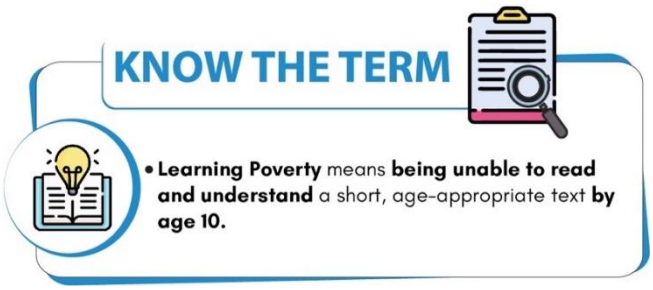
3.9. LEARNING POVERTY

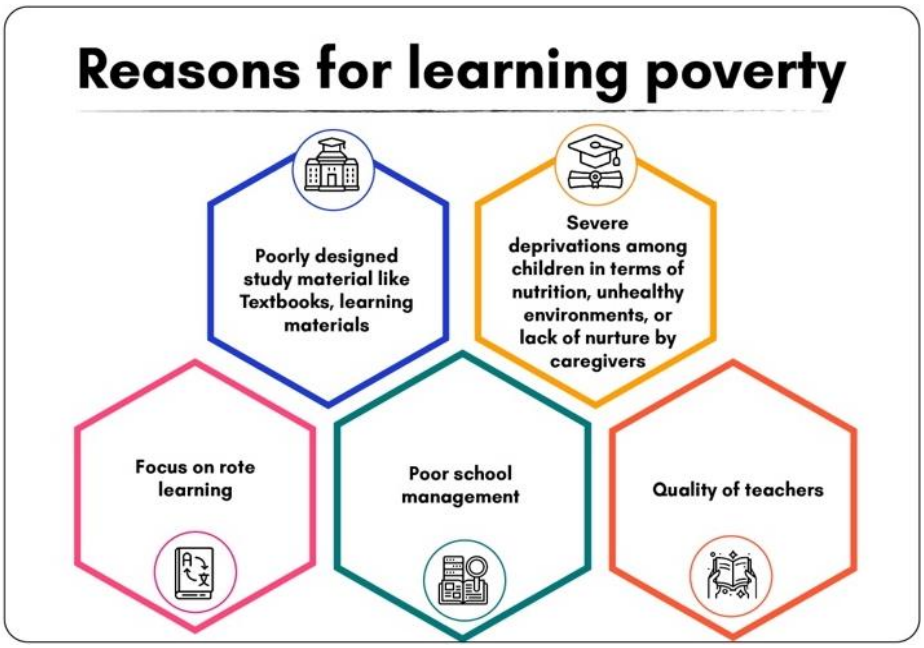
Why in News?

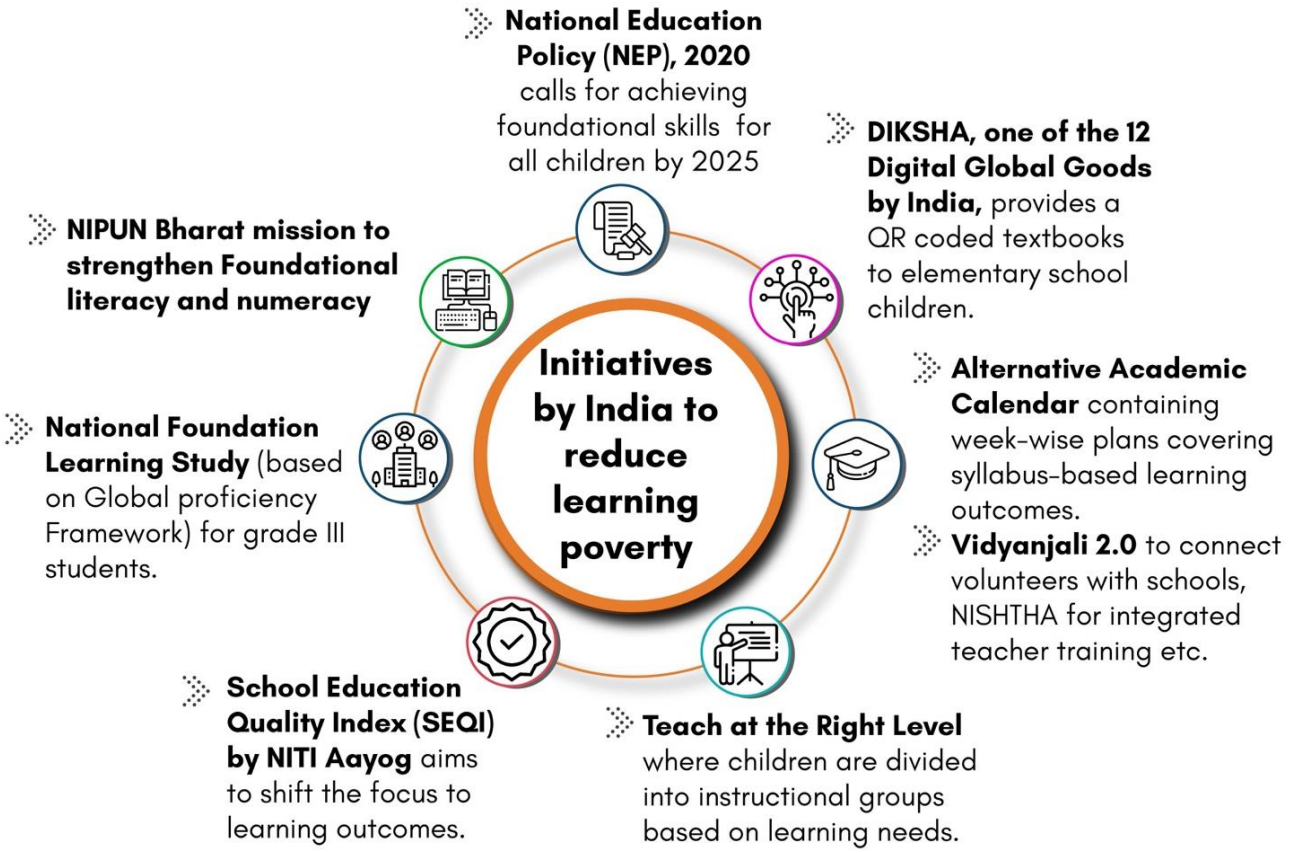
A World Bank official recently stated that India's learning poverty has shot up due to COVID-19 pandemic.

More on News

- According to a simulation data by World Bank, **before the pandemic about 53% of children were not able to read** a simple text by the age of 10, but **with the pandemic this has shot up to 70%.**
  - The shocks to education systems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is **aggravating the global learning crisis and impacting education in unprecedented ways.**
- This generation will be **harmed compared to the previous and the next generation** just because they were born in specific years and were between five and 18 years.







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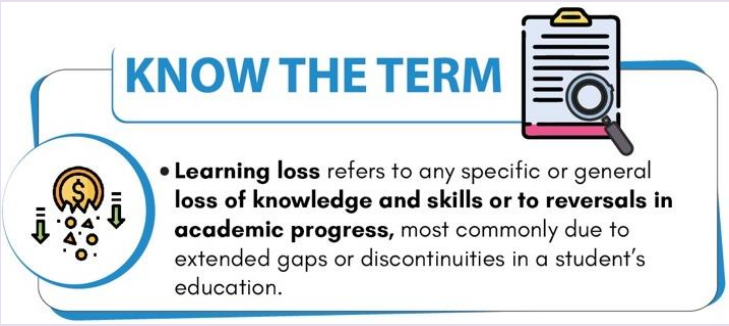
3.10. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

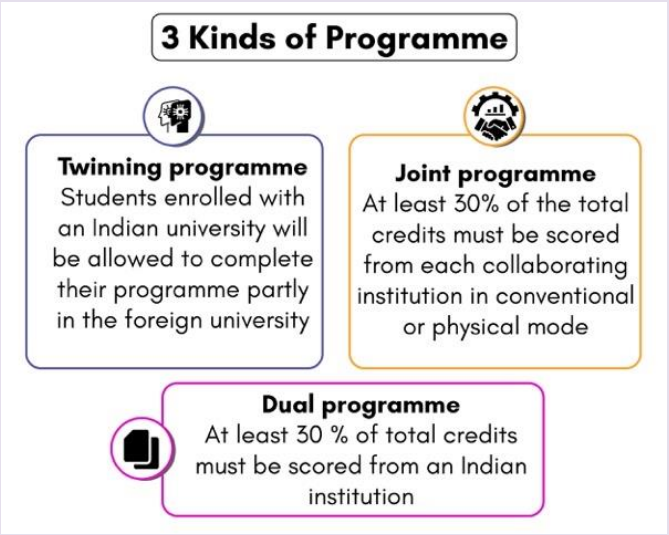
Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)	• **Conducted by: Ministry of Home Affairs**
	• **MTSI surveys the mother tongues,** which are returned consistently across two and more Census decades **and analyses their linguistic features.**
	• As per analysis of 2011 linguistic census data:
	  ○ **More than 19,500** languages or dialects are spoken in India as **mother tongues.**
	  ○ **Hindi** is the mother tongue of **43.6% of population.**

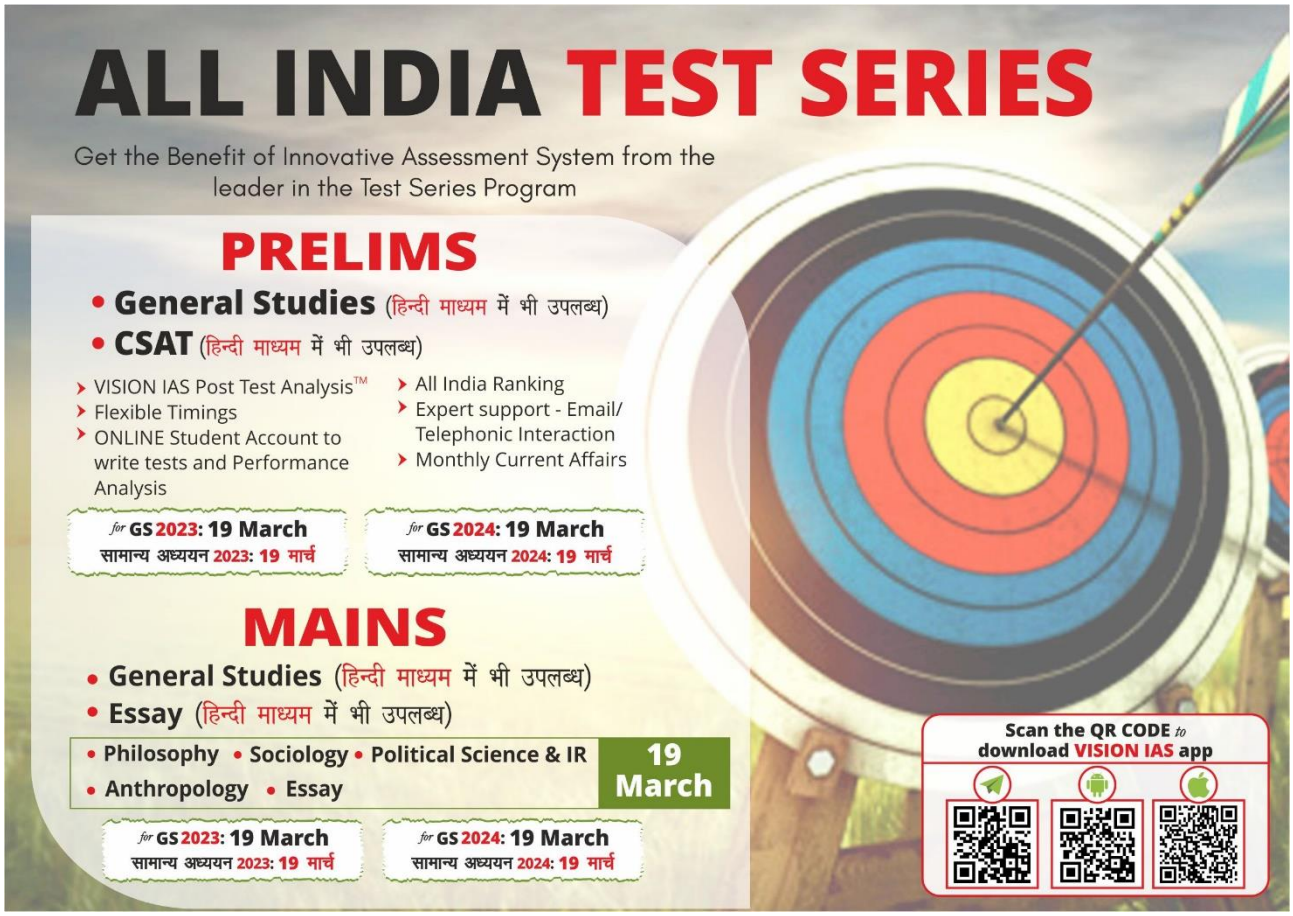
Two Full-time Academic Programs Simultaneously	• Guidelines were released by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**
	• Allows students to pursue **two full-time academic programs** in **physical mode.**
	• Students can either choose a combination of
	  ○ **a diploma program and an undergraduate degree**
	  ○ **two bachelor's programs**
	  ○ **two master's programs**
	• The **adoption** of these guidelines is **optional for universities**.
	• The **move is in pursuance of National Education Policy 2020**.

UGC e-samadhan Portal	• **To be launched by:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) • A **single window for submitting grievances** by merging the different portals and helplines that exist currently. • Aim is **to fast-track resolution of complaints** and **monitor institutes that are slow in responding** to them. • Portal **will be available 24x7** and also **specific timelines have been laid down** for addressing the grievances registered at the portal.
Functionally Literate District	• **Mandla district**, a tribal dominated region in **Madhya Pradesh has been reported as fully 'functionally literate' district**. • A person can be called functionally literate **when he or she is able to write his or her own name, to count and read and write.** • It also refers to the **capacity of a person to engage in** all those **activities in which literacy is required for effective function** of his or her group and community.
PARAKH	• **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**) was **introduced under National Education Policy 2020.** • **Launched by** the **Ministry of Education for all** AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education) **approved institutes.** • It is a **national assessment centre.** • PARAKH survey will help colleges to **identify learning gaps** so that students can be industry ready. ○ It facilitates a platform for students for **self-assessment of learning outcomes** and 21st-century life skills acquired by students. • It helps to **improve higher order thinking skills among students.**
PM eVIDYA	• **Use of ICT under PM eVIDYA**, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, has **won UNESCO's recognition** (UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize). • **PM eVIDYA** (by Ministry of Education) **unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education** to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to **minimise learning losses.** • It has been **initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.** 

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2023	• QS ranking is an **annual publication of university rankings** which comprises the global overall and subject rankings.
	  ○ It is measured on basis of **academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/ student ratio, citations per faculty and international student/ faculty ratio**.
	• **Key findings**
	  ○ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** has emerged as **topmost Indian institute,** ranking at 155th spot.

	○ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay (172) and IIT Delhi (174)** have improved their rank from previous year.
Collaboration with foreign higher education Institutions (FHEI)	• The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has approved collaboration for **Indian and FHEIs** can **offer three kinds of programmes — twinning, joint degrees and dual degrees** (refer to the infographics). • **Key provisions** ○ **Indian institutions** with a NAAC score of 3.01/ top 100 in varsity category of NIRF, top 1000 in the Times Higher Education (THE) or QS ranking **are eligible.** ○ **Foreign institutions** among 1000 of THE or QS ranking are eligible. ○ **Curbs regulator's supervisory role** in facilitating such collaborations. ○ For both **dual and joint degree programmes**, collaborating institutions ensure that **credits earned by students are not from overlapping course** content or curriculum. ○ In case of a **doctoral degree or PhD programme,** students will be provided **supervision at each institution,** and they will have to **spend a minimum of one semester in each of them.** ○ **Collaborating institutions make provisions for exit pathways** for students who are unable to complete requirements in the three programmes.



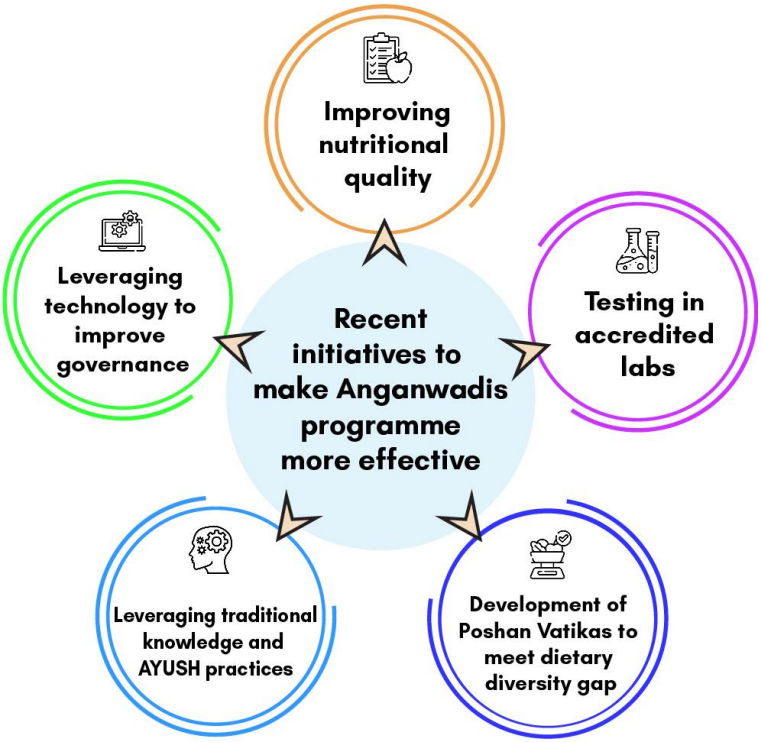


4. HEALTH

4.1. ANGANWADI SYSTEM

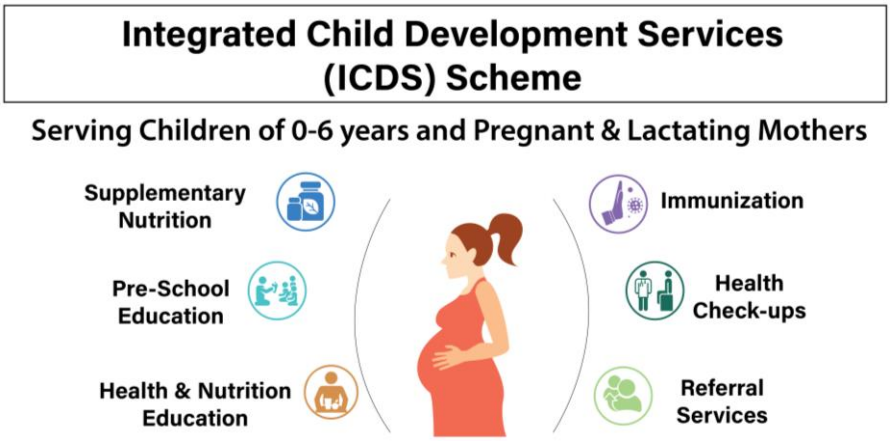
Why in news?

The Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) has recently informed the Parliament that it has spent over RS 18,000 crores in the last financial year to **strengthen the Anganwadi system.**



About Anganwadi system

- **Key Features**: The Anganwadi system, launched under the **Anganwadi Services Scheme** (now renamed as Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0), is an integral part of the **Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme** (refer to the infographics).
  - The Anganwadi Services Scheme is a **Centrally Sponsored** Scheme under **MoWCD.**
  - It represents one of the **world's largest** and **unique programmes for early childhood care and development**.
- **Aim**: The scheme aims to
  - **improve the nutritional and health status of children (0-6 years),** pregnant women and lactating mothers, and
  - **reduce the incidences of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition.**
- **System Depth**: The system serves to 906.17 lakh **beneficiaries through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs).**
  - They are the **basic functionaries** of the ICDS who run the AWCs and implement the ICDS scheme.
  - **One village/ area** is managed by **a single Anganwadi worker (AWW),** who is chosen from the community and has been trained in areas such as **health, nutrition and childcare.**



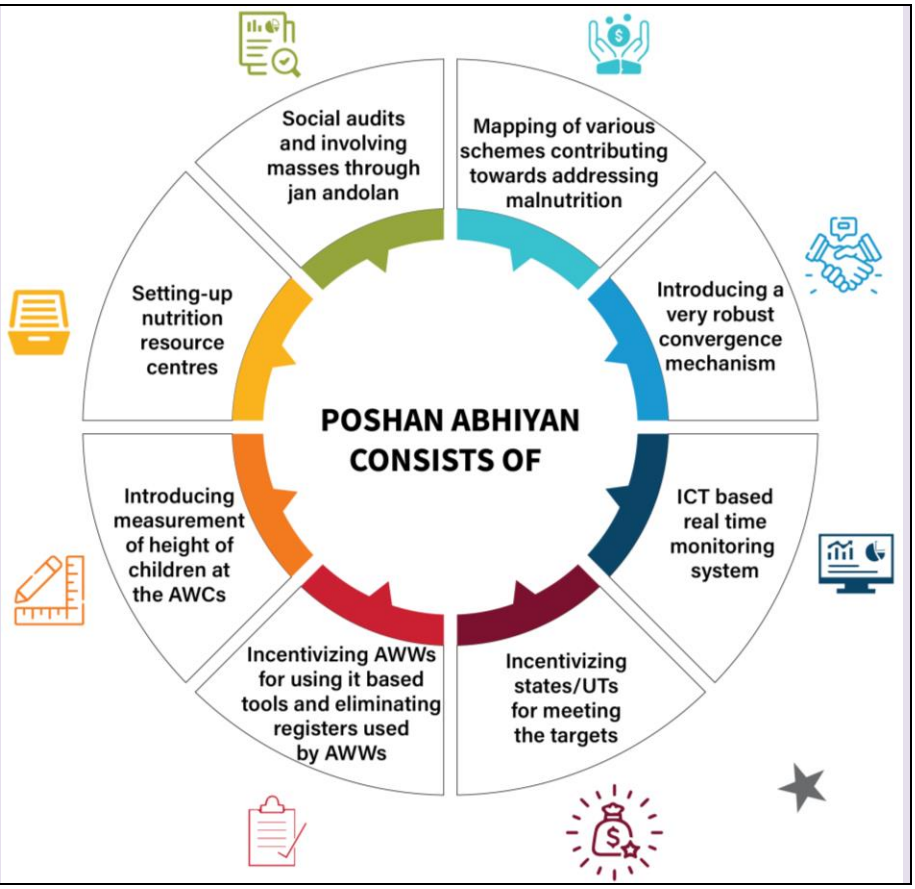
Saksham Anganwadis

- **It is a targeted intervention for improving the** AWCs. They will be strengthened, upgraded and rejuvenated across the country for enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness.
- Apart from the given goals for Anganwadi**, Saksham Anganwadis would additionally focus on-**
  - **Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) in Aspirational Districts and North Eastern Region (NER).**
  - **Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and early stimulation for (0-3 years).**
- Under it, **two lakh AWCs, 40,000 each year will be strengthened to make requisite upgrades.**
  - It will undertake activities like **smart learning aids, audio-and-video tools,** water **purifiers** and devices such as **rain-water harvesters.**

- **Digital Inclusivity**: AWCs are also **digitally strengthened** with smartphones for POSHAN tracking systems, and monitoring devices.
  - The 'Poshan Tracker' is a **job-aid to the AWWs** for efficient delivery of services along with reflection of their efforts.
  - This mobile based application is being leveraged for dynamic **identification of stunting, wasting, under-weight prevalence** among children and last mile tracking of nutrition service delivery.
- **Compensation:**
  - The AWWs and AWHs are **paid fixed honorarium per month** as decided by the Government from time to time.
    - ✓ Honorarium of the AWWs by the Centre has been enhanced to **3500 rupees per month.**
  - AWWs are also allowed a **performance linked incentive of Rs. 500/- per month** for using **ICDS-CAS under POSHAN Abhiyaan.**
    - ✓ ICDS-Common Application Software (CAS) facilitates the **capture of data by frontline functionarie**s.
    - ✓ It's a six-tier **dashboard** that replaces registers with smartphones.
  - Also, most of the **States/UTs are paying additional honorarium** to these functionaries from their own resources.
  - **Insurance coverage**: AWWs and AWHs been covered under:
    - ✓ Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima yojana (PMJJBY)
    - ✓ Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima yojana (PMSBY)
    - ✓ Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima yojana (AKBY)
  - **Other benefits:** Paid leave, reservation in promotions, uniforms and other incentives and awards for rendering exemplary services.

About National Nutrition Mission (NNM) or POSHAN Abhiyan

- It was launched in 2017 to **monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition** related interventions across the Ministries.
- The objective of POSHAN Abhiyaan is to **reduce stunting** in identified Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden **by improving utilization of key Anganwadi Services**.
- Its aim to ensure **holistic development and adequate nutrition** for pregnant women, mothers and children.



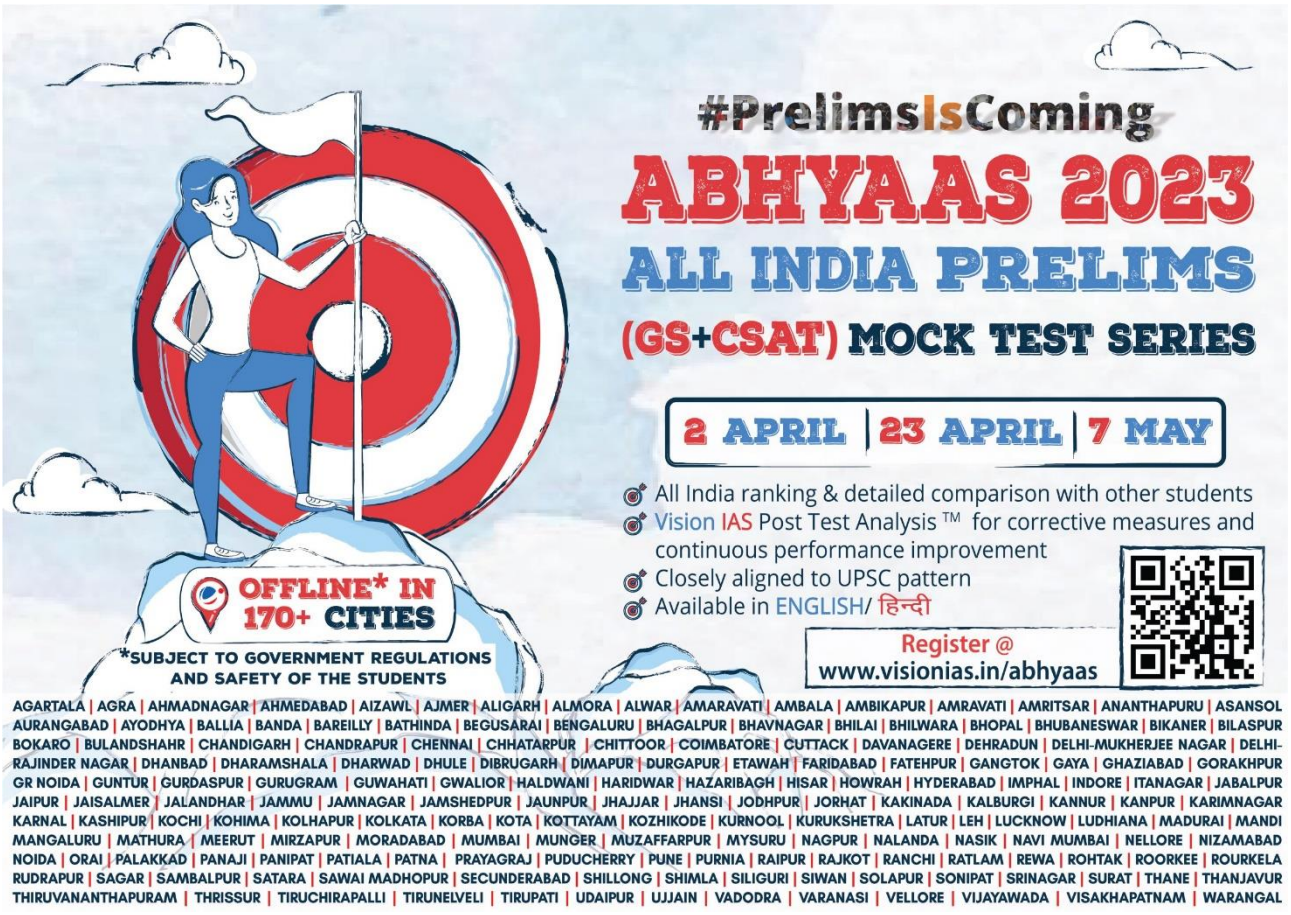
Community health workers at grassroots

Specification	Anganwadi workers (AWW)	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM)	Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)
Scheme	ICDS under MWCD	National Rural/Urban Health Mission (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW))	
Based at	Anganwadi center	Health sub-center and additionally visits villages also	Village level
Key roles	Providing **early childhood care and development** of the beneficiaries	**Create awareness** on factors that determine health status **Counsel women, families, and adolescents** on birth preparedness **Curative care and supplies.**	Focuses on **promotion of Maternal and Child Health,** including immunizations and institutional-based deliveries
Incentives	**Honorarium** as decided by the Centre and **performance linked incentive**	**Honorarium** as decided by the Centre	Receive **performance-based incentives**

Related news

"Grassroot Soldiers: Role of ASHAs in the COVID-19 Pandemic Management in India" Report

- Report is a **collaborative endeavor by MoH&FW,** National Health Systems Resource Center, and Institute for Competitiveness. It encapsulates the **experience and key role of ASHAs in India's pandemic response strategy.**



4.2. NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY-5 (NFHS) REPORT

Why in news?

Recently **NFHS-5 was released by** the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).**

About NFHS-5

- **Objective:** To **provide reliable and comparable data relating to health and family welfare** and other.
  - Scope of NFHS-5 is expanded by adding new dimensions such as **death registration, pre-school education, expanded domains of child immunization,** menstrual hygiene etc.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Indicator	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)
Total Fertility Rates (TFR) (an average number of children per women) ▪ **TFR of about 2.1 children** per woman is called the **replacement level of fertility,** a crucial factor in population growth.	2.0 ↓	2.2
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)	67% ↑	54%
Antenatal care (ANC) visits by pregnant women in their first trimester	70% ↑	59%
Unmet needs of family planning	9% ↓	13%
Full immunization in kids aged 12-23 months	76% ↑	62%
Sex ratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males) ▪ This is the first time, in any NFHS or Census, that the sex ratio is skewed in favour of women.	1,020 ↑	991
Neonatal mortality rate ▪ Number of deaths among all live births during the first 28 days of life expressed per 1000 live births.	24.9 ↓	29.5
Infant mortality rate (IMR) (per 1,000 live births) ▪ Infant mortality is **death of an infant before his or her first birthday** and IMR is number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.	35.2 ↓	40.7
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ▪ Probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five.	41.9 ↓	49.7
Women age 20-24 years married before age 18 years (%)	23.3% ↑	13%
Institutional births	89% ↑	79%
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)	36% ↓	38%
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height)	19% ↓	21%
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age)	32.1% ↓	35.8%

 © Vision IAS

4.3. SAMPLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (SRS) STATISTICAL REPORT 2020

Why in news?

Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner recently released 'Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2020'.

More on News

- SRS is the **only official source of various demographic indicators** in India **except the census.**
- It provides **annual estimates of various fertility and mortality indicators.**

Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home affairs.
- **Genesis:** Established in 1949 under the **Census Act, 1948.**
- **Mandate:** Conducting the **decadal census,** implementation of the **Birth and Death Registration Act, 1969.**
- **Appointed by:** Central Government

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Indicator	2014	2020
Crude Birth Rate (CBR): annual number of live births per 1,000 population	21.0	19.5 ↓
Crude Death Rate (CDR)- number of deaths per 1,000 midyear population	6.7	6.0 ↓
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.3	2.0 ↓
Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) ▫ **Six (6) States/ UT have already attained SDG target of NMR** (<=12 by 2030): Kerala, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab	26	20 ↓
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	39	28 ↓
Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) ▫ **11 States/UT have already attained SDGs target of U5MR (<=25 by 2030):** Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Maharashtra, J&K, Karnataka, Punjab, West Bengal, Telangana, Gujarat, and Himachal Pradesh	45	20 ↓

4.4. CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CRS)

Why in news?

Government is planning to **revamp the Civil Registration System (CRS)** through an IT enabled system to ensure the registration of birth and death **in real-time** with **minimum human interface.**

More about news

- The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** has also proposed to "maintain the database of registered birth and deaths **at the national level.**"
- According to the proposed amendments, the database may be used to update the **Population Register, Electoral Register, Aadhar, Ration Card, Passport and Driving License databases.**

About Civil Registration System (CRS)

- It is the unified process of **continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the vital events** (births, deaths, still births) and characteristics thereof.
  - History of CRS in India dates back to the **middle of the 19th century**.
  - In 1886 a **Central Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act** was promulgated to provide for **voluntary registration** throughout British India.
- Post-independence, the **Registration of Births and Death Act (RBD Act)** was enacted in 1969 to promote **uniformity and comparability in the registration** of Births and Deaths across the country and compilation of **vital statistics** based thereon.
  - With the enactment of the Act, **registration** of births, deaths and still births **became mandatory in India.**
  - The **RGI** at the Central Government level **coordinates and unifies** the activities of registration throughout the country.
  - However, implementation of the statute is **vested with the State Governments.**
- The Act mandates the use of **uniform birth and death reporting forms and certificates** throughout the country.
- The scheme of **Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD)** under RBD Act, provides for **causes of death**, a **prerequisite to monitoring health trends** of the population.

4.5. NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNT (NHA) ESTIMATES, 2018-19

Why in News?

6th NHA estimates reports was released recently.

More on News

- NHA estimates 2018-19 is the **6th consecutive NHA estimates report prepared by National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC),**
  - NHSRC is designated as NHA Technical Secretariat (NHATS) in 2014 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).

DELHI | JAIPUR | PUNE | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | RANCHI | ALLAHABAD | BHOPAL © Vision IAS

- It is based on **framework of System of Health Accounts, 2011,** developed by WHO.
- These estimates enable the policymakers to **monitor the progress in different health financing indicators** of country.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Indicators	Meaning	Details
Total Health Expenditure (THE) as a percent of GDP and Per Capita	• THE **constitutes current and capital expenditures incurred by government and private sources,** including external funds. • THE as a percentage of **GDP indicates health spending relative to country's economic development.** • THE per capita **indicates health expenditure per person in country.**	• **Decreased as a percentage of GDP to 3.2% in 2018-19** from 4% in 2013-14. ↓ • **Increased per capita to ₹4,470 in 2018-19** from ₹3,638 in 2013-14. ↑
Current Health Expenditures (CHE) as a percent of THE	CHE constitutes **only recurrent expenditures for healthcare purposes** net all capital expenditures.	**Decreased to 90.6% in 2018-19** from 93% in 2013-14. ↓
Government Health Expenditure (GHE) as a percent of THE	GHE constitutes **spending under all schemes funded and managed by Union, State, and Local Governments** including quasi-Governmental organizations.	**Increased to 40.6% in 2018-19** from 28.6% in 2013-14. ↑
Out of Pocket Expenditures (OOPE) as a percent of THE	OOPE are **expenditures directly made by households** at point of receiving health care.	**Decreased to 48.2% in 2018-19** from 60% in 2013-14. ↓
Social Security Expenditure (SSE) on health as percent of THE	SSE include **finances allocated by Government towards payment of premiums for Union and State Government financed health insurance** scheme, employee benefit schemes etc.	**Increased to 9.6% in 2018-19** from 6% in 2013-14. ↑
Private Health Insurance Expenditures as a percent of THE	It constitutes **spending through health insurance companies** where households or employers pay a premium to be covered under a specific health plan.	**Increased to 6.6% in 2018-19** from 3.4% in 2013-14. ↑
External/ Donor Funding for health as percent of THE	It constitutes **all funding available to country by assistance from donors.**	**Increased to 0.4% in 2018-19** from 0.3% in 2013-14. ↑

4.6. MENTAL HEALTH

Why in news?

Recently, **Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative** was launched by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare **on occasion of World Mental Health Day.**

About Tele-MANAS

- **Launch:** It is **an initiative under the National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP)** (announced in the Union Budget 2022-23).
- **Objectives:** To further **improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.**
  - It aims **to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country.**
- **Working Structure:** At least one Tele-MANAS Cell in each State/UT.

OTHER STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH

National Mental Health Program (NMHP): To **address the shortage of qualified professionals** in the field of mental health.

Mental HealthCare Act 2017: It **guarantees every affected person access to mental healthcare** and reduces the scope for the use of Section 309 IPC (punishment for attempting to commit suicide).

24/7 Toll free Kiran Helpline to provide **support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.**

Manodarpan: To provide **psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers** for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

- **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) is the nodal centre.**

- **Technical Support:** International Institute of Information Technology-Bengaluru (IIITB), IIT-Bengaluru and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC).
  - A **toll-free, 24/7 helpline number** has been set up with the language of choice for availing services.
- **Integration: Tele-MANAS is also linked with other services** like National tele-consultation service, e-Sanjeevani, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, mental health professionals, Ayushman Bharat health and wellness centres and emergency psychiatric facilities.

Related News

Unique Friendship Benches Initiative

- It was recently inaugurated **by WHO to promote mental health.**
- Under the initiative, 32 friendship benches were installed in prominent locations in Doha representing the 32 countries participating in the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar.
- The project is **part of the Sport for Health partnership**, led by the World Health Organization and Qatar's Ministry of Public Health.
  - Its goal is to **demonstrate the importance of mental health and offer advice** on ways to promote mental well-being, through the importance of physical activity and sport.

World Mental Health Report

- **Released** by: The **WHO**
- **Key findings**
  - **Almost a billion people,** 14% of whom were adolescents, were **living with some form of mental health issues in 2019.**
  - Globally, **71% of psychosis patients don't receive treatment.**
  - **Progress towards Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan (CMHAP) 2013–2030 has been slow.**
- **About CMHAP**
  - Adopted by all the 194 members, **CMHAP aims to promote mental well-being, prevent mental disorders, etc.**
  - **3 key ways to achieve CMHAP**
    - ✓ Reshaping **environments** such as homes, communities, schools, workplaces and health care services
    - ✓ Strengthening the **quality of mental health care** by diversifying it
- Focussed **investment** in mental health

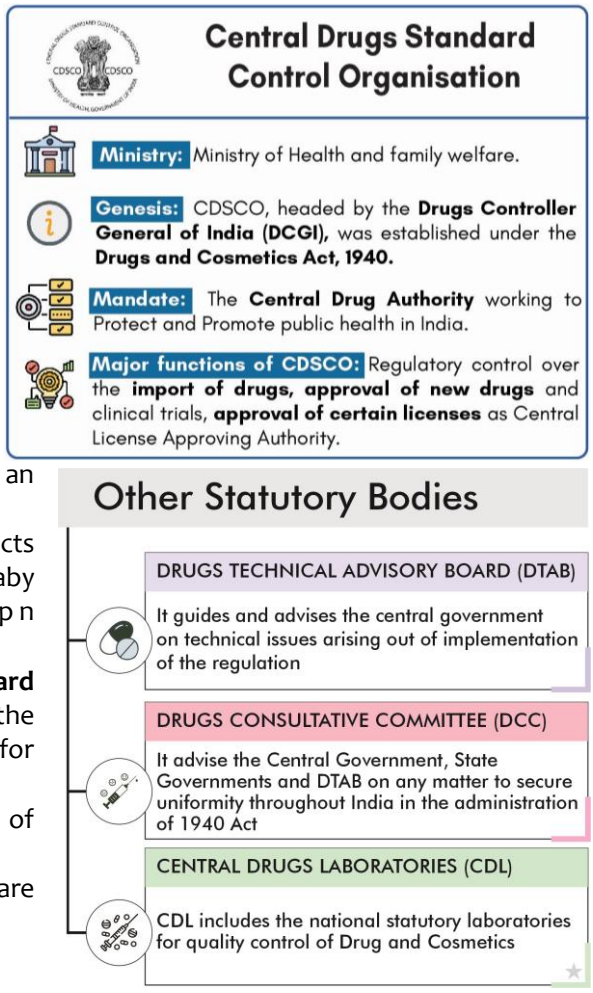
4.7. DRUGS REGULATION ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA

Why in News?

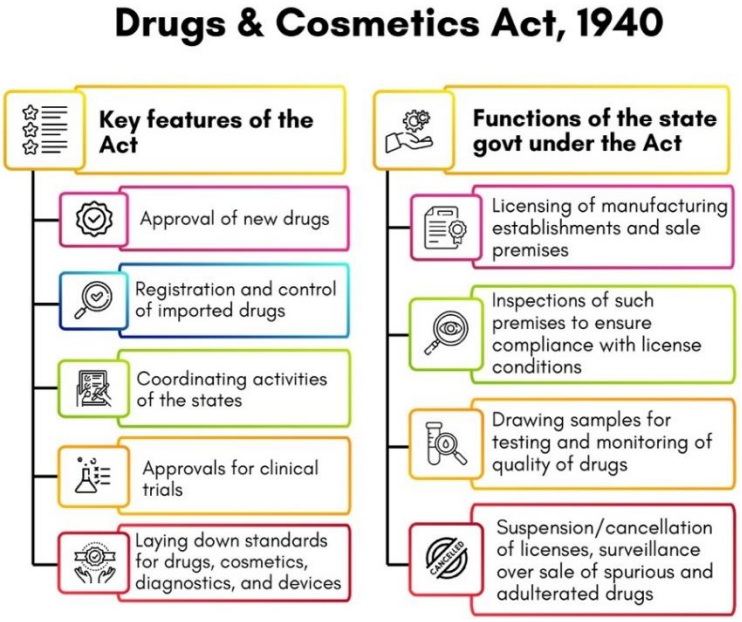
After a **World Health Organization (WHO)** alert on four India-made cough and cold syrups, the Drug Regulation Ecosystem in India has been under scrutiny.

More on News

- These syrups have been 'potentially linked with **acute kidney injuries** and over 66 deaths among children' in **Gambia.**
  - These syrups were manufactured and exported by an **Indian company - Maiden Pharmaceutical Limited.**
  - It **holds export only permission** for these products (Promethazine Oral Solution BP, Kofexnalin Baby Cough Syrup, MaKoff Baby Cough Syrup and MaGrip n Cold Syrup).
- The **preliminary enquiry** from **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has revealed that the manufacturer is licensed by the State Drug Controller for the products under reference.
- The tentative results on syrups have shown presence of **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)/ Ethylene Glycol.**
  - Present as impurities in **propylene glycol,** they are **toxic in nature.**



- In India also, at least **five cases of DEG poisoning** have happened since **1972** including the 2020 incident in Jammu leading to death of 17 children.



About India's Drug Regulation Ecosystem

- The **Indian Drug Regulatory System** originated from the **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940**. It regulates the **import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics**.
- The **1940 act** and **its** corresponding rules allow the **Centre and State** to regulate different aspects of the drugs ecosystem (**see image** on India's regulatory environment).
- The **1940 act** also provides for **other statutory bodies** for various functions (see **image**).
- To strengthen the effectiveness of the regulatory system, a number of committees [**Mashelkar Committee** (2003), **Ranjit Roy Chaudhury Committee** (2014) etc.] have been constituted in the past.

Regulatory environment for health products in India

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Ministry of Commerce	Ministry of Science and Environment Technology	Ministry of Environment
Directorate General of Health services (DGHS) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	Department of Pharmaceuticals	Patent Office	Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	Environmental clearance for manufacturing
Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) headed by Drug Controller General of India, DCGI (I) **+ Statutory Committees** **+ Advisory Committees** **+ State Licensing Authorities**	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA): Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013	Controller General of Patents	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Laboratories	

Good manufacturing practice (GMP)

- It is a system to ensure that products are **consistently produced and controlled** as per **quality standards**.
- It helps in **ensuring therapeutic effect** and **boost pharmaceutical export opportunities** through international organization.
- Currently, around **2,000 manufacturing units** in India are **GMP certified**.

4.8. DRUG TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

Why in news?

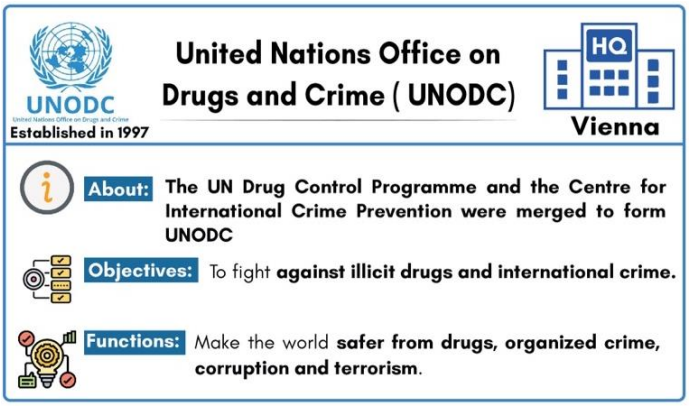
UNODC recently released the World Drug Report 2022.

About the World Drug Report

- Around **284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide** in 2020, a **26% increase** over previous decade.

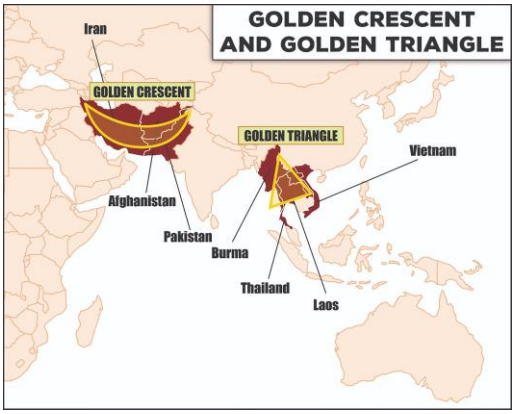
- Though women are in minority in terms of global drug use, the **rate of increase in drug consumption is more rapid in women** than men.

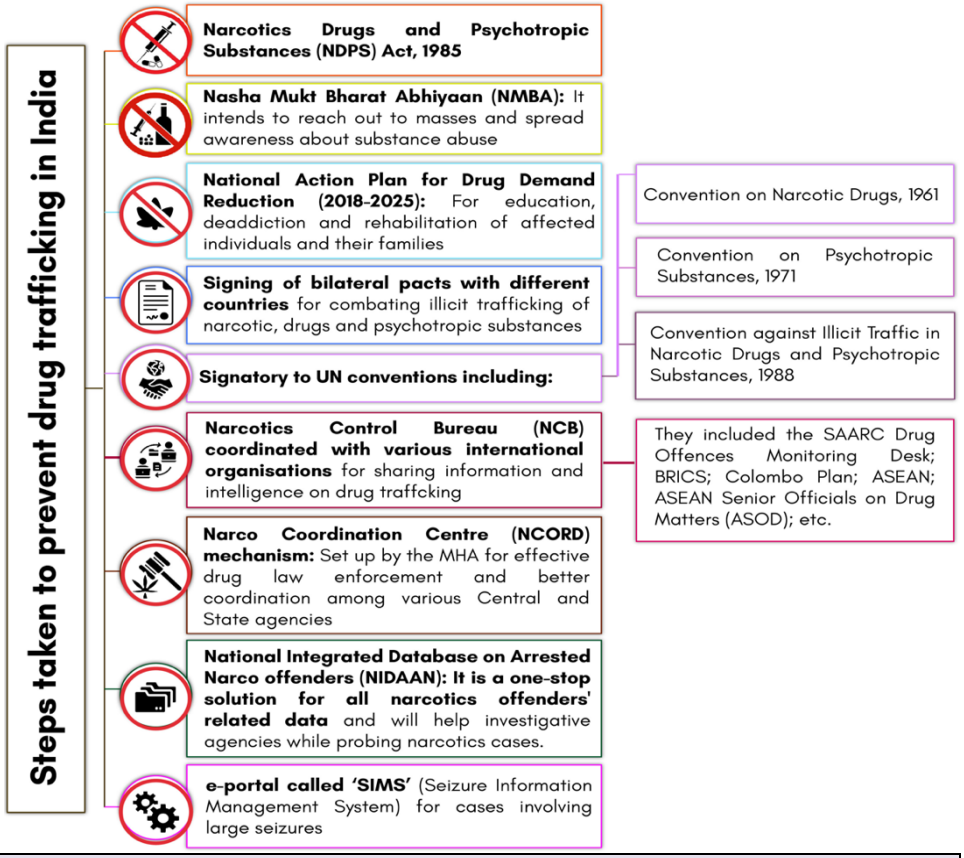
- **Continued growth in drug production and trafficking.**
- As per the report, **India is one of the world's single-largest opiate markets in terms of users** and **likely vulnerable to increased supply.**



About Drug Trafficking in India

- As per the UNODC report, **India is one of the world's single-largest opiate markets in terms of users** and is likely vulnerable to increased supply.
  - **India has become a transit hub as well as a destination** for heroin and hashish produced in **Golden Triangle** (a tri-junction at the Myanmar, Laos and Thailand) **and Golden Crescent** (Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan)**.**
- India also manufactures a lot of **synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals which are smuggled out of the country.**
- As per the UNODC 2020 report, **India is also among the countries with highest illicit cultivation and production of cannabis** from 2010 to 2017.
- Within India, the **worst affected regions** are North East India (especially Manipur) and North West India (especially Punjab) followed by Mumbai and Delhi and now Haryana.
- **India's proximity to the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle** (the major opium production regions in the world) has made India a hub of drug trafficking.





Related News

Centre raised thresholds for prosecutions, arrests under Customs Act, 1962.

Key changes in the Act

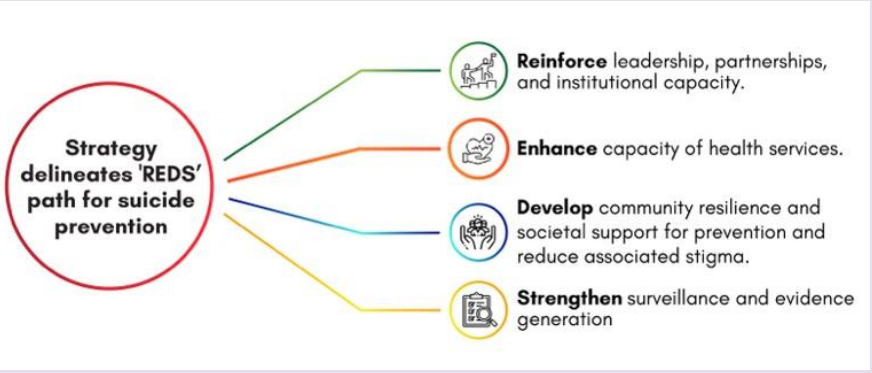
- **Thresholds for prosecutions and arrests** under the Customs Act has been raised from ₹20 lakh **to ₹50 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports** of goods in baggage.
- **For commercial fraud**, threshold has been **increased from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore.**
- However, **thresholds will not apply for offences relating to** fake currency notes, arms, ammunitions and explosives, antiques, art treasures, wildlife items and endangered species of flora and fauna.

4.9. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Global Status Report on Physical Activity 2022	**Released by: The World Health Organization (WHO)**
	• Measures the extent to which **governments are implementing recommendations to increase physical activity across all ages and abilities.**
	• **Key Findings**
	  ○ **Less than 50% of countries have a national physical activity policy,** of which less than 40% are operational
	  ○ **only just over 40% of countries have road design standards** that make walking and cycling safer.
	• **Recommendations:** Countries should prioritize physical activity as **key to improving health and tackling NCDs**, integrate physical activity into all relevant policies, and develop tools, guidance and training to improve implementation.

Notified Disease	• In its 139th report, the Parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare suggested that **Cancer be classified a notifiable disease to tackle its under-reporting**. • A **notifiable disease** is **any disease** that is **required by law to be reported** to government authorities. • It becomes **legally binding** (failure amount to a criminal offense) for a **medical practitioner** or **its institutes to report cases** of the disease **to the government**. • **Examples** of notified diseases: Cholera, diphtheria, encephalitis, leprosy, meningitis, pertussis, plague, tuberculosis, AIDS, malaria, dengue, etc.

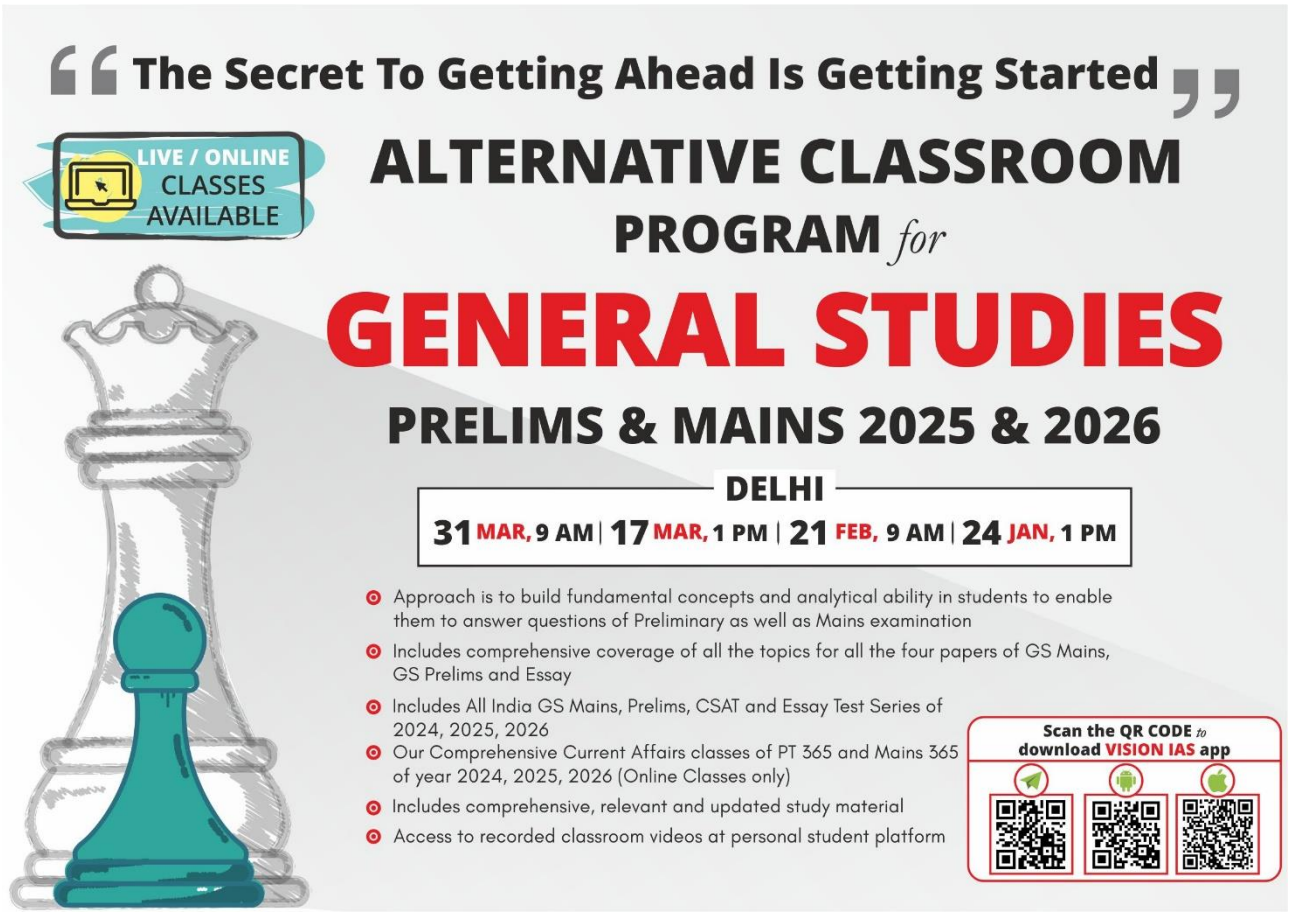
National Suicide Prevention Strategy	• **Launched by:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
	• **In line with WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy** for suicide prevention, strategy
	• Calls for **time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations** to achieve **reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030** (from 2020 level).
	  ○ **Around 1.6 lakh suicides were reported** in India during 2021 showing an increase of 7.2% in comparison to 2020.
	  ○ **Family Problems and illness** were the major causes of suicides.



	• **Initiatives taken for suicide prevention:** National Mental Health Policy, Mental Healthcare Act, National Mental Health Program etc.

Paalan 1000	• Government launches **Paalan 1000 campaign** and parenting app to focus on child health.
	• The **'Paalan 1000 - Journey of the First 1000 Days'**, focuses on the cognitive developments of children in the first 2 years of its life.
	  ○ The first 1000 days establish a **solid platform for a child's physical, mental, emotional, cognitive and social health.**
	  ○ The app will **provide caregiver with practical advice** on what they can do in their everyday routine.

ABHA for new-borns	• **National Health Authority** is developing a mechanism under which **parents can generate Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers,** known as health IDs**, for their new-borns and young children.**
	  ○ Currently, **only individuals above 18 years of age are entitled** to enrol for ABHA cards (under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission).
	• ABHA number will **enable parents to upload all personal health records from birth,** as well as all **healthcare benefits availed**, ranging from public health programmes to insurance schemes.
	  ○ This will allow parents to **track their children's health records.**

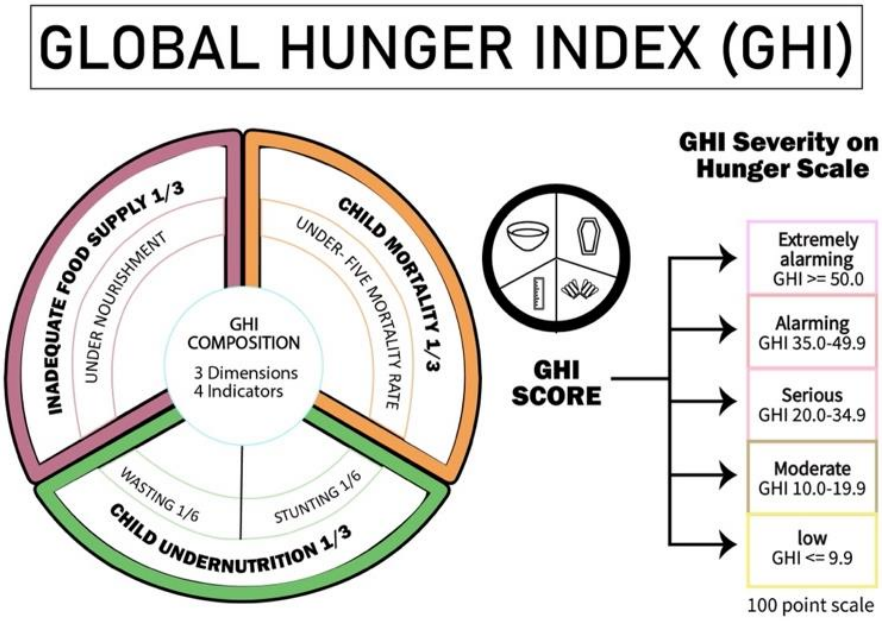


5. NUTRITION AND SANITATION

5.1. NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN INDIA

Why in News?

India has **slipped to 107th position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 of 121 countries**, from its 101st position in 2021.



About the Global Hunger Index

- Annually published by **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.**
- It was first **introduced in 2006.** The 2022 edition **marks the 17th edition of the GHI.**

Status of Nutritional Security in India

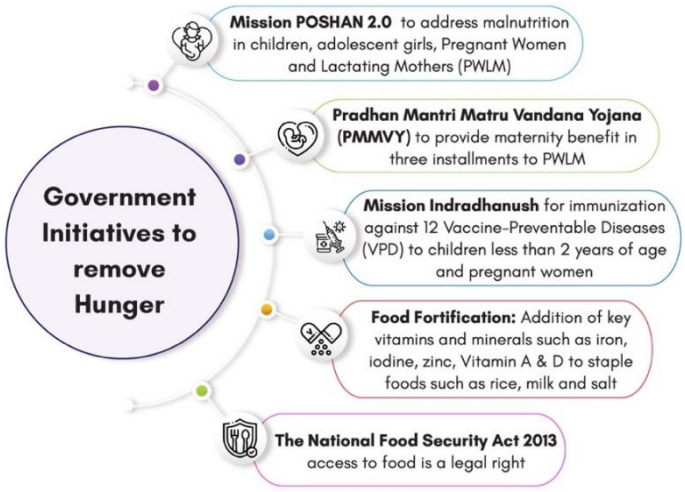
- **Index Score**: With a score of 29.1, the GHI finds the **level of hunger in India "serious".**
  - India's GHI score has decreased from alarming (in 2000) to serious (in 2022).
- **Child wasting:** The index says **child wasting** indicating undernourishment in the country is 19.3%, **the highest in the world.**
- **Undernourishment:** India's proportion **of undernourished in the population is considered to be at a medium level**, and its under-five child **mortality rate is considered low**.
- **Child stunting**: There has been a **"significant decrease"** from 54.2% in 1998-1999 to 35.5% in 2019-2021, although it is still **"considered very high".**
- **Comparison: India's neighbours** such as Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84), Pakistan (99) and Sri Lanka (64) have **got higher rankings in GHI.**

Government of India Stand

- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development** said that index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues.
- **The methodology used is unscientific**. Government has highlighted that their assessment is on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll, was conducted telephonically and is unreliable.
- **Estimate of Proportion of Undernourished (PoU),** population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3000 based on "Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)" Survey Module.

Status of Nutritional Security in the world

- **Stagnation in hunger reduction:** The 2022 GHI score for the world is 18.2, considered moderate, down slightly from the 2014 score of 19.1.
- **Violent conflict:** According to the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises, conflict/insecurity was the main driver of acute food insecurity in 2021.
- **Africa South of the Sahara and South Asia are the regions** with the highest hunger levels and are most vulnerable to future shocks and crises.
- **The COVID-19 pandemic** has worsened the economic plight of low- and middle-income countries, slowing economic growth, driving up prices for goods and services, and increasing projected global poverty rates.
- **Climate change** is putting stress on agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture, increasingly impeding efforts to meet human needs.



5.1.1. THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD (SOFI) REPORT, 2022

Why in news?

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the world report 2022 was released recently.

More on News

- It is a **joint publication** by Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, UN World Food Programme and WHO.
- **Key findings**
  - World is **moving in reverse, away from the Sustainable Development Goal** of ending hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition in all its forms, by 2030.
  - **Major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition:** conflict, climate extremes and economic shocks, combined with growing inequalities.
- **India related findings**
  - **Undernourishment** in total population: 16.3%.
  - **Wasting in children** (under 5 years of age): 17.3%
  - **Stunting in children** (under 5 years of age): 30.9%
  - **Exclusively breastfeeding among infants:** 58%

5.2. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA), 2013

Why in news?

The Centre has launched **'PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)'** to provide **free of cost food grains for a year** under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

More on news

- Under the newly launched PMGKAY, **rice, wheat and coarse grains shall be provided free of cost** for **all**

Mechanism for Procurement of food grain: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution implemented two types of procurement policy

- **Centralised procurement:** Procurement of food grains is undertaken by FCI directly/indirectly for storage and subsequent issue.
  - Difference between **Economic Cost and Central Issue Price (CIP),** at which food grains are issued to States, is **reimbursed to FCI as food subsidy.**
- **Decentralized procurement (DCP):** Under this scheme, the **State Government itself undertakes direct purchase** of paddy/rice and wheat and also stores and **distributes** these food grains under NFSA and other welfare schemes.

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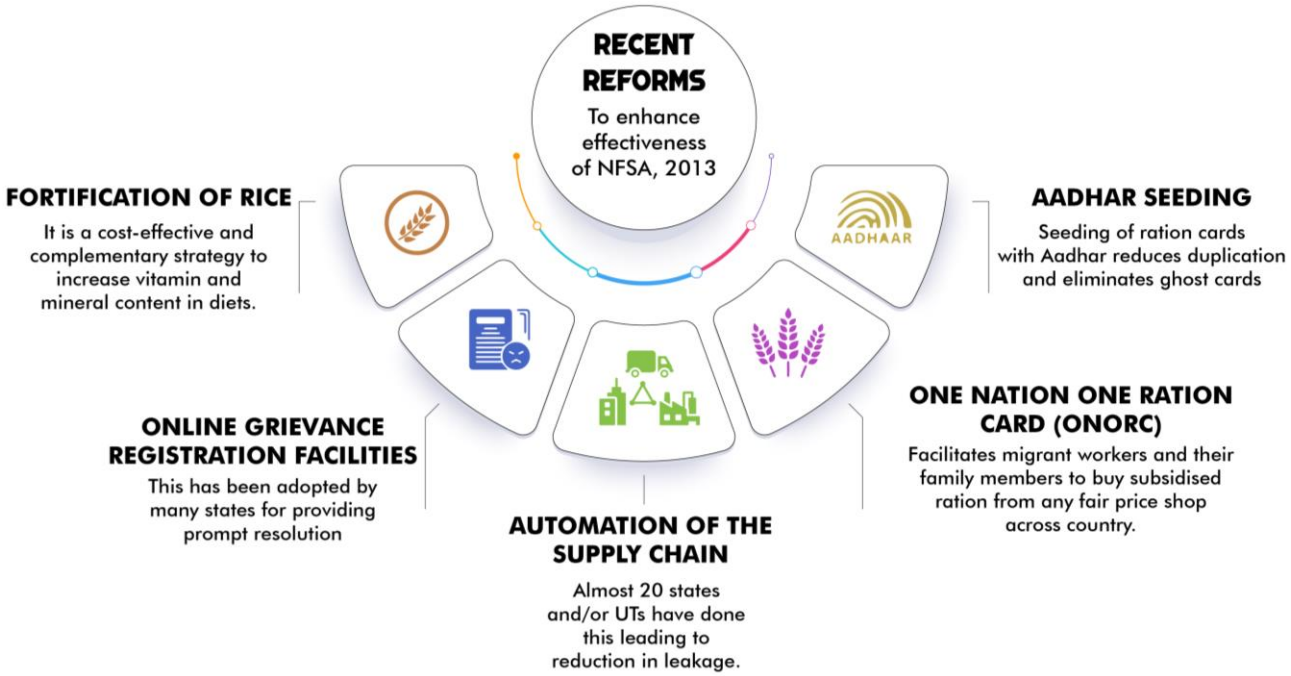
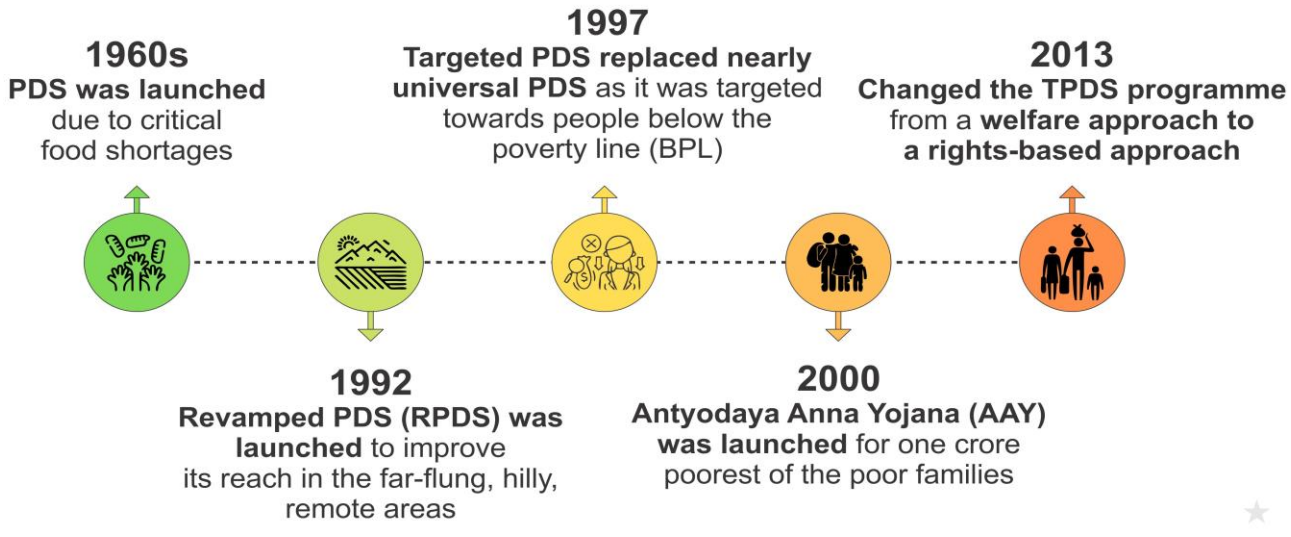
eligible households (both Primary HouseHolds and Antodaya Anna Yojana) under section 3 of the NFSA **from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.**

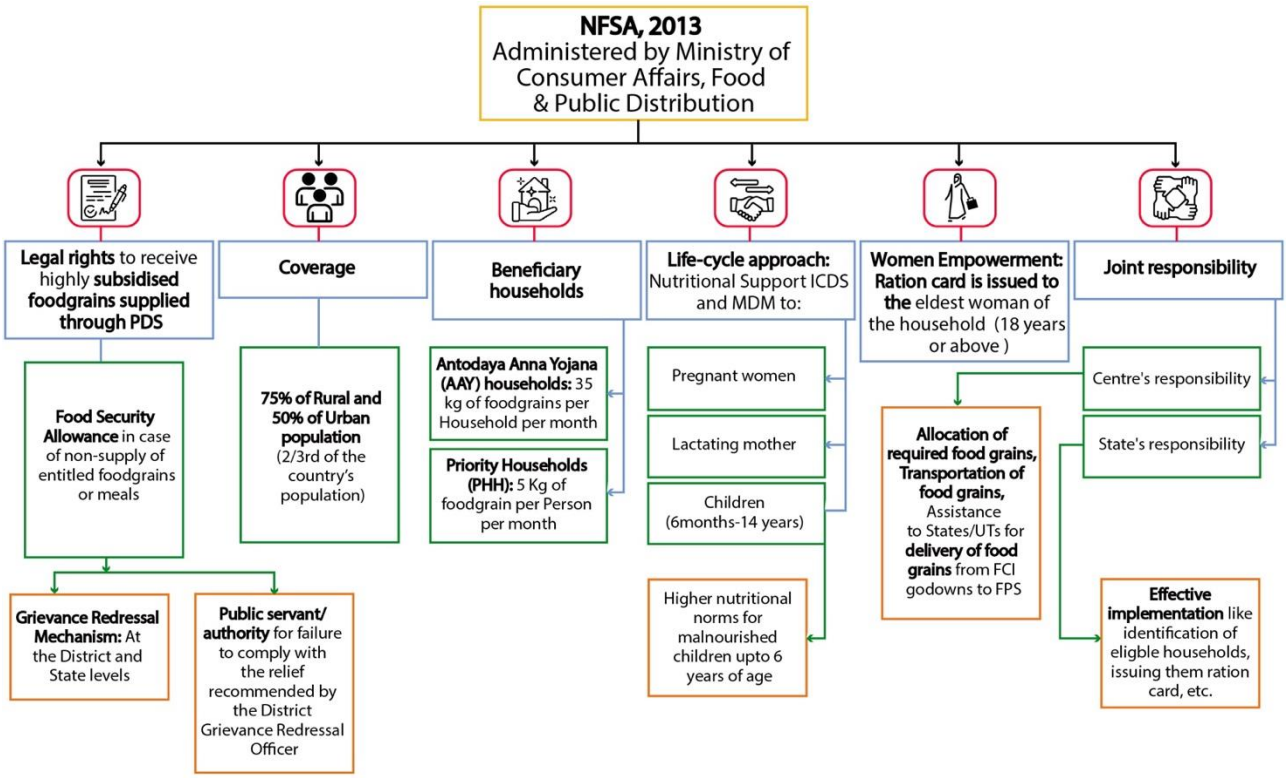
- Until now beneficiaries were paying the subsidised price called **Central Issue Price (CIP) worth Rs.1, Rs.2 and Rs.3 for Coarse-grains, wheat and rice respectively.**
- The **subsidised prices** are specified in Schedule-1 of the NFSA 2013, which the **government can change by executive order.**



- The PMGKAY is **subsuming two subsidy schemes (refer box)**
  - Food **Subsidy to Food Corporation of India** (FCI).
  - Food **Subsidy for Decentralized Procurement** (DCP).
- However, there will be **no changes in the issue prices of food grains supplied to States for other welfare** programmes like mid-day meals (MDMs).
- It should also be noted that this newly launched PMGKAY is **different form the PMGKAY** that was **launched** in 2020 as a **pandemic relief measure.**
  - In 2020 the PM GKAY was launched to provide **5 kg of free food grains to NFSA beneficiaries** in **addition to their monthly entitlement** (35 kg to a Antyodaya household and 5kg per person in a Priority Household) **of subsidized food grains** under the NFSA Act.
  - Now, **this scheme has been discontinued.**

EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (PDS) IN INDIA





Related news

State Ranking Index (SRI) for implementation of NFSA, 2013

- The ranking was released by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.**
- **Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh** secured the top three positions in the Index.
- **Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim** obtained the top positions among the special category states (north-eastern, Himalayan, and Island states).

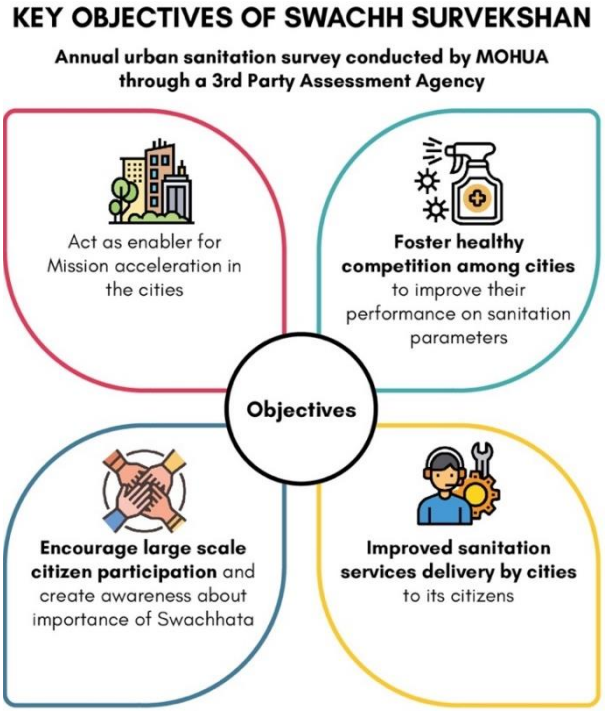
5.3. SWACHH SURVEKSHAN (SS) 2023

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the **8th edition of SS survey 2023** with the **theme of 'Waste to Wealth'**.

More on news

It is aligned with Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 commitment to **promote circularity in waste management** and focuses on the **vision of 'garbage free' cities**.



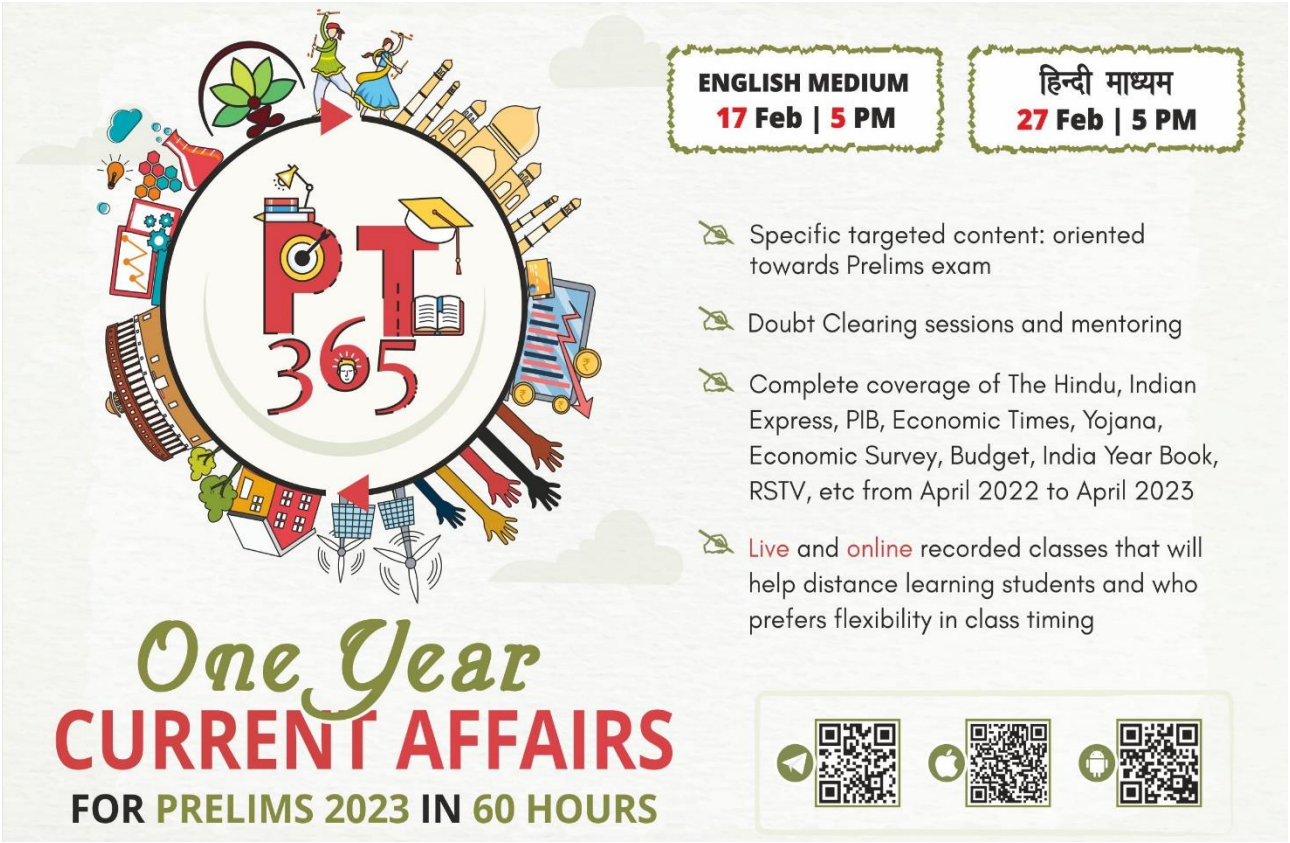
- **About SS-2023**
  - SS, **introduced by MoHUA in 2016**, is the world's largest **annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in villages, cities and towns** across India.
  - Evaluation for **SS-23 is based on 3 components:**
    - ✓ **Service Level Progress** -covers Segregated collection, Processing, and disposal, Used water management, and Safaimitra Suraksha.
    - ✓ **Certification** - for Garbage Free City star rating and ODF/ODF+/ODF++/water + certification.
    - ✓ **Citizens' voice** -through feedback, grievance redressal, engagement, etc.
  - Additional weightage has been given to **source segregation of waste, enhancement of waste processing capacity of cities** and **reduction of waste going to dumpsites.**

- **Ranking of Wards within cities** is being promoted through SS 2023.
- Assessment of cities will be on dedicated indicators on issues of **'open urination' (Yellow Spots) and 'open spitting' (Red Spots),** being faced by cities.

- SBM-U 2.0, launched in 2021, focus on **source segregation of solid waste, ensures grey and black water (used water) management** in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT.

5.4. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Hunger Hotspots Report	• **Released by: Food and Agriculture Organization** and **World Food Programme.** • **Key highlights** ○ Key hunger hotspots include, **Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, countries in Horn of Africa etc.** ○ **345 million people in 82 countries**/territories are facing **Acute Food Insecurity.** ○ **Key Drivers and Aggravating Factors:** Conflict/insecurity, Displacement, Dry Conditions, Economic Shocks, Flood, Political Instability/unrest and Tropical cyclone.
Progress on WASH in Health care Facilities, 2000–2021 Report	• **Released by: WHO and UNICEF** • It **focuses on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and infection prevention and control (IPC).** • **Key Findings** ○ Half of world's healthcare facilities **lack basic hygiene services, nearly 4 billion people at risk.** ○ **Lack of potential infection prevention in health facility** impacts pregnant mothers, new-borns and children health. ○ **Unhygienic health care facility influences disease transmission** and emergence of antibiotic resistance.
Initiatives by the Ministry of Jal Shakti	• **"Retrofit to Twin Pit Abhiyan"** for promoting twin pit toilets in households towards improved faecal sludge management. • **'Swachh Jal Se Suraksha':** to create awareness on the importance of clean and safe drinking water and also help to monitor the quality of water supplied in rural households. • **Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG)** toolkit for **SSG 2023:** Toolkit comprises **information on various stages of assessment**, baseline rankings of the Panchayats and Districts based on their ODF Plus progress. ○ **SSG** is being conducted by **Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti since 2018.** ○ It **ranks the States and Districts** on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).**



6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1. 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).

Social Security in India

- **Legal standing:** Part of **Directive Principles of the State Policy** such as **Article 41 (Right to Work), 42(Provisions for Just and Humane work and maternity relief)** and **47 (Duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition).**

- **Centre and State's Responsibility**: 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.

Recent Government Initiatives

- **Code on Social Security, 2020:** It consolidates **nine central labour legislations** on social security to extend social security to all employees and workers (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.
- **New Social Protection Schemes** such as
  - **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.

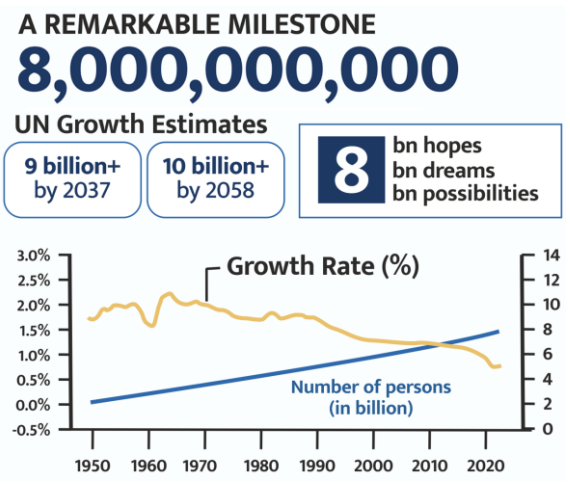
6.2. WORLD POPULATION GROWTH

Why in news?

The world's population, recently, reached 8 billion according to estimates from the **United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA).**

Trends in World population growth

- **Temporal disparity:** Much of the **world's population growth has come in the last century** as **better living standards and health advancements** extended life expectancy.



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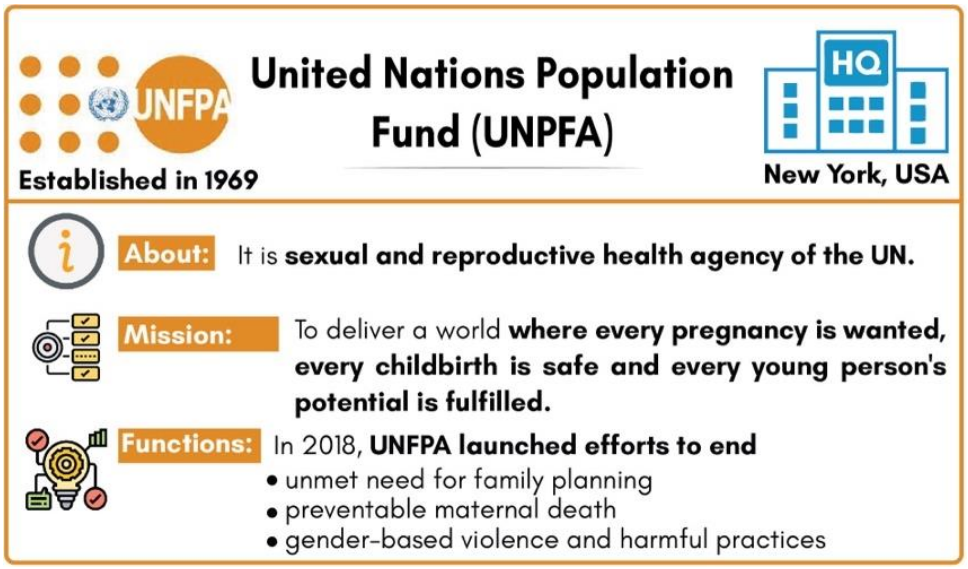
- While the human population reached the first one billion in **hundreds of thousands of years**, it reached from 7 billion to 8 billion just since 2010.

- **Spatial disparity:**
  - **Declining population growth in developed countries:** Population growth slowdown is largely driven by wealthy countries particularly on account of burden of raising a child and falling marriage rates.
  - **Rising population in low income countries (LICs):** They would drive much of the population growth with just eight countries accounting for the majority of a projected increase until 2050.
    - ✓ These countries are the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines** and the **United Republic of Tanzania.**

- **India's Population: By 2050, India** would become the **most populous** country **surpassing China.**
- **Average life expectancy:** Global life expectancy soared from 34 years in 1913 to 72 years in 2022 and is expected to continue on that long-term trajectory.
- **Slow growth rate:** The global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950 and has fallen under 1% in 2020.
  - It took the global population 12 years to grow from 7 to 8 billion, but will reach 9 billion in about 15 years, in 2037.



6.3. CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2021

Why in news?

Recently, the **Crime in India, 2021,** annual report of NCRB was released.

Key findings of the report

Specifications	Detail	Trend
Overall crime	★ **Decline of 7.6% in registration of cases** in 2021 over 2020. ★ **Crime rate per lakh population declined** from 487.8 in 2020 to **445.9** in 2021.	↓
Crimes Against Women	★ **15.3% increase** in 2021 from 2020, with the **rate of crime (per lakh women population) 64.5** in comparison with 56.5 in 2020. ★ Sexual harassment against women in **workplace and public transport increased by 4.3%**	↑
Crime against Children	★ A **rise of over 16.2 percent** in 2021 from 2020.	↑
Crime against Senior Citizens	★ **Increase of 5.3% in registration** over 2020 during 2021.	↑
Crime against SCs and STs	★ **For Scheduled Castes (SCs),** an **increase of 1.2%** in 2021 from 2020. For **Scheduled Tribes (STs),** an **increase of 6.4% was recorded.**	↑
Economic offences	★ **Rose 19.4%** in 2021.	↑
Cyber Crimes	★ India registered an **increase of 5.9%** from 2020. ★ **Telangana followed by Uttar Pradesh,** Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Assam account for more than 70% of cybercrime incidents. ★ **Average rate of cybercrime incidents** (per lakh population) in country **was recorded at 3.9.**	↑
Human Trafficking	★ **27.7% hike** recorded in human trafficking incidents.	↑
Environment Related Offences	★ **Increase of 4.4%** over 2020. ★ Maximum cases were registered under **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003**, followed by Forest Conservation Act, 1927 and Noise Pollution Acts (States/Central).	↑

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राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो
NATIONAL CRIME RECORD BEREAU
Empowering Indian Police with Information Technology

Ministry: Ministry of Home affairs.

Genesis: Established in 1986 as a **repository of information on crime and criminals** on the recommendations of the **Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).**

Mandate:

- To compile and keep records of data on crime,
- Monitoring, coordinating and implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems **(CCTNS)**
- Maintains **Counterfeit Currency Information and Management System (FICN)** and **Integrated Monitoring on Terrorism (iMoT) applications.**

Publishes four major annual reports

- **Crime in India**
- **Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India**
- **Prison Statistics India**
- **Fingerprint n India**

Key digital tools :

- **National Digital Police Portal'** which caters both to the citizens as well as to the police personnel.
- **Cri-MAC** (Crime - Multi Agency Centre) for sharing of information on Crime / Criminals

Related news

Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India Report 2021

- The report was released by the NCRB.
  - India saw **120 deaths per million population in 2021** the highest level ever recorded.
  - The report highlights the **toll the pandemic** appears to have taken on the **emotional well-being of Indians.**
  - This report provides **age-group-wise and sex-wise details of** accidental deaths, traffic accidents and suicides including **farmer's suicides** which is a crucial matter in India.

6.4. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Action Agenda on Internal Displacement

- **Launched by:** United Nation (UN) Secretary-General
- Action Agenda **sets out commitments by UN system to** better resolve, prevent and **address internal displacement crises.**
- **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.**

KNOW THE TERM

- **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.**

National Air Sports Policy (NASP) 2022	• **Launched by:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) • **Aim:** Providing a safe, affordable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in the country. • **Vision:** To **include India among the top air sporting nations by 2030**. • Covers **11 different air sports** and provides a **four-tier governance structure.** • **Air Sports Federation of India** an **autonomous body under MCA will be** the **apex governing body.** o It represents **India at FédérationAéronautiqueInternationale (FAI), headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland** and other global platforms related to air sports. o FAI is world governing body for air sports.
Advanced Knowledge and Rural Technology Implementation (AKRUTI) Programme	• Offered by **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).** • **Promotes youth entrepreneurship** in and around Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP). • **Services offered** Technologies/ Consultancy in fields of Biodegradable Waste Processing, Water, Food, and Agriculture. • Awareness about services under AKRUT **through Rural Technology Implementation Kendras (KRUTIK)**
e-Detailed Action Report (e-DAR) Portal	• It is a **web portal** from the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in consultation with insurance companies for **integrated data** and instant **information on road accidents**. • The portal will bring relief to victims' families, check fake claims etc. through **Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR).** • It will be linked with **Vahaan** and the **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)**- to act as an e-version of IRAD. • Also, it will **alert PWD/Local Body** to examine and record details, helping in identifying the **accident hotspots** for necessary solutions to avoid future accidents.
Habitus	• The term was popularised by **French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu** in his book **Outline of a Theory of Practice** (1977). • Habitus refers to a **collective entity by and into which dominant social and cultural conditions of a society are established and reproduced**. • It explains how **inequality is reproduced through the dominant social and cultural conditions** that an individual is accustomed to, which then **determines their position in society.** o What one considers, **'natural', 'taboo', 'neutral' and 'good' or 'bad' is constructed by one's habitus.** • It helps **instill a sense of the world in individuals** by attributing cultural value to material or immaterial objects.
Important reports	
State of World Population 2022, report	• **Released by:** United Nations Population Fund • **Key findings of report** o Over **60% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion** and 45% of abortions are unsafe, causing 5% to 13% of maternal deaths. • **13%** of women in developing countries begin **childbearing** before they turn 18.
Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2022	• **Launched by: UN Women and UNDESA** • **Key findings** o **World is not on track** to achieve gender equality by 2030. o **380 million** women and girls live in **extreme poverty.** o **Nearly 1 in 3** women face **food insecurity.** o **Unsafe abortion** is a leading but preventable cause of maternal mortality. o In India, in a **quarter of rural households' women and girls** devote more than 50 minutes per day to collecting water.
'Cities Alive: Designing Cities that Work for Women' Report	• **Released by:** United Nations Development Programme. • Report stresses the need to **directly engage women in decision-making processes,** across all aspects **of urban planning and development.** • They currently face safety, security, health and hygiene related issues with respect to the current orientation of urban infrastructure.
Global Gender Gap (GGG) Report, 2022	• **Released by: World Economic Forum.** • The GGG index **benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions** (refer infographic)**.** o The GGG index **provides scores between 0 and 1, where 1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.**

 © Vision IAS

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Key findings

In 2022, the global gender gap has been closed by 68.1% (slight improvement from 2021).
At the current rate of progress, it will take 132 years to reach full parity.

India's Report Card
<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Index/sub-index</th><th colspan="2">2022 (146 countries)</th><th colspan="2">2021 (156 countries)</th></tr>
<tr><th>Rank</th><th>Score</th><th>Rank</th><th>Score</th></tr>
<tr><td>Global Gender Gap Index</td><td>135</td><td>0.629</td><td>140</td><td>0.625</td></tr>
<tr><td>Political empowerment</td><td>48</td><td>0.267</td><td>51</td><td>0.276</td></tr>
<tr><td>Economic participation & opportunity</td><td>143</td><td>0.350</td><td>151</td><td>0.326</td></tr>
<tr><td>Educational attainment</td><td>107</td><td>0.961</td><td>114</td><td>0.962</td></tr>
<tr><td>Health and survival</td><td>146</td><td>0.937</td><td>155</td><td>0.937</td></tr>
</table>
Source: World Economic Forum

Although no country has yet achieved full gender parity, the top 10 economies have closed at least 80% of their gender gaps.

India related findings

India was the worst performer in the world in the “health and survival” sub-index, where it is ranked 146.
India recorded a declining score on political empowerment due to diminishing share of years women served as head of the state.

India also ranks poorly among its neighbors and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).

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<td>Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, 2021 Report</td>
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Released by: International Labour Organization (ILO).
Modern slavery, as defined in the report, is comprised of two principal components – forced labour and forced marriage.
Both refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence, deception, abuse of power etc.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Established in 1919. HQ Geneva, Switzerland
About: Only tripartite U.N. agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of member countries together.
Members: 187 Member States
Objective: Promote standards and fundamental principles and rights at work, create greater opportunities for income and enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
Function: To set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
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<td>Migration in India 2020-2021’ Report</td>
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Released by: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Key findings

All-India migration rate was 28.9%, with 26.5% and 34.9% migration rate in rural and urban areas respectively.
Females recorded a higher share of migration rate as compared to males.
Among females, the highest level of migration rate was seen at 86.8% for marriage.
Reverse migration during the pandemic led to higher rates of unemployment agglomeration in rural areas, which caused rural distress.

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<td>Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021</td>
<td>

Released by: UNHCR
Provides data on

Refugees
Asylum seekers
Internally displaced
Stateless persons
People who have returned to their countries or areas of origin

Key findings: By the end of 2021

Globally, 89.3 million people were forcibly displaced.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UNHCR Established in 1950 HQ Geneva, Switzerland
Objectives:
Saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.
Functions:
To ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war or disaster at home.
India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection frame-work.
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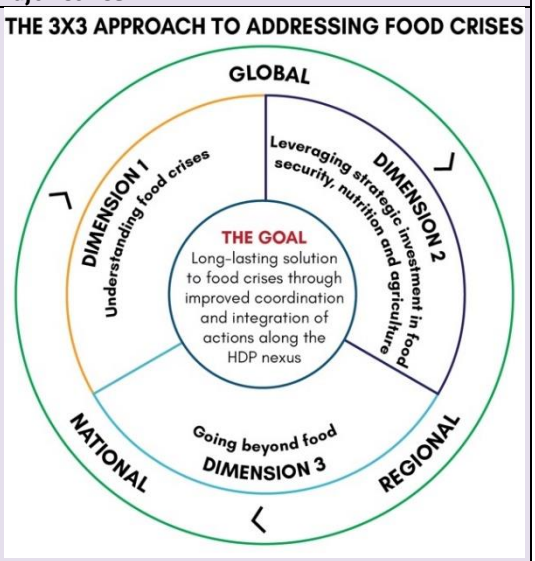
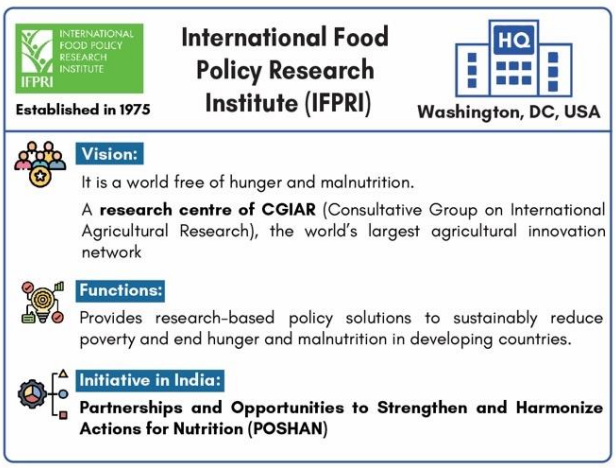
	○ **Nearly 5 million people in India were internally displaced** due **to climate change and disasters** ○ **US was the world's largest recipient** of new individual applications followed by Germany. ○ **69% of all refugees** came from just **five countries:** Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar. ○ **Children** account for 30% of the world's population out of **41% forcibly displaced people.**
The State of Inequality in India Report	• **Released by:** The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).** • **Prepared by Institute for Competitiveness.** • Gives a holistic analysis of **depth and nature of inequality** in India based on inequities in **health, education, household characteristics, income distribution** and **labour market dynamics.** • **Key findings** ○ An Indian earning **a monthly wage of ₹25,000 is among top 10% of earners** in the country. ○ **Top 1% accounts for 6-7% of total incomes earned** while **top 10% accounts** for **one-third of all incomes earned.** ○ **Failure of trickle-down approach** as incomes of the **top 1% earners grew 15% during 2017-18 to 2019-2020** while that of the **bottom 10% declined 1%.** ○ **Employment (2019-20):** Self-employed workers (45.78%), regular salaried workers (33.5%) and casual workers (20.71%). ○ **Nutritional Deprivation** still remains **a major concern.**
Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC, 2022)	**Released by: Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)** • **Key findings** ○ Close to **193 million people were found acutely food insecure in 2021 across 53 countries/territories,** an increase of 40 million people from previous year. ✓ The United Nations defines **"acute food insecurity"** as when a **person's inability to consume adequate food** puts their lives or livelihoods in immediate danger. ✓ It is hunger that can lead to **famine and widespread death.** • **Three main drivers** for food insecurity are **conflict, climate change and economic crises.** • Acute food insecurity is **expected to deteriorate further** due to war in Ukraine. • **Recommendation** ○ Need for **greater prioritisation of smallholder agriculture** as a frontline humanitarian response, to overcome access constraints. ○ Achieve food security and improved nutrition using a **3x3 approach.** • **About GNAFC:** GNAFC was founded by the **European Union, FAO and World Food Programme (WFP)** at 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to **prevent, prepare for, and respond to food crises** and **support Sustainable Development Goal to End Hunger (SDG 2).**
Global Food Policy Report 2022 on climate change and food system	• **Released by:** IFPR • Report highlights a **range of evidence-based policies and innovations** that should be prioritized and implemented now to tackle adaptation and mitigation in our food systems. • **Key findings of report** ○ By 2030, India's **food production could drop 16%** and the number of **those at risk for hunger could increase 23%.**





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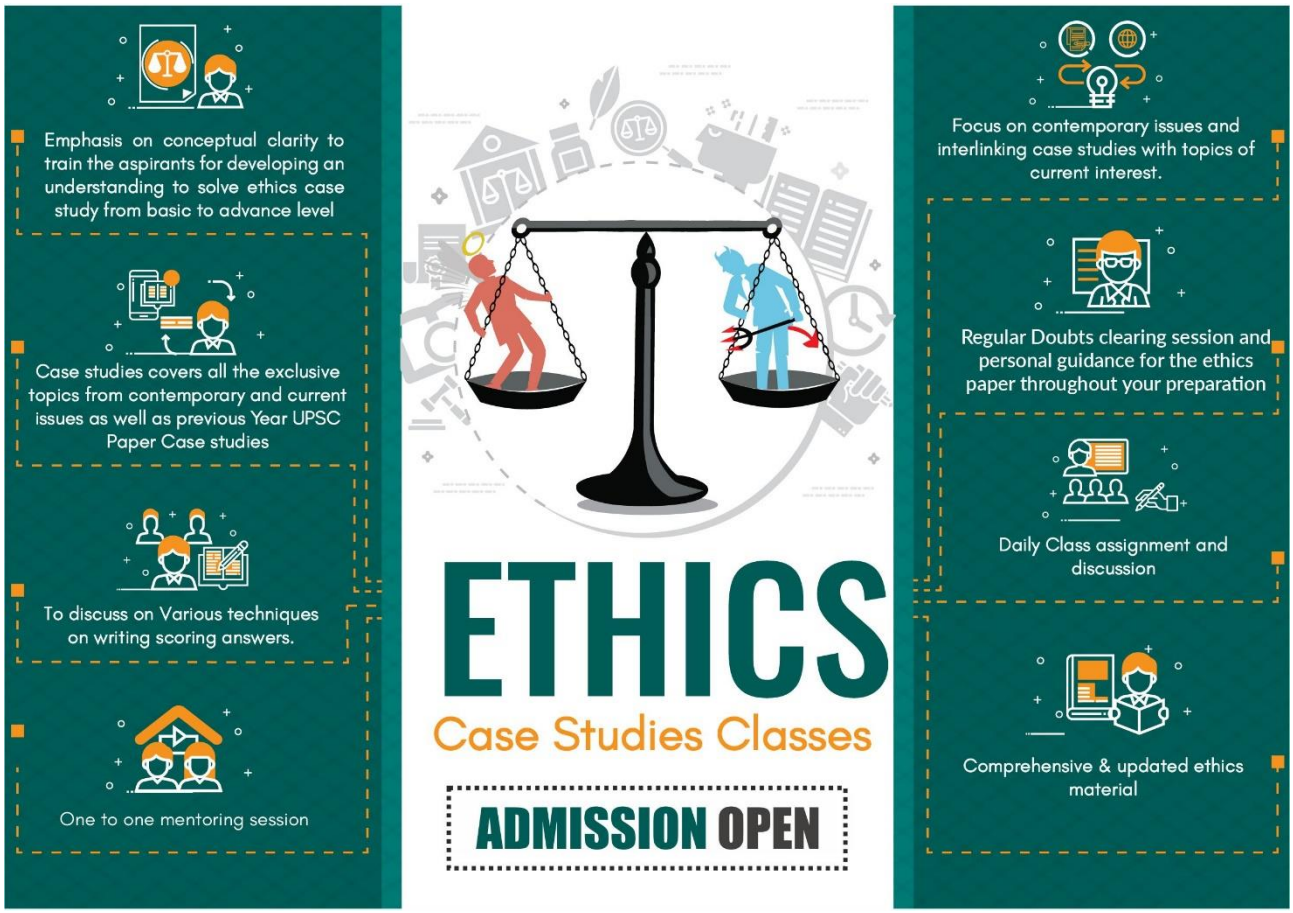
	○ **Global food production will grow by about 60% over 2010 levels by 2050** in context of climate change. ○ Globally, about **70 million more people will be at risk from hunger**, including more than 28 million in East and Southern Africa. ○ **Meat production** is projected to **double in South Asia and West and Central Africa by 2030** and **triple by 2050**. • **NOTE:** CGIAR **is a global partnership established in 1971 as a unified international organization engaged in research for a food-secured future.**



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8 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2021

from various programs of VisionIAS

2 AIR — ANKITA AGARWAL

3 AIR — GAMINI SINGLA

4 AIR — AISHWARYA VERMA

5 AIR — UTKARSH DWIVEDI

6 AIR — YAKSH CHAUDHARY

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020

1 AIR — SHUBHAM KUMAR

7 AIR — SAMYAK S JAIN

8 AIR — ISHITA RATHI

9 AIR — PREETAM KUMAR

YOU CAN BE NEXT

ABHYAAS 2023

ALL INDIA PRELIMS

(GS+CSAT)

MOCK TEST SERIES

3 TEST

TEST-1	TEST-2	TEST-3
2 APRIL	23 APRIL	7 MAY

- All India Ranking
- Comprehensive Evaluation, Feedback & Corrective Measures
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