



# SOCIAL ISSUES

**Classroom Study Material**

(May 2021 to January 2022)



DELHI



LUCKNOW



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# SOCIAL ISSUES

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**Note:**

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:

1. Different colours have been used in the document for easy classification and recollection of a variety of information.
2. QR based Smart quiz has been added to test the aspirant's learnings and understanding.
3. Infographics have been added to ease understanding, provide for smoother learning experience and ensure enhanced retention of the content.

 <b>SMART QUIZ</b>	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. LAWS RELATED TO PROTECTION OF WOMEN

### 1.1.1. THE MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

#### Why in News?

Recently, the Centre notified the 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) (Amendment) Rules, 2021'.

#### About MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021

- The Act seeks to amend Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 to regulate the conditions under which a pregnancy may be aborted and **increases the time period within which abortion may be carried out**.
- The Act provides to set up **state level Medical Boards** to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial fetal abnormalities.

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

Features	MTP Act, 1971	MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021
Time upto 12 weeks since conception	• Advice of <b>one doctor</b>	• Advice of <b>one doctor</b>
Time 12 to 20 weeks since conception	• Advice of <b>two doctors</b>	• Advice of <b>one doctor</b>
Time 20 to 24 weeks since conception	• <b>Not allowed</b>	• <b>Two doctors</b> for some categories of pregnant women
Time more than 24 weeks since conception	• <b>Not allowed</b>	• <b>Medical Board</b> in case of substantial foetal abnormality
Any time during the pregnancy	• <b>One doctor</b> , if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life, <b>opinion formed in good faith</b> .	
Termination due to failure of contraceptive method or device	• Pregnancy may be terminated <b>up to 20 weeks by a married woman</b>	• <b>Any women (irrespective of marital status)</b> can get their pregnancy terminated up to 20 weeks.
Medical Boards	• No such provision, <b>only registered medical practitioners can decide</b> upon termination of pregnancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medical Board will decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks</b> due to substantial foetal abnormalities.</li> <li>• All state and union territory governments will constitute a Medical Board consisting of a <b>gynaecologist, paediatrician, radiologist/sonologist</b>, and <b>other members notified by the state government</b>.</li> </ul>
Privacy and punishment	• Any person who wilfully contravenes or wilfully fails to comply with the requirements of any regulation shall be <b>liable to be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>registered medical practitioner may only reveal the details</b> of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated <b>to a person authorised by law</b>.</li> <li>• Violation is punishable with <b>imprisonment up to a year, a fine, or both</b>.</li> </ul>

### 1.1.2. THE SURROGACY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021

#### Why in news?

Recently, the Centre notified the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.

#### Key Features of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

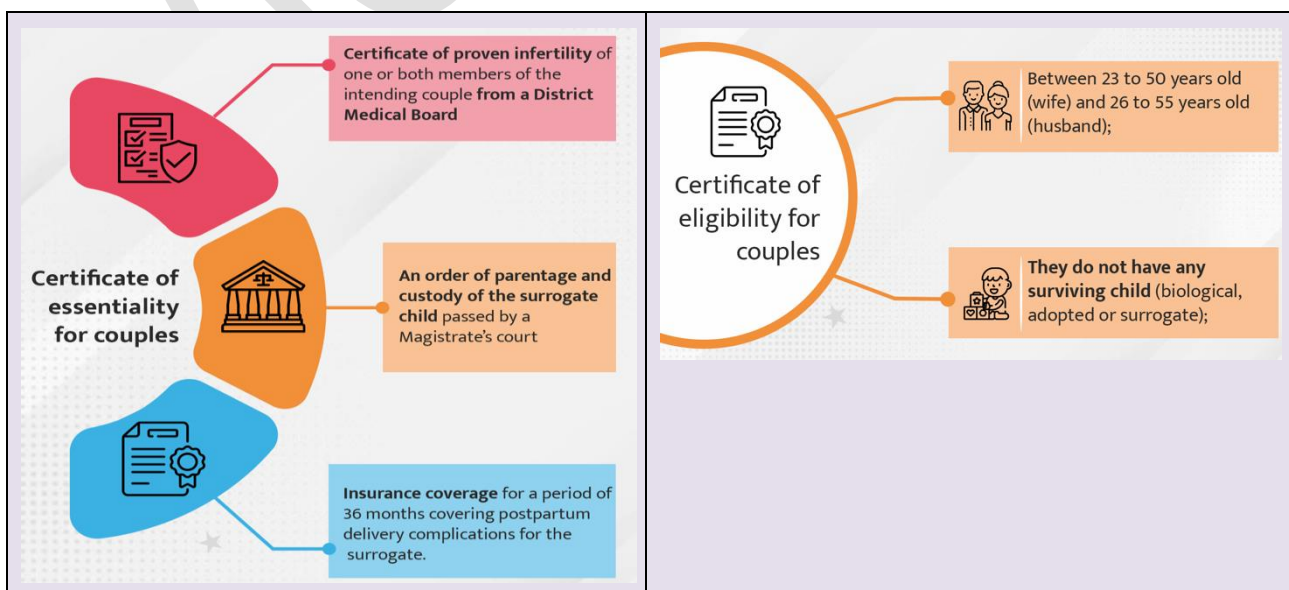
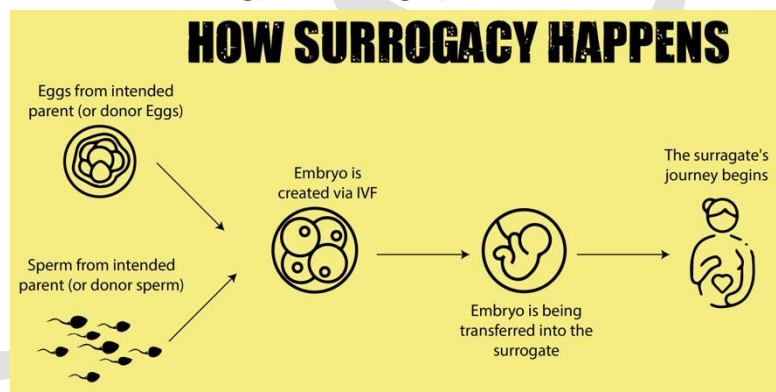
- **Defines surrogacy:** Surrogacy is a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple.
- **New bodies created for regulation:**
  - **Constitution of National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board:** With chairman as Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Its functions include:

- ✓ **Advising the Central Government** on policy matters relating to surrogacy;
- ✓ to **review and monitor** the implementation of the Act;
- ✓ to **lay down the code of conduct** of surrogacy clinics;
- ✓ to **set the minimum standards** of physical infrastructure, laboratory and diagnostic equipment and expert manpower to be employed by the surrogacy clinics;
- ✓ to **oversee the performance of various bodies** constituted under the Act;
- ✓ to **supervise the functioning of State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Boards.**
- **Constitution of State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Boards** in each state & UT level.

**Types of Surrogacy**

- **Altruistic surrogacy:** It involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy.
- **Commercial surrogacy:** It includes surrogacy or its related procedures **undertaken for a monetary benefit or reward (in cash or kind)** exceeding the basic medical expenses and insurance coverage.
  - It was **first legalised in India in 2002** after which **India became the 'rent-on-womb' capital of the world.**
  - However, due to lack of proper laws and safeguards for the parties involved, multiple ethical legal challenges arose.
- Government has **banned surrogacy for foreign nationals in 2015.**

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



- **Other features**
  - A child born out of a surrogacy procedure will be **deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple.**
  - An **abortion** of the surrogate child **requires the written consent of the surrogate mother and the authorisation of the appropriate authority.** This authorisation must be compliant with the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.**
  - **Offences and penalties** include imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees.

### 1.1.3. THE ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021

#### Why in News?

The Centre has notified the Assisted Reproductive Technology or ART (Regulation) Act, 2021.

#### Key highlights of the Act

- **Definition:** ART means all techniques that attempt to obtain a pregnancy by handling the sperm or the oocyte outside the human body and transferring the gamete or the embryo into the reproductive system of a woman.
- **Regulation of ART clinics and banks:** Every ART clinic and bank must be registered under the **National Registry of Banks and Clinics of India.** The National Registry will be established under the Bill and will act as a central database with details of all ART clinics and banks in the country.
- **Written informed consent:** The clinic shall not perform any treatment or procedure without
  - the written informed consent **of all the parties** seeking assisted reproductive technology;
  - an insurance coverage of such amount as may be prescribed for a period of twelve months in favour of the oocyte donor by the commissioning couple or woman from an insurance company or an agent recognised by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- **Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis:** This shall be used to screen the human embryo for known, pre-existing, heritable or genetic diseases only.
- **Sex selection prohibited:** Subject to the provisions of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the clinic shall not offer to provide a couple or woman with a child of a pre-determined sex.
- **Rights of a child born through ART:** A child born through ART will be deemed to be a biological child of the commissioning couple and will be entitled to the rights and privileges available to a natural child of the commissioning couple. A donor will not have any parental rights over the child.
- **Offences:** Abandoning, or exploiting children born through ART; selling, purchasing, trading, or importing human embryos or gametes; using intermediates to obtain donors; exploiting commissioning couple, woman, or the gamete donor in any form, and transferring the human embryo into a male or an animal.
- **Penalties:** Contravenes the provisions shall be punishable with a **fine of 5 -10 lakh rupees** for the first contravention and for subsequent contravention, shall be punishable **with imprisonment for a term between 3 years-8 years** and with **fine between 10-20 lakh rupees.**
- **National and State Boards:** The National (or State) **ART and Surrogacy Board** to be constituted under the Surrogacy Act shall be the National (or State, as applicable) Board for the purposes of this Act.
- **Cognizance of offences:** No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act, save on a complaint made by the National Board or the State Board or by an officer authorised by it, all **the offences** under this Act shall be **cognizable and bailable.**
- **Power to make rules:** The Central Government may by notification make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

#### About ART

ART covers a wide spectrum of treatments. Some of them are:

- **Ovulation induction:** Taking a hormone medication (tablet or injection), which stimulates the production of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). This improves chances of conception.
- **Artificial insemination (AI):** Insertion of a male partner's semen through the female's cervix and into the uterus at or just before the time of ovulation.
- **In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF):** Fertilisation of egg and sperm is facilitated in a culture dish in the laboratory outside the ovary of the woman and the resultant embryo is then placed into the woman's uterus in a procedure called an embryo transfer.
- **Preimplantation genetic testing (PGT):** It is used to help people reduce their risk of passing on a known genetic condition. There are two types of PGT:
  - **PGT for monogenic/single gene defects (PGT-M):** To identify embryos that are not affected by a 'faulty' gene that can lead to disease.
  - **PGT for chromosomal structural rearrangements (PGT-SR):** To identify embryos that have the correct amount of genetic material.

- **Application of other laws not barred:** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and the Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 or of any other law for the time being in force.

### 1.1.4. MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON MARRIAGE) ACT, 2019

#### Why in news?

Recently, a man in M.P. allegedly pronounced triple talaq to try to end his marriage with his wife over a demand of Rs 2 lakh in dowry.

#### Major Provisions of the 2019 Act:

- It **invalidates the practice of instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat) as void and illegal.**
- It makes instant **triple talaq a criminal offence** with imprisonment up to three years and fine.
- It provides to **make the offence cognizable**, if information relating to the commission of an offence is given to the Police, by the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced or by any person related to her by blood or marriage
  - A cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without warrant.
- The Act also provides **scope for reconciliation** without undergoing the process of **Nikah Halala** if the two sides agree to stop legal proceedings and settle the dispute.
- **A magistrate may grant bail** to the husband after hearing the wife.
- **Allowance:** A Muslim woman against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children. The amount of the allowance will be determined by the **Magistrate.**
- **Custody:** A Muslim woman against whom such talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. The manner of custody will be determined by the **Magistrate.**

#### Various forms of Talaq/Separation

- **Instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat)** was challenged in the court. In the practice of **talaq-e-biddat**, when a man pronounces talaq thrice in a sitting, or through phone, or writes in a talaqnama or a text message, the divorce is considered immediate and irrevocable, even if the man later wishes to re-conciliate.
  - The only way for the couple to go back to living together is through a **Nikah Halala**, and then return to her husband.
- **Nikah Halala:** refers to practice under which a divorced Muslim woman has to marry another man and consummate the marriage and get a divorce. Only then can she be eligible to remarry her former husband.
- **“Talaq-ul-sunnat”:** Under this, once the husband pronounces talaq, the wife has to observe a three-month iddat period during which the husband can arbitrate and re-conciliate with the wife. In case of cohabitation between the couple, during these three months, the talaq is revoked.
  - However, when the period of iddat expires and the husband does not revoke the talaq, the talaq is irrevocable and final.
  - It is considered to be the ideal form of dissolution of marriage contract among Muslims.

## 1.2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

#### Why in News?

UN paper ‘The Covid-19 Pandemic and Violence Against Women in Asia and the Pacific’ provides a preliminary understanding of how the Covid-19 pandemic influences the prevalence of VAW within Asia and the Pacific.

#### More in News

- COVID-19 pandemic **increased VAW in Asia and the Pacific.**
- Pandemic is most likely to **exacerbate two varieties of VAW: intimate partner violence and digital violence.** It has also **increased women’s burden of unpaid care work.**
- **Reasons include** Increased exposure to perpetrators (Lockdown, School closures etc.), Added stress of the pandemic, Reduced access to support, security and legal services, Stigma of reporting violence.

#### Domestic violence in India

- Domestic violence is deeply entrenched and widely prevalent in India. **Article 15 (3)** gives power to the legislature to make special provision for women and children. In exercise of this power, the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) was passed in 2005.**

- PWDVA enshrines principles of the **Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, which India ratified in 1993.

#### Key highlights of the PWDVA, 2005

- **Domestic violence encompasses** physical, verbal, emotional, economic, or/and sexual abuse.
  - The law is broad in its definition— **“domestic relationship” includes married women, mothers, daughters, and sisters.**
  - This law **also protects women in live-in relationships**, as well as family members including mothers, grandmothers, etc.
- **Coverage:** All women who may be mother, sister, wife, widow, or partners living in a shared household. **A child is also entitled to relief** under the Domestic Violence Act. The mother of such a child can make an application on behalf of her minor child (whether male or female).
- **Complaint could be filed against**
  - Any adult male member who has been in a domestic relationship with the woman
  - Relatives of the husband or the male partner
  - Includes both male and female relatives of the male partner
- There is also a provision for **shelter home or a medical facility** to provide shelter or medical aid to the victim.
- **The Act is in addition to existing laws**
  - Reliefs under the Domestic Violence Act can also be asked for in other legal proceedings e.g. petition for divorce, maintenance, Section 498A IPC, etc.
  - **Aggrieved person has the right to file a complaint** simultaneously under **Section 498A IPC.**
    - **Section 498A IPC:** Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

#### Related news

##### Marital rape

Recently, the Centre sought reasonable time from Delhi High Court to share government opinion on Marital Rape after consultation with all stakeholders.

##### About Marital Rape and Legal position in India

- Rape represents any **nonconsensual sexual intercourse** or **consent gained** by using any kind of **fear, fraud** or under situation of unsoundness of mind, intoxication, etc.
  - Rape between non-spouses is illegal but **Marital Rape**, i.e., the act of having nonconsensual sexual intercourse with one’s own wife, is kept **outside the definition of rape in many countries.**
- **India** is one of only 36 countries where **marital rape is not a legal crime.**
  - In India also, under **Section 375** of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife **not being under fifteen years** of age, is kept as **exception** outside the **definition of rape.**
    - ✓ **Section 376-A criminalizes the rape of judicially separated wife.**
  - Also, the either spouse carries **the right for ‘Restitution of Conjugal Rights’** under **Divorce Act, 1869** (related to the divorce of persons belonging to the Christian religion), **Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954** and **Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) of 1955**, etc.

##### Recently the Supreme Court clarified when dowry deaths may be presumed

- Interpreting **dowry death**, the SC clarified that a dowry death can be presumed if the wife was **harassed both mentally and physically close** before her death in the marital home.
- **About Dowry death**
  - Defined by **Section 304B (relates to Dowry Death)** of the IPC, it is read in conjunction with **Section 113B** (on Presumption of Dowry death) of the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872** in case of a dowry death.
  - According to latest SC judgment, the **‘soon before her death’** implies that the cruelty has to be proved during the **close proximity of time of death.**
    - ✓ Also, it should be **continuous** from the accused, making life of the deceased miserable which may force her to commit suicide.
- **About Dowry in Death India**
  - Dowry, also known as **Dahej** (North India) or **Sthreedhanam** (South India), is defined by the **Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961** as-
    - ✓ Any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly by one party/parents to other party in connection with marriage.
  - A major **social evil** for long, **dowry death was added as a new offence in IPC only in 1986.**



- Apart from dowry death, **cruelty** (i.e., torture or harassment of a woman) and **domestic violence** are other common types of dowry crimes.

### 1.3. THE PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND PREVENTION OF MISUSE) AMENDMENT ACT, 2002

#### Why in news?

Recently a (pre-natal diagnostic techniques (PNDT) racket was busted in private hospital at Kurukshetra, Haryana.

#### Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

- Act aims to **prohibit prenatal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the fetus leading to female feticide.**
- PCPNDT Act, 1994 was **amended in 2003 and this may be called the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Act, 2002.**
- **Key highlights of the Act**
  - **No pre-natal diagnostic techniques shall be conducted except** for the purposes of detection of any of the following abnormalities, namely:
    - chromosomal abnormalities.
    - genetic metabolic diseases.
    - haemoglobinopathies.
    - sex-linked genetic diseases.
    - congenital anomalies.
    - any other abnormalities or diseases as may be specified by the Central Supervisory Board.
  - **No pre-natal diagnostic techniques shall be used** or conducted **unless** the person qualified to do so is satisfied **for reasons to be recorded in writing that any of the following conditions are fulfilled**, namely:
    - **age** of the pregnant woman is above **thirty-five years.**
    - the pregnant woman has undergone **of two or more spontaneous abortions** or foetal loss.
    - the pregnant woman **had been exposed to potentially teratogenic agents** such as drugs, radiation, infection or chemicals.
    - the pregnant woman or her spouse has a **family history of mental retardation or physical deformities** such as, spasticity or any other genetic disease.
    - **any other condition** as may be specified by the Central Supervisory Board.
  - Central Government shall constitute a Board to be known as the **Central Supervisory Board** under the **Chairpersonship** of Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department of Family Welfare. The board shall perform the following functions, namely:
    - to **advise the Central Government on policy matters** relating to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, sex selection techniques and against their misuse.
    - to **review and monitor implementation of the Act** and rules made thereunder and recommend to the Central Government changes in the said Act and rules.
    - to **create public awareness** against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and prenatal determination of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide;
    - to **lay down code of conduct to be observed by persons** working at Genetic Counselling Centres, Genetic Laboratories and Genetic Clinics.
    - to **oversee the performance of various bodies constituted under the Act** and take appropriate steps to ensure its proper and effective implementation.
    - **any other functions** as may be prescribed under the Act.
  - Similarly, each State and Union territory having Legislature shall constitute a Board to be known as the **State Supervisory Board or the Union territory Supervisory Board.**
  - Under this law, **all centres** which have any equipment which can potentially detect sex of foetus pre-conception or pre-natal have **to be registered** with the **appropriate authorities**
  - It **prohibits advertisements** in relation to such techniques for detection or determination of sex
  - The Act and Rules deal elaborately with the **maintenance and preservation of proper records**
  - The Act penalizes (monetary as well as imprisonment) all the errant, either **involved in sex determination or non-maintenance of records.**
    - **Exception:** the woman who was compelled to undergo such diagnostic techniques or such selection.

- The **Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powers of Civil Court** for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipment, and records of the violators of law, creating public awareness, etc.

## 1.4. FEMINIZATION OF AGRICULTURE

### Why in news

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

### More in News

- There has been a **rise in workforce engaged in agriculture** to 45.6 per cent (2019-20) from 42.5 per cent (2018-19).
- Almost the **entire rise in the workforce was accommodated by agriculture**. Agriculture continues to perform the function of a sink — absorbing the workforce that cannot find remunerative employment elsewhere.
- There has been a **sharp increase in the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** by 5.5 percentage points (30% in 2019-29 from 24.5% in 2018-19). Much of this is **driven by** the increased LFPR of **rural women**.
- This phenomenon of increased participation by women, particularly working as agri-labourers, is referred to as the process of **feminization of the Indian Agri-workforce**.

### Factors driving the feminization in agriculture

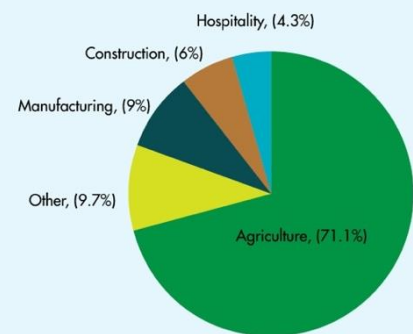
- **Migration of men** due to agrarian distress
- **Women have less mobility** due to social norms
- **Women are preferred** for labour intensive woks
- **Women labour ensure low production cost** as they are low-paid easy to hire and fire



### KEY DATA/TREND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

- ▶ **14%** of the operational holdings in agriculture owned by women
- ▶ **90%** of women-owned landholdings is small and marginal landholdings

### DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE WORKERS BY INDUSTRY



## 1.5. PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN IN ARMY

### Why in news?

Ministry of Defence informed the Parliament that Indian Army has granted permanent commission to 577 women officers since the Supreme Court verdict in February 2020.

### Background

- A Permanent Commission means a **career in the Army till you retire**. For a Permanent commission you have to join the National Defence Academy or the Indian Military Academy.
- Section 12 of the Army Act, 1950, makes women ineligible for employment or enrolment in the Army unless the central government by the way of an official gazette allows them to.
- In January 1992, the union government provided a list of areas where female officers can be employed. These were:
  - Army Postal Service.
  - Judge Advocate General's Department;
  - Army Education Corps;
  - Army Ordinance Corps (Central Ammunition Depots and Material Management); and
  - Army Service Corps (Food Scientists and Catering Officers).
  - Corps of signals
  - Electrical and mechanical engineering
  - Engineers

### Key Facts

- ▶ **Sex ratio in defence:**  
At present women still form a **small part of the military - 0.56% of the army, 1.08% of the air force and 6.5% of the navy.**

- Intelligence corps
- Regiment of artillery.
- **This inducement was also only on the Short Service Commission (SSC).**
  - **SSC officers are inducted under the 10+4 scheme**, wherein the officer serves for 10 years and can exercise the option of extending his service by 4 years.
- **In Feb 2020, SC (Babita Puniya Case)** had directed that **women officers in the Army be granted Permanent Commission rejecting government's stand of their physiological limitations** as being based on sex stereotypes and gender discrimination against women.
  - Court ruled that every women officer working on a SSC basis, disregarding whether for 14 years or 20 years, should be considered for granting of PC in the Army, including command postings.
- Women officers **still cannot serve in infantry, artillery and armoured corps—combat wings deployed at the most forward locations facing adversary situations.**
- The Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy had already granted Permanent Commission to women officers.

## 1.6. CHILD MARRIAGE

### Why in news

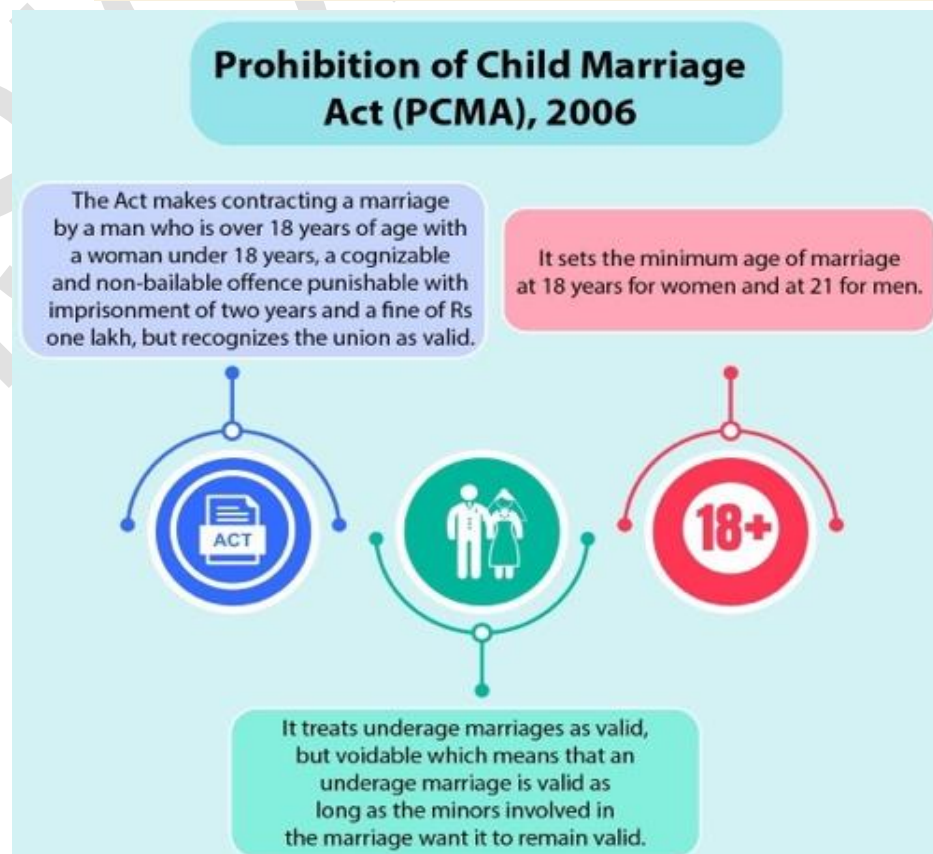
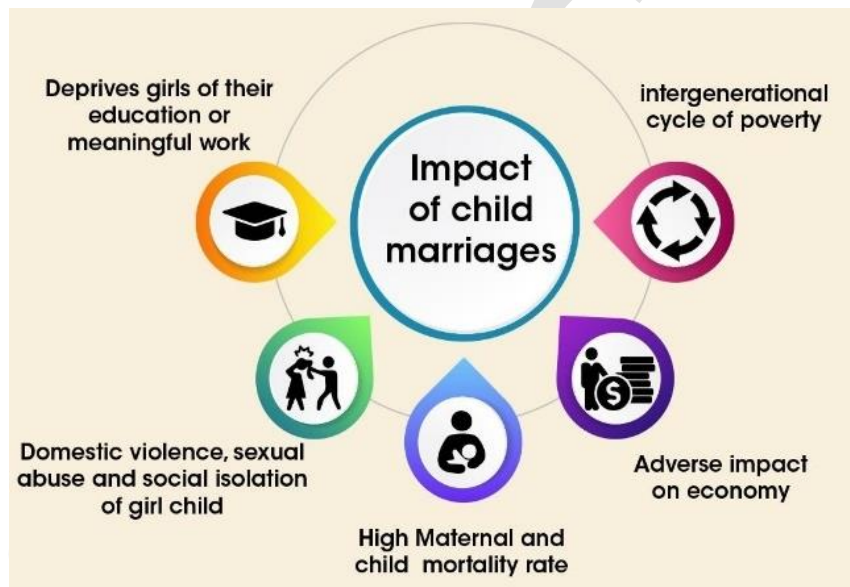
The Odisha government has rolled out a plan to make the state completely free of child marriage by 2030.

### More on news

- The Odisha government has roped in five departments for observing “convergent action points on adolescent empowerment and ending child marriage” in line with the state strategy action plan (SSAP). In 2019 the state had rolled out five-year SSAP to end child marriages in the state.
- These departments include school and mass education, skill development and technical education, Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste development, minorities & backward classes welfare, higher education, and law.

### About child marriage

- Child marriage can be described as a **formal marriage, or an informal union entered into by an individual before attaining the prescribed eligible age.**



- As per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, **the marriageable age is 21 for males and 18 for females.**
- The problem of child marriage is **widely spread across the country**, however, it is **most common in northern, eastern and western India** like in Jharkhand, Bihar, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, among others.

**Key facts/trends**

**Child marriage**

- ~1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's child bride are in India
- ~16% adolescent girls aged 15-19 are currently married

## 1.7. CHILD ADOPTION

### Why in news?

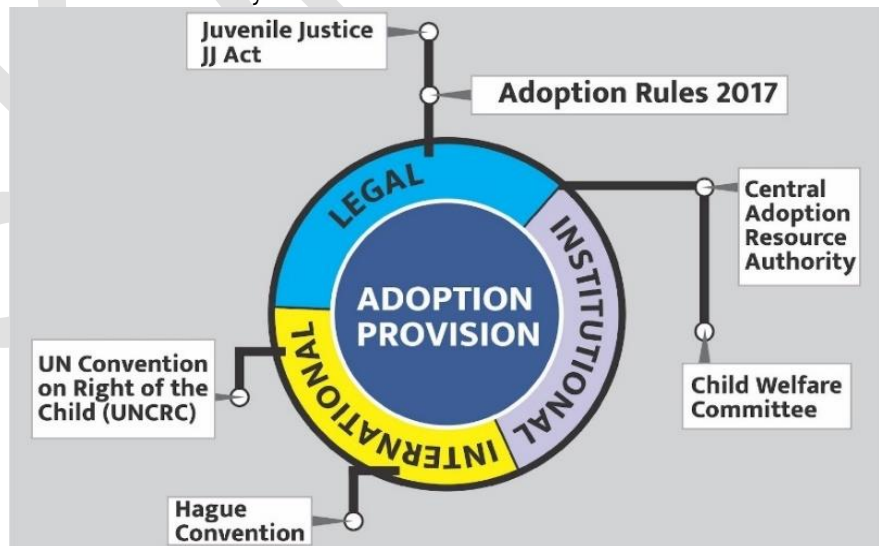
Recently, the 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021' was notified by the Government.

### More on news

- The Act seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to **strengthen the Child protection setup under the 2015 Act.**
- It is in line with the various international conventions and rules on the rights of Children & Juveniles (**refer to the box**).
- **Key features:**
  - Instead of courts as in the 2015 Act, the **District Magistrate (DM) can now issue orders** both for intra-country and inter-country adoptions to fast track the process.
  - Defines **eligibility** parameters for **appointment of members of Child Welfare Committees (CWC).**
  - **Redefines serious offences:** Serious offences includes the offences for which the punishment under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force, is,
    - ✓ minimum imprisonment for a term more than three years and not exceeding seven years; or
    - ✓ maximum imprisonment for a term more than seven years but no minimum imprisonment or minimum imprisonment of less than seven years.
  - ✓ This is in line **Shilpa Mittal v State of NCT in Delhi**, in which SC held such offences to be considered as **serious offences** rather than **heinous**.
  - **All offences** under the Act will be tried in the Children's Court.

### Adoption provisions in India

- When there is a **child without a family, the State becomes the guardian.** If procedure established by law is not followed in adoption, the government can take custody of the child.
  - **Legal framework**
    - ✓ **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act):** It governs the whole adoption procedure in the country. It **prohibits offering or receiving children outside the processes** laid down under the Act as well as their sale and purchase. Such acts are punishable with **three to five years in jail or ₹1 lakh in fine.**
    - ✓ **Adoption Regulations 2017:** The regulation addresses the need for in-family adoptions, post-adoption support, child-centric provisions, time-limit on courts for disposing adoption deeds, consolidation of seniority list, and facilitating the root search even by children below 18 years of age.



- **Institutions**
  - ✓ **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):** It is a **statutory body** (under the **JJ Act**) under the **MoWCD** to primarily deal with adoption (including inter-country adoption).
  - ✓ **District Child Welfare Committee (CWC):** CWC is the **final authority** for exercising the powers and discharge duties in relation to children in need of care and protection **under the JJ Act**. The CWC is required to **conduct at least two inspection visits per month of residential facilities for children** in need of care and protection and make recommendations for improvement to District Child Protection Unit and the State Government.
- **International Conventions**
  - ✓ **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1992:** It prescribes standards to be adhered to by all State parties in securing the best interest of the child. It emphasizes social integration of child victims, without resorting to judicial proceedings.
  - ✓ **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993 establishes** minimum standards for inter country adoption.
- The **Adoption Amendment Regulations 2021:** It aims to ease inter-country adoptions under the **Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (HAMA),1956**. According to the Adoption (Amendment) Regulations families adopting under the HAMA Act can receive a no-objection certificate nodal adoption body CARA take the child abroad.
  - In cases of countries outside the Hague Adoption Convention in respect of inter-country adoptions, a letter accepting adoption from the government department concerned of the receiving country shall be sought by CARA in order to issue the final support letter by the agency.
  - Until this regulation, there were no regulations for CARA regarding inter-country adoptions under **HAMA, which covers Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains** and the NOC was issued only by a court.

DID YOU KNOW?

**The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules):** It strives to ensure that the juvenile justice system shall **emphasize the well-being of the juvenile** and shall ensure that any reaction to juvenile offenders shall always be in proportion to the circumstances of both the offenders and the offence.

## 1.8. CHILD LABOUR

### Why in news?

Recently, a new report titled ‘**Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward**’ has been released by **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** on occasion of **World Day against Child Labour** (observed every year on 12<sup>th</sup> June).



**KEY FACTS/TRENDS CHILD LABOUR**

- **160 million** children are child labour globally
  - ⌚ Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence and largest number of children in child labour
  - ⌚ Rural areas have 3 times more child labours than urban areas
  - ⌚ 72% of all child labour occurs within families, primarily on family farms or in family microenterprises
- **9 million additional** children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 because of COVID 19

### What is Child labour?

- According to ILO, ‘Child labour’ is often defined as **work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity**, and that is **harmful to physical and mental development**. It refers to work that is:
  - **Mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful** to children.
  - **Interferes with their schooling** by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.
- The **worst forms of child labour comprise all forms of slavery**, such as the **sale and trafficking** of children, **debt bondage**, and **forced labour**, use of **children in armed conflict**, pornography or other illicit or hazardous work that **compromises children’s health, morals, or psychological wellbeing** of children.
- As per Census (2011), there are **10.1 million working children between age of 5-14 years in India**.

- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh constitute nearly 55% of total working children in India.
- Initiatives taken by India to prevent Child labour
  - Gurupadswamy Committee, 1979 was formed to study the issue of child labour and recommended a multiple policy approach in dealing with the problems of working children.
  - India ratified ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Convention 138 on the Minimum Age of Employment.
  - Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 prohibits the ‘engagement of children in all occupations and of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes’, wherein ‘adolescents’ refers to those under 18 years and children to those under 14 years.



## 1.9. THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (PREVENTION, CARE AND REHABILITATION) BILL, 2021

### Why in news?

Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited comments/suggestions from all the stakeholders on the draft ‘Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021’ (TIP Bill).

### About human trafficking

- Human trafficking is the **trade of humans**, most commonly for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others.
- People can be forced into trafficking **by many means such as physical force** being used upon them, or **false promises** made by traffickers.
- Currently, the crime of trafficking is covered under **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013**. Trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation is covered under the **Immoral Trafficking (Prevention Act of 1956)**.
- Despite these provisions, the NCRB data shows an **increasing trend of cases of trafficking** such as these increased by 14.3% in 2019 as compared to the previous year.

**KEY FACTS/TRENDS  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- **Top reasons for human trafficking**  
Forced labour > Sexual exploitation > Domestic servitudes > Forced Marriage
- **Top States with most child trafficked**  
West Bengal > Rajasthan > UP > Gujarat > Karnataka

### Steps taken

- **Ujjwala Scheme:** It is a comprehensive scheme that was launched in 2007 to combat trafficking and it provides for **Prevention, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-Integration and Re-Patriation** of victims trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. It is mainly being implemented through non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- **Anti-Human Trafficking Units:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under a Comprehensive Scheme of Strengthening law enforcement response in India against Trafficking in Persons through Training and Capacity Building, has released fund for establishment of Anti Human Trafficking Units for 270 districts of the country.

- **Anti-Trafficking Cell (ATC):** Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cell was set up in the MHA in 2006 to act as a focal point for communicating various decisions and follow up on action taken by the State Governments to combat the crime of Human Trafficking. MHA conducts coordination meetings with the Nodal Officers of Anti Human Trafficking Units nominated in all States/UTs periodically.
- **Legislative measures:**
  - **The POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act 2012** prohibits a range of sexual offences against children under the age of 18.
  - **Criminal Law (amendment) Act 2013**, under Section 370 and 370A of the IPC, provides for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking.
- **Judicial Colloquium:** In order to train and sensitize the trial court judicial officers, Judicial Colloquium on human trafficking is being held at the High court level.
- **Cooperation at International level:** India is a signatory of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC).

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

### Why in news?

SC **quashed earlier rulings of Bombay High Court** whereby court had acquitted a man of charges under POCSO Act stating that **“there is no direct physical contact i.e. skin to skin with sexual intent without penetration.”**

### More on news

- **SC Judgement**
  - It specified that **‘touch’ in Section 7 of POCSO Act covers ‘both direct and indirect touch’** as otherwise act would legitimise an entire range of unacceptable behaviour which undermines a child’s dignity and autonomy.
  - The act of touching the sexual part of body or any other act involving physical contact, if done with **‘sexual intent’, would amount to ‘sexual assault’** within the meaning of Section 7 of POCSO Act.

### About POCSO Act, 2012

- It is a comprehensive law for the **protection of children (under the age of 18) from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.**
  - The POCSO Act is only applicable to child survivors and adult offenders. In case two children have sexual relations with each other, or in case a child perpetrates a sexual offence on an adult, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, will apply.
- It incorporates **child-friendly mechanisms at every stage of the judicial process** which include reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated **Special Courts.**
- The **evidence of the child shall be recorded within a period of thirty days** of the Special Court taking **cognizance of the offence** and reasons for delay, if any, shall be recorded by the Special Court.
  - The Special Court shall **complete the trial**, as far as possible, within a **period of one year from the date of taking cognizance of the offence.**
- It also **punishes criminals who are in positions of trust of authority** like public servants, staff of educational institutions, police etc.



- In 2019 the Act was amended to make it stricter by
  - Increasing the minimum punishment for certain assaults
  - Widening the scope of aggravated penetrative sexual assault
  - Defining child pornography

**Section 354 IPC vs. POCSO Act, 2012**

Specifics	Section 354 IPC	POCSO
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.

**1.11. GLOBAL REPORTS RELATED TO WOMEN & CHILDREN**

**1.11.1. STATE OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN 2021 REPORT RELEASED BY UNICEF**

- Report examines child, adolescent and caregiver mental health.
- Key Findings related to India
  - 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds in India feel depressed or has little interest in doing things.
  - At least 50 million children in India were affected with mental health issues before COVID; 80 – 90% have not sought support.
  - India has spent only 0.05% of its health budget annually on mental health.
  - Only 41% of young people (15 -24 years) were willing to get support for mental health problems.

PT 365 – Social Issues

**फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा 2023**

**इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम**

- प्रारंभिक परीक्षा, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक को विस्तृत कवरेज
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- एनीमेशन, पॉडर, व्हाइट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
- योजनाबद्ध तैयारी हेतु करंट ओरिएंटेड अप्रोच
- नियमित क्लास टेस्ट एवं व्यक्तिगत मूल्यांकन
- सीसेट कक्षाएं
- PT 365 कक्षाएं
- MAINS 365 कक्षाएं
- PT टेस्ट सीरीज
- मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध टेस्ट सीरीज
- सीसेट टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध लेखन - शैली की कक्षाएं
- करंट अफेयर्स मैगजीन

**DELHI: 5 APR, 9 AM | 1 FEB, 1 PM**

**LUCKNOW: 17 MAY | 9 AM**      **JAIPUR: 10 MAY | 4 PM**

लाइव / ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं भी उपलब्ध

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## 2. OTHER VULNERABLE SECTIONS

### 2.1. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

#### Why in News?

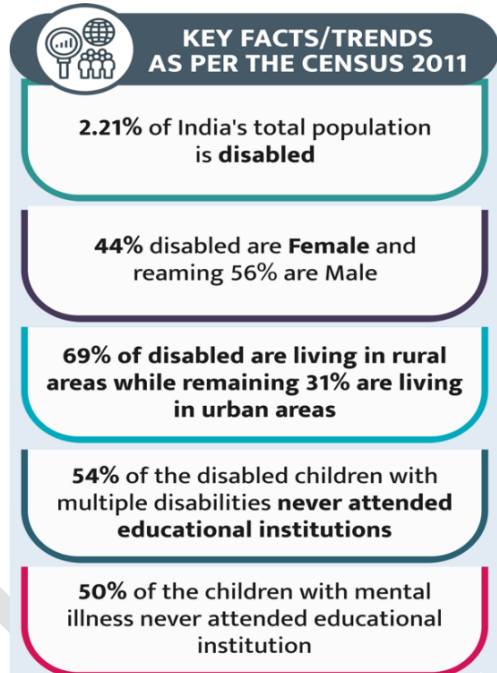
Recently, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment **launched a 6-month Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program** on rehabilitation of Divyangjan/Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

#### More on News

- Program aims to **create a pool of grass-root rehabilitation workers at community level** who can work alongside ASHA and Anganwadi workers to handle cross disability issues and facilitate inclusion of PwDs in the society.
- It has been designed to **provide competency-based knowledge and skills among these workers** to enhance their ability for successfully discharging their duties.
- **Mode of training for this course would be both offline/online** considering, the prevailing COVID scenario.
- CBID course has been co-designed by Rehabilitation Council of India and University of Melbourne.

#### Disability in India

- "Person with disability" means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others.
- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides for:**
  - Reservation in government jobs **increased from 3% to 4%.**
    - ✓ Recently, considering nature and type of work, Government **exercising its power under section 34 of the Act**, has recently, **removed 4% quota for differently abled in Police forces which includes**
      - All posts of IPS,
      - Railway Protection Force,
      - Police force for Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli,
      - All combatant posts of Central Armed Police Forces.
    - ✓ Earlier in 2018, government had **exempted all categories of posts of combatant personnel in the Armed Forces** from the provision.
  - **Right to free education for every child** (6 to 18 years of age) with benchmark disability.
  - **5% reservation in seats in Government and Government aided higher educational institutions.**
- **Other initiatives**
  - National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006
  - **National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999**
  - **Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992**



**DID YOU KNOW?**

- India is a signatory to
  - > **United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).**
  - > **Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the AsiaPacific Region**
  - > **Biwako Millennium Framework** working towards an inclusive, barrier free and rightsbased society.

**Schemes for PwDs**

- **National Fund for Persons with Disabilities**
- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)**
- **Scheme for Implementing of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA)** which covers:
  - **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**
  - **Skill Development Programme** for PwDs
  - To establish **early diagnostic and intervention centres** at District Headquarters/other places having Government Medical Colleges
- **Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities” project is being implemented with a view of creating a National Database for PwDs**, and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) to each person with disabilities.
  - Recently, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), make it **mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using Unique Disability Identity (UDID) portal**
  - A disability certificate is a necessity for PwDs as they can avail the benefits of different government schemes by furnishing the document.

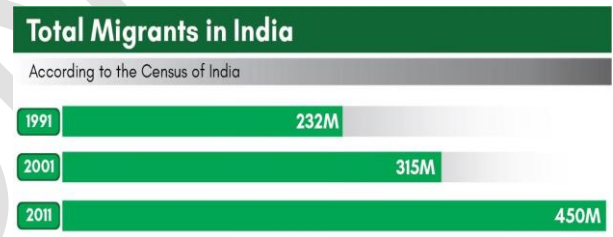
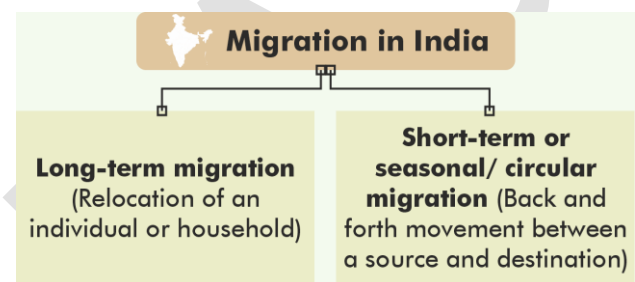
## 2.2. INTERNAL MIGRANTS

### Why in news?

The Supreme Court of India took *suo motu cognisance* of the plight of the migrant workers at the height of the exodus last year.

### Internal Migration in India

- Internal migration is defined as **changes of usual residence within countries**. Migration in India is primarily of two types (Refer infographic).
- The 2011 Census enumerated **450 million internal migrants** based on place of last residence, or 37 percent of the total population and 68 percent of all migrants **were females**.
- A person is considered as migrant by place of last residence, if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is **other than his place of immediate last residence**.
- The Economic Survey (2017) estimated that an **average of 5–6 million Indians migrated annually** between 2001 and 2011, leading to an **inter-state migrant** population of “about 60 million” and an **inter-district migrant** population “as high as 80 million”.
- According to a research paper, India has the **lowest rate of internal migration in a sample of 80 countries**.
- **Five-year interval inter-state migration** rate in India is around 1% whereas it is 10% in the US and nearly 5% in China.



**Places of Origin of majority of migrants (densely populated and less urbanized states)**  
 Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh



**Places of destination (more industrialized and urbanized states)**  
 Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.



### Interventions undertaken for migrants

Policy Sub Area	Description
Food Safety	<b>One Nation One Ration Card:</b> Distribution of highly subsidised food grains is enabled through <b>nation-wide portability of ration cards</b> through the operationalisation of biometrically authenticated ePoS transactions in the State/UTs.
Pension	<b>Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan:</b> for old age protection and social security of unorganised sector workers.

<b>Education of child migrants</b>	<b>Project Changathi:</b> Implemented by the Kerala State Literacy Mission, this is a literacy scheme targeted at migrant children for them to learn Malayalam.
<b>Health</b>	<b>Ayushman Bharat Scheme:</b> Launched in 2018 is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government. The benefits of the scheme are <b>portable across the country</b> i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
<b>Legislative measures to protect labour and migrant workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1979 Interstate Migrant Workmen Act</li> <li>• 1996 Building and Other Construction Workers Act and the</li> <li>• 2008 Unorganised Sector Social Security Act</li> <li>• Relevant provision referred in <b>Code of Social Security 2020</b></li> </ul>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA):</b> To boost employment and <b>livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages</b> , in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. It involved <b>skill mapping</b> of migrant labourers and linking women with self-help groups.

## 2.3. QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ELDERLY INDEX, 2021

### Why in news?

Quality of Life for Elderly Index, 2021 released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

### About Index

- Index has been created by **Institute for Competitiveness at request of EAC-PM.**
  - It identifies **regional patterns of ageing across Indian States** and assesses overall ageing situation in India.
  - Using this index as a tool, the **State governments and the stakeholders can identify the areas they need to work upon to provide their older generation with a comfortable life.**
- **Assessment formula**
  - **Index framework includes four pillars:** Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security
  - **Distinction is created between Aged States** (having more than five million Elderly [aged 60 and above]) and Relatively Aged States (having less than five million elderly) to establish fair comparison among states.
  - **Northeast States and Union Territories are two separate categories** considering their geography and share of the elderly population.
- **Key highlights**
  - **Health System pillar observes highest national average**, followed by Social Well-being, Financial Well-being and **last is Income Security pillar.**
  - **Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh** are top-scoring regions in Aged and Relatively Aged States, respectively.
  - **Chandigarh and Mizoram** are top-scoring regions in Union Territory and North-East States category.



### KEY FACTS/TRENDS ELDERLY IN INDIA 2021

- **8.6%** of India's total population i.e. 104 million (53 million females and 51 million males) is elderly (Census, 2011).
  - ⌚ It increased to 10.1% in 2021 and further likely to increase to 13.1% in 2031.
- **71%** of elderly population resides in **rural areas** while 29 % is in urban areas.
- **Kerala has the maximum proportion** of elderly people in its population (16.5%) followed by Tamil Nadu (13.6%), Himachal Pradesh
  - ⌚ Proportion is the **least** in the States of **Bihar** (7.7%) followed by Uttar Pradesh (8.1%) and Assam (8.2%).

### DID YOU KNOW?



- ✦ **EAC-PM is an independent body constituted** to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the PM.
- ✦ **Silver economy:** It refers to all those economic activities, products and services designed to meet the needs of people over 50. This concept, derived from the so-called silver market that emerged in Japan.

### Schemes and Programmes for the Welfare of Elderly Persons

- **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999:** The Policy envisaged State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, etc.

- National Elderly Policy defines person of 60+ age group as elderly.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007:** Maintenance of parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives made obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of neglect by relatives; penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens; establishment of Old Age Homes for Indigent Senior Citizens; and adequate medical facilities and security for Senior Citizens.
- **National Action Plan for the Welfare of Senior Citizens (NAPSrC):** This Plan takes care of the top four needs of the senior citizens viz., financial security, food, health care and human interaction /life of dignity. It is an umbrella scheme, effective since 1st April 2020, has four sub-schemes under it, namely:
  - **Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)**
  - **State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)**
  - **Convergence with Initiatives of other Ministries/Departments in Government of India in the field of Senior Citizens Welfare (CWMSrC)**
- **National Awards for Senior Citizens-Vayoshreshtha Samman:** To recognize the efforts made by eminent senior citizens and Institutions involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens.
- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):** Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-Living Devices for Senior Citizens.
- **Senior Citizens Welfare Fund:** It was established in 2016 for such schemes for the promotion of the welfare of senior citizens, which are in line with the National Policy on Older Persons. The Fund comprises of the **amounts available under Saving Schemes** of the Central Government that remain **unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date of the account being declared as an inoperative account.**
- **National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC):** It was constituted in 1999 under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to oversee implementation of the Policy and advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the aged.
- **National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE):** Being run by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):** Under the Ayushman Bharat, launched by MoHFW.
- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** Being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development since 2007.
- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY):** It is a Pension Scheme launched in 2017 and extended up to 2023.
- **Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative:** It aims to identify, evaluate, verify, aggregate, and deliver products, solutions and services directly to the stakeholders. It promotes the idea of “silver economy”.

## 2.4. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR INFORMAL WORKERS

### Why in news?

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the gaps in India’s social security policies, specifically towards informal workers.



### Constitutional Provisions

#### Concurrent List

**Item No. 23:** Social Security and insurance, employment and unemployment.

**Item No. 24:** Welfare of Labour including conditions of work, provident funds, employer’s liability, workmen’s compensation, invalidity and old age pension and maternity benefits.

#### Directive Principles of State Policy

**Article 41 :** Provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.

**Article 42 :** Provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

## Social Security & its significance

- According to ILO, social security is based on the **recognition of human dignity and social justice** guaranteed by law to all human beings who live from their own labour and who find themselves unable to work temporarily or permanently for reasons beyond their control.
- Effective social security systems **guarantee income security and health protection** in any adverse event.
- In India, **The Code on Social Security 2020 defines social security** as "the measures of **protection afforded to employees, unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers** to ensure access to **health care** and to provide **income security**, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner by means of rights conferred on them and schemes framed, under this Code."
- **Other efforts to strengthen the social security of informal workers**
  - The Labour Bureau is carrying out 5 All India Surveys (with respect to informal workers)
    - All India Survey on Domestic Workers (AISDWs)
    - All India Survey on Migrant Workers
    - All India Survey on Employment generated in Transport Sector
    - All India Survey on Employment Generated by Professionals
    - All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES)
  - India is a **signatory to ILO's 189th convention**, known as Convention on the Domestic Workers; but has **not ratified it yet**.
    - Convention mandates that **the domestic workers be given daily and weekly rest hours**, their payment must meet **minimum wage requirement**, and that they should be allowed to choose place where they live and spend their leave.

## 2.5. RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDERS

### Why in news?

Recently the Madras High Court (HC) issued directions to remove prejudice against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual and/or Ally (LGBTQIA+) community

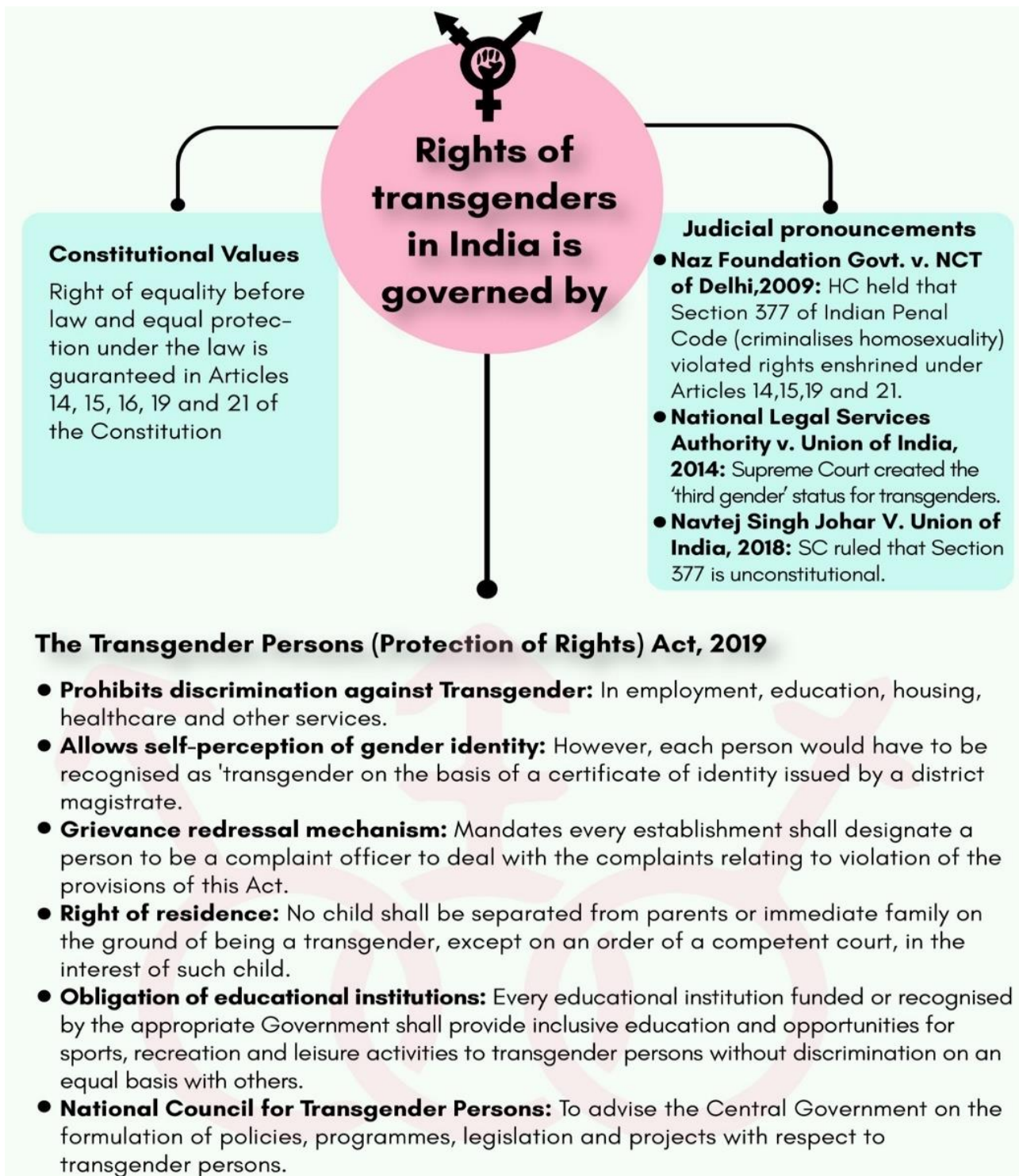
### More on News

- **Directions**, to protect LGBTQIA+ community from harassment, **include:**
  - **Prohibition on attempts to cure or change sexual orientation** of LGBTQIA+ people.
  - Union ministry of social justice and empowerment to **publish a list of NGOs who have expertise in handling issues faced by LGBTQIA+ community.**
  - **Change in curricula of schools and universities** to educate students on understanding the LGBTQIA+ community.
  - **Use of Parent Teachers Association in schools to sensitise parents.**
  - Changes in **hiring policies for inclusivity** provide support in case of grievances etc.



### KEY FACTS/TRENDS LGBTQ + COMMUNITY IN INDIA (FINDINGS BY NHRC IN 2018)

- ▶ **4.8 lakh** people in India are transgenders (Census, 2011)
- ▶ **30,000** transgenders are registered with the Election Commission of India
- ▶ **89% of transgenders** said there are no jobs for even qualified ones
- ▶ **50% - 60%** transgenders have never attended schools



## 2.6. MANUAL SCAVENGING

### Why in news?

Recently the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has told Parliament that no death were reported due to manual scavenging.

### Current law on Manual Scavenging

- 'Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013'
  - This 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
- **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.
  - ✓ **Exception:** Any person who has been employed to clean human waste and does so with the help of the appropriate protective gear and equipment will not be considered a manual scavenger under this law.
- **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.
- **Rehabilitation of manual scavengers**
  - ✓ An initial one-time cash assistance
  - ✓ Scholarship to the children of manual scavenger
  - ✓ Allotment of residential plot and financial assistance for house construction of a ready built house
  - ✓ Training in a livelihood skill with payment of stipend of at least Rs 3000 per month
  - ✓ Provision for subsidy, along with concessional loans, to at least one adult member of the family
- **Punishment for violation of the Act:** Under section 8 of this Act, a person violating this will be punishable with imprisonment for up to two years or a fine of up to 12 lakh or both. For any subsequent violations, the imprisonment may extend up to five years and the fine can go up to 15 lakh or both.
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is responsible for rehabilitation of manual scavengers and it implements the **'Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers' (SRMS)**.

## 2.7. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

### Why in news?

Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) released its report on Indigenous people.

### About indigenous people

- Indigenous Peoples are **distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources where they live, occupy or from which they have been displaced.**
- Indigenous Peoples hold internationally recognised rights for the preservation of their food systems through the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).**
- **PVTGs in India:** Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. There are 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes. Government of India follows the following criteria for identification of PVTGs.
  - Pre-agricultural level of technology
  - Low level of literacy
  - Economic backwardness
  - A declining or stagnant population

### About the report

- This third edition titled **"Indigenous Peoples' Food System, Insights of sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change"** was released with alliance of **Biodiversity International and International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).**
- The report studied **eight Indigenous Peoples' food systems** in Amazon, Sahel, Himalayas, Pacific Islands and Arctic (refer to the map) to document their unique capacity to conserve biodiversity and foster resilient food security.
- These systems are at **high risk from climate change, major infrastructure projects, and the granting of concessions that allow mining, commercial agriculture on indigenous people's territories.**

### India Specific Findings

Indigenous people of India	Characteristics of their food systems	Major changes
Khasi (Meghalaya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Biome:</b> Subtropical evergreen forest, water streams</li> <li>● <b>Main livelihood activities:</b> Cultivation, gathering, hunting, fishing, cash crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● India's PDS has changed local subsistence system</li> </ul>

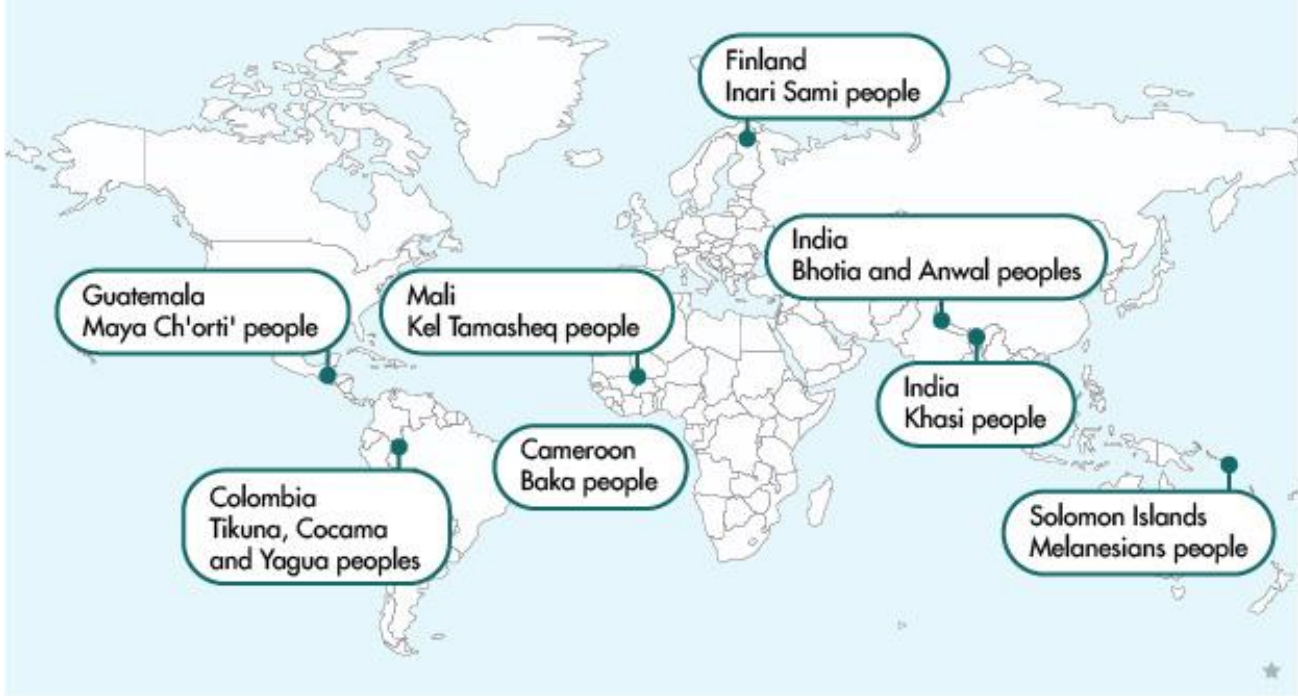


### KEY FACTS/TRENDS

Although Indigenous Peoples make up 5% of the global population, they account for about 15% of the extreme poor.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mobile Practice:</b> Shifting Cultivation.</li> <li>• <b>Food barter:</b> Disappeared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rice has supplanted local staples</b> (millet and pulses)</li> <li>• Wild foods reduced in diet</li> <li>• Increased cash based economy</li> </ul>
<b>Bhotia and Anwal (Uttarakhand)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Biome:</b> Forest, Mountain</li> <li>• <b>Main livelihood activities:</b> Cultivation, livestock, gathering</li> <li>• <b>Mobile Practice:</b> Semi-nomadic/ Transhumance</li> <li>• <b>Food barter:</b> Yes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduced access to wild edibles</li> <li>• Land degradation induced by climate change</li> <li>• Reduced reliance on traditional medicine</li> </ul>

### Location of the eight Indigenous Peoples' food systems.



PT 365 - Social Issues

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# 3. EDUCATION

## 3.1. NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

### Why in news?

India completed one year of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

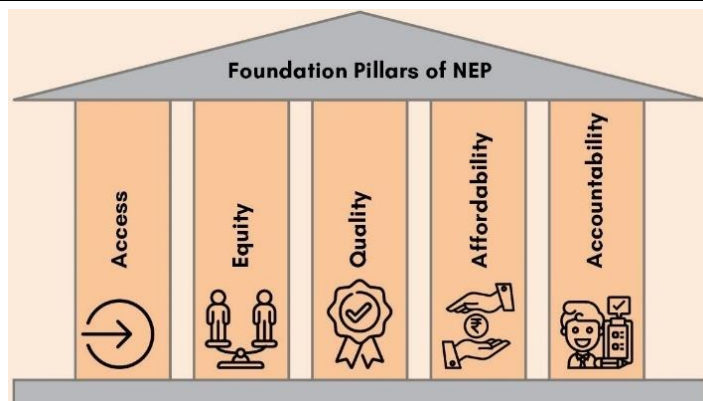
### More on news

Prime Minister launched multiple key initiatives in the education sector to mark the first year anniversary of the National Education Policy 2020. These are as given under:

Initiative	Details
<b>Academic Bank of Credit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b>envisaged as a digital bank</b> that shall deposit Credits awarded by Registered Higher Education Institutions, for Courses pursued therein, in the Academic Bank Account of the student.</li> <li>It is a <b>major instrument for facilitating multidisciplinary and holistic education</b> and will allow <b>multiple entry and exit options</b> for students of undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses.</li> </ul>
<b>Vidya Pravesh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a <b>preschool preparation programme</b> for Class 1st students.</li> <li>The program will consist of a <b>three-month play module</b> for these children to prepare them for school.</li> </ul>
<b>SAFAL (Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning Levels)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An <b>assessment programme for CBSE students</b> to assess the progress of foundational skills and basic learning outcomes and competencies among students in classes 3, 5 and 8.</li> </ul>
<b>National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will provide <b>diverse education eco-system architecture</b> for development of digital infrastructure, a federated but interoperable system that will ensure autonomy of all stakeholders, especially States and UTs.</li> <li>It will be beneficial for both Centre and States in planning, administering and governing school education as well as to teachers, students and schools for having a seamless digital learning experience.</li> </ul>
<b>National Education Technology Forum (NETF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a <b>platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology</b> like artificial intelligence, blockchain, machine learning, smart boards, computing devices to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.</li> <li>It will provide independent <b>evidence-based advice to central and state government agencies</b> on technology-based interventions.</li> </ul>
<b>NISHTHA 2.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will provide <b>training to teachers</b> as per their needs and they will be able to give their suggestions to the department. It will have 68 modules including 12 generic and 56 subject-specific modules and will cover around 10 lakh teachers.</li> <li><b>NISHTHA is the largest teachers' training programme</b>, first of its kind in the world to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.</li> </ul>
<b>Other initiatives related to language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mother tongue as medium of instruction in colleges:</b> 14 engineering colleges in <b>eight States</b> are going to start engineering studies in five Indian languages: <b>Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Bangla</b>.</li> <li><b>Sign Language as a Subject in Secondary Level:</b> Indian sign language, for the first time, has been accorded the status of language subject. This will give a boost to Indian sign language and will help the divyang people.</li> </ul>

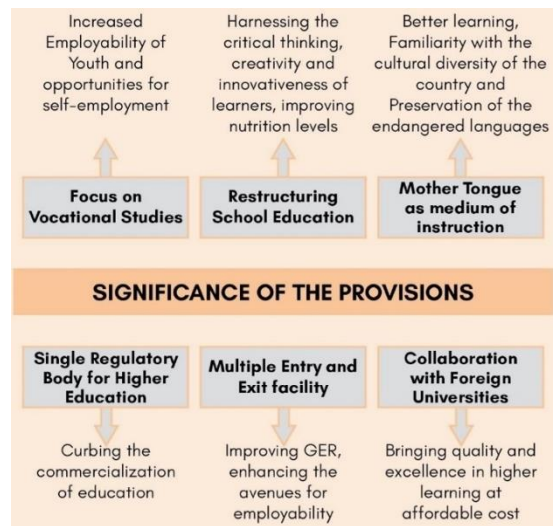
### Background: About NEP

- The NEP, was launched in July 2020 as the **guiding philosophy for changing the learning landscape**, making education holistic and for building strong foundations for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- This is the **first education policy of the 21st century** and replaces the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986.



- The policy is **aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, suited to 21st century needs.

For detailed provisions of National Education Policy, 2020 refer to the appendix at the end of the document.



**Related news**

- Recently, the **Ministry of Education** formed a new National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Development of National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF).
  - The NCF serves as a **guideline for syllabus, textbooks, teaching and learning practices** in schools across the country. It attempts to **address the future requirements of school education**.
  - NCF was **last prepared in 2005** and it was revised in 1975, 1988 and 2000.
- The NSC **will be headed by K Kasturirangan**, who also headed the drafting committee of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- It will develop four NCFs** for: School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Teacher Education and Adult Education.
- All the NCFs would also **reflect upon the implications of situations such as COVID-19 Pandemic** on respective areas for future.
- It will also draw **inputs from State Curriculum Frameworks (SCFs)**.

### 3.2. QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

**Why in news?**

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

**National Achievement Survey (NAS)**

- It is a nationally representative large-scale **survey of students' learning** undertaken by the **Ministry of Education**, Government of India. NAS gives a system level reflection on **effectiveness of school education**.
- NAS 2021 intends to provide information of **what India's students know and can do in key grades and subjects** at national, state, district and school type.

**KEY FACTS/TREND SCHOOLS IN INDIA**

According to the United District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20, Indian schools have seen **improvement in following parameters** against 2018-19

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at all levels
- Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at all levels
- Enrolment of girls from primary to higher secondary
- Gender Parity Index (GPI) at both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels

**Schools in rural India**

According to the Annual Survey of Education (ASER) Report, 2021

- **Shift in enrolment of both boys and girls from private to government schools**
- **Steady increase in children taking tuition**
- Availability of smartphones almost doubled to 68%,
- While 92% of children had textbooks for their grade, **only a third had access to any other learning resources or support like WhatsApp or live classes**
- In 2020 and 2021, there has been an **increase in the number of children not enrolled in schools, especially among boys**

- During proceedings of the survey, teachers across states noticed **children**, particularly those of grades 3 and 5, **struggling to make sense of the questions, and filling the OMR sheets.**

**Major Highlights of ASER 2021 report:**

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ASER has been conducted **every year since 2005** in all rural districts of India.
- It is the **largest citizen-led survey** in India.
- It is the **household-based** rather than school-based survey.
- In the context of the **pandemic**, the ASER Centre switched its focus to **access to learning opportunities** in 2020.

**Difference between ASER and NAS (National Achievement Survey)**

ASER Survey	NAS Survey
• It is a <b>citizen-led survey</b> (conducted by PRATHAM)	• It is conducted by <b>NCERT</b> under Ministry of Education.
• It is a household survey conducted since 2005.	• It is a school-based survey.
• One-on-one oral assessments.	• It is a pen-paper test.
• Aimed at representative sample of all children (whether in school or out of school).	• It takes into account the children enrolled in government and government aided schools.
• It focuses on foundational skills such as reading and math.	• It looks at wider variety of skills.
• It is limited to rural areas of the country.	• It is conducted throughout the country in both rural and urban areas.

### 3.3. HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

**Why in news?**

Recently, the Ministry of Education released **All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE)** report for the year 2019-20.

**About AISHE**

- All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) is an **annual web-based survey** conducted since 2010-11 by the erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development **portraying the status of higher education in the country.**
- The survey is being **conducted under** the central sector scheme **Higher Education Statistics and Public Information System (HESPIS).**
- Survey is **based on voluntary uploading of data by institutions of Higher Education** and covers all higher education institutions in the country, which are **categorised into 3 broad categories:**
  - **Universities**
  - **Colleges/Institutions**
  - **Stand-alone Institutions** (not affiliated with Universities and are not empowered to provide degree, therefore run Diploma Level Programmes)

KEY FACTS/TRENDS

FINDINGS OF AISHE 2019-20 ON HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN INDIA

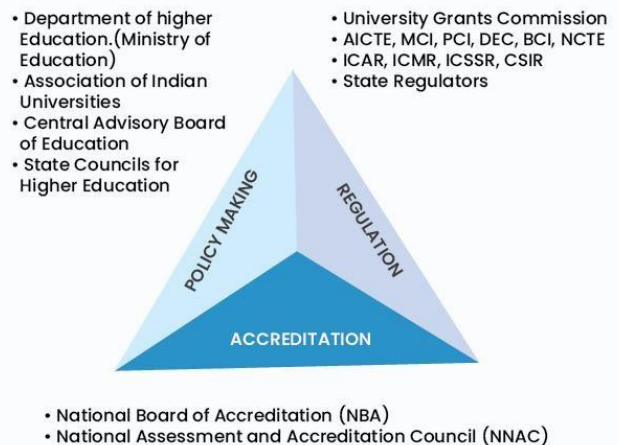
➤ Marginal rise in GER

➤ Marginal rise in GER for women

➤ Rise in Gender Parity from 1 in 2018-19 to 1.01 in 2019-20

➤ Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) is 26 and there are large variations among the States

#### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA



### Major initiatives by the government for higher education sector

- **Improving Student Enrolment:**
  - **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** aims at increasing the GER in higher education to 50% by 2035 with emphasis on making the curriculum flexible through an interdisciplinary approach, creating multiple exit points, and scholarships to ST, SC, OBC and SEDGs students as per their merit.
  - **New UGC regulation for Open and Distance Learning** that allows entry of reputed institutions to offer education on the distance mode.
  - **SWAYAM portal** to reach out to people and allow them to secure good quality education.
- **Addressing Funding requirements:**
  - **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), 2013** aims at financing state institutions with respect to their governance and performance.
  - **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA), 2018**, a joint venture of MoE and Canara Bank aims to leverage funds from the market, donations and CSR funds to be used to finance improvement in infrastructure in top institutions.
- **Better regulation of HEIs: Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)** was proposed to act as an overarching regulator of higher education by replacing UGC or AITCE.
- **Revitalising Research Ecosystem:**
  - **Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)** scheme funded by a restructured Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) aims at Increased investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions.
  - **Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme** to enhance the quality of technical research
  - **IMPRINT (IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology) India**, Joint initiative of IITs and IISc to boost original scientific and technological research.
  - **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- **Improving quality of HEIs:**
  - **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2015**, a methodology adopted by the MoE to rank higher education institutions in India in order to encourage institutes to compete against each other and simultaneously work towards their growth.
  - NIRF is also one of the criteria for private institutions assessment for the **Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme** that provide the regulatory architecture for setting up or upgrading of 20 Institutions (10 from public sector and 10 from the private sector) as world-class teaching and research institutions.
  - **Mandatory Assessments:** The UGC has made NAAC assessments compulsory for all HEIs that apply for funding and the AICTE recently announced that at least half the programmes run by an HEI must be accredited by the NBA.

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- ★ Mock Interview Session with Ex-Bureaucrats/ Educationists
- ★ Interaction with Previous toppers and Serving bureaucrats
- ★ Performance Evaluation and Feedback



# 4. HEALTH

## 4.1. NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY (NFHS-5) PHASE II

### Why in News?

Recently, the NFHS-5 survey was released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Affairs.

### More on news

- Main objective of successive rounds of the NFHS is to provide **reliable and comparable data relating to health and family welfare** and other emerging issues.
- NFHS-5 includes some **new focal areas, such as death registration, pre-school education, expanded domains of child immunization**, menstrual hygiene, frequency of alcohol and tobacco use etc.

### Key highlights of the survey (All India level)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- TFR of about 2.1 children per woman is called replacement-level fertility, considered essential to keep population growth in check.
- NMR refers to the 'number of deaths among all live births during the first 28 days of life expressed per 1000 live births.'
- IMR is 'the death of an infant before his or her first birthday and Infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births.'
- U-5 MR is the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five.

### Key highlights of the survey (All India level)

Indicator	NFHS 5 (2019–21)	NFHS 4 (2015–16)	Changes from NFHS 4 to NFHS 5
<b>Total Fertility Rates (TFR) (an average number of children per women)</b>	2.0	2.2	↓
<b>Sexratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males)</b> • This is the first time, in any NFHS or Census, that the sex ratio is skewed in favour of women.	1,020	991	↑
<b>Neonatal mortality rate (NMR)</b>	24.9	29.5	↓
<b>Infant mortality rate (IMR)</b>	35.2	40.7	↓
<b>Under-five mortality rate (U-5 MR)</b>	41.9	49.7	↓
<b>Women age 20–24 years married before age 18 years (%)</b>	23.3%	26.8%	↓
<b>Institutional births</b>	88.6%	78.9%	↑
<b>Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)</b>	35.5%	38.4%	↓
<b>Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height)</b>	19.3%	21%	↓
<b>Children under 5 years who are under-weight (weight-for-age)</b>	32.1%	35.8%	↓

## 4.2. THE NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS (NHA) ESTIMATES

### Why in news

Recently the NHA estimates for India for 2017-18 was Released.

### More on news

- This is the **fifth** consecutive NHA report produced by **National Health Systems Resource Centre**, designated as National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat in 2014 by the Health Ministry.
  - The NHA estimates are prepared by using an **accounting framework based on the internationally accepted System of Health Accounts 2011**, provided by the **World Health Organization**.
- Key trends**

### Key Trends

Specification	2013–14	2017–18	Changes from 2013–14 to 2017–18
<b>Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) as a share of total health expenditure (THE)</b>	64.2%	48.8%	↓
<b>Share of Government health expenditure in the total GDP of the country</b>	1.15%	1.35%	↑
<b>Share of Government Health Expenditure in THE</b>	28.6%	40.8%	↑
<b>Government health expenditure in per capita terms</b>	21,042	21,753	↑
<b>Share of primary healthcare in current Government health expenditure</b>	51.1%	54.7%	↑
<b>External/ Donor Funding for health as per cent of THE</b>	0.3%	0.5%	↑

#### • Other findings

- > **Primary and secondary care accounts for more than 80%** of the current Government health expenditure.
- The **share of social security expenditure on health**, which includes the social health insurance programme, Government financed health insurance schemes, and medical reimbursements made to Government employees, **has increased**

## 4.3. EUTHANASIA

### Why in News?

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

### More about news

- Victor Escobar became the first person in the Andean country** with a non-terminal illness to die by legally regulated euthanasia.
  - Escobar suffered from **end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**, which greatly **diminishes quality of life, as well as several other conditions**.

The Colombian Constitutional Court had recognized last year that Euthanasia procedure should not be available just for the terminally ill.

## About Euthanasia

- **Euthanasia** can be defined as the **intentional killing by act or omission of a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit.**
  - It is also known as **‘Mercy Killing’** which is an act where the individual who, is in an irremediable condition or has no chances of survival as (s)he is suffering from painful life, ends her/his life in a painless manner.
- The term was derived from the **Greek words ‘eu’ and ‘thanatos’ which means ‘good or easy death’.**
- There are primarily two types of Euthanasia.
  - **Active euthanasia:** Physician deliberate act, usually the administration of lethal drugs, to end an incurably or terminally ill patient’s life.
  - **Passive euthanasia:** Withholding or withdrawing treatment which is necessary for maintaining life.

## Euthanasia in India

- **Active euthanasia is a crime** under section 302 or 304 of IPC.
- **Passive euthanasia is legal** in India under **exceptional circumstances.** The theory of passive euthanasia got its legal status in the year 2011.
- **The Medical Treatment of Terminally ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) Bill, 2016,** makes provisions for patients of sound mind to make an informed decision regarding the withholding of medical treatment for themselves, paving the way for the implementation of passive euthanasia in the country.
  - 2018 judgement (refer to the box) has made it harder to give passive euthanasia an effect as now it involves execution of the directive in presence of two witnesses, authentication by a:
    - Judicial Magistrate
    - permission from two Medical Boards
    - Jurisdictional collector
- **In response to the apprehensions of misuse of advance directives (or living wills), the court also issued comprehensive guidelines on the procedure for execution of an advance directive as well as for giving effect to passive euthanasia.**
  - The guidelines will remain in force until Parliament enacts a legislation on the subject.

### Judicial pronouncements on euthanasia in India

- The Supreme Court in **2011 in Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v. Union of India** had held that passive euthanasia can be allowed under exceptional circumstances.
  - In **Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab (1996)**, the Supreme Court had held that the right to life under Article 21 does not include the right to die.
- In **Common Cause (A Regd. Society) v. Union of India & Anr. (2018)**, the Supreme Court of India held that a **person in persistent vegetative state can opt for passive euthanasia**, and that a person can execute a **living will** to refuse medical treatment in case of a terminal illness.
  - A ‘living will’ is a type of advance directive that may be used by a person before incapacitation to outline a full range of treatment preferences or, most often, to reject treatment.

### Guideline for living will

- Living Will shall be **voluntarily executed and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion.**
- It is mandatory for a living will to be in **written format** clearly mentioning as to when can medical treatment be withdrawn or a specific kind of medical treatment shall be given which will merely have the effect of procrastinating the death of the sufferer that may otherwise only prolong the pain, anguish and suffering of that person.
- It should mention the **right of an executor to revoke the instructions/directives/authority** at any time and the situations & circumstances under which he/she might do so.

### Related news

#### Palliative care

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines palliative care as an **approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families’** facing problems associated with life-threatening illness or serious health-related sufferings.
  - For WHO, **“palliative care is a human right and a moral imperative of all health systems.”**
- **According to the WHO**
  - **Only one in 10 people** who need palliative care are **receiving it.**
  - Each year over **56.8 million people need palliative care.** Around 78% of those people live in low and middle-income countries.
  - **Global demand** for care for people with life threatening illnesses, **will continue to grow** as populations age and the burden of noncommunicable diseases rises.
  - **By 2060,** the need for palliative care is expected to **nearly double.**

- To address the growing need of palliative, care the WHO releases **two new resources to support countries in assessing the development of palliative care** and improving the quality of services. These resources are
  - Technical report** with indicators that can be used by countries to monitor the provision of services. The goal is to create a global consensus on indicators, providing data that supports decision-making.
  - Technical brief**, that includes practical approaches and resources to support policy, strategy, and practice. The brief guides action at the national, district level, and point of care.

## 4.4. TOBACCO USE IN INDIA

### Why in news?

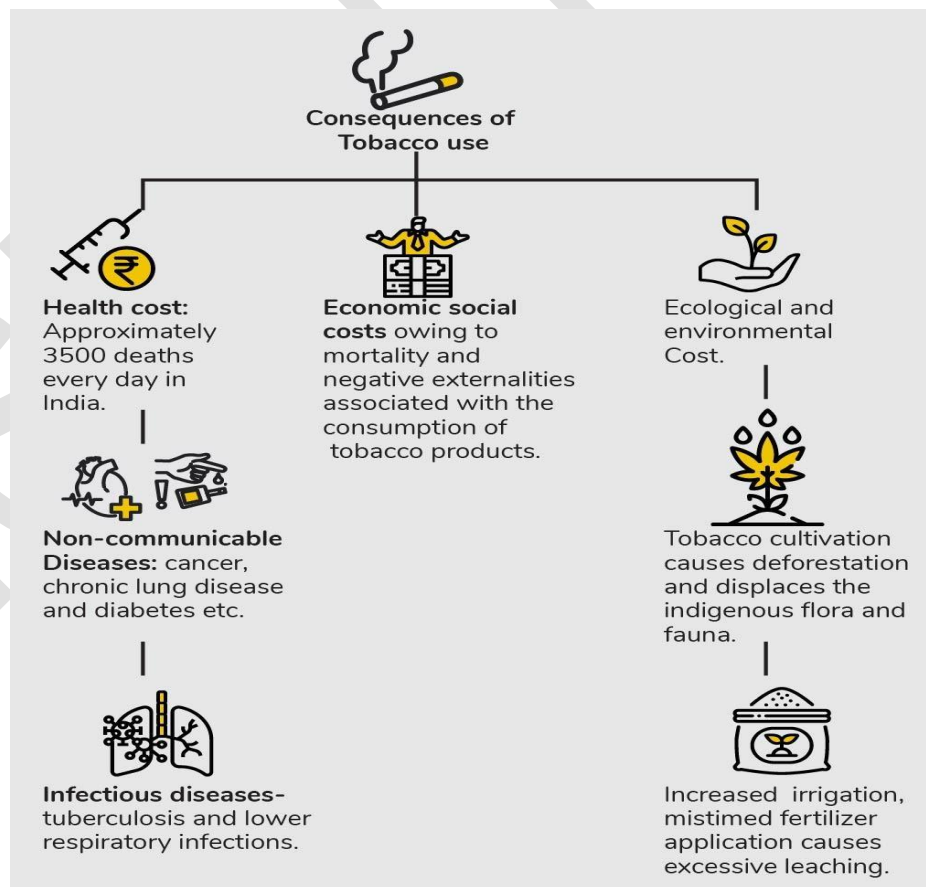
A WHO study titled **“Economic Costs of Diseases and Deaths Attributable to Tobacco Use in India”** estimated that the economic burden of diseases and deaths attributable to use of tobacco in India, amounted to approximately 1% of GDP.

### Tobacco use in India

- Tobacco is the foremost preventable cause of death and disease in the world today, killing half of the people who use it.
- As per **Global Adult Tobacco Survey-India (GATS-India)**, **India is home to over 27 crore tobacco users** and globally it is the second largest producer and consumer of tobacco products.
  - However, prevalence of tobacco use has **reduced from 34.6% to 28.6%** during the period from 2009-10 to 2016-17
- The prevalence of current tobacco use **among men is 42.4% as compared with 14.2% among women.**
- Among both men and women, the prevalence of tobacco use is **higher in rural as compared to urban areas.**

### Initiatives taken in India

- India became a **Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** in 2005.
- FCTC, the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO, **was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic.**
- WHO FCTC asserts the **importance of both demand reduction strategies as well as supply issues** to address addictive substances issues.
- Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA), 2003** which aims to provide smoke free public places and also places restrictions on tobacco advertisement and promotion.
- National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)** was launched in 2007-08 with objective of ensuring effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA, 2003 to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption etc.





- **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** provides for strict punishment against giving tobacco products to children.
- **National Health Policy 2017** has set an ambitious **target of reducing tobacco use by 30% by 2025**.
- **National level tobacco cessation quit-line** to provide tobacco cessation counseling services to the community through a toll-free number.
- **Pictorial Health Warnings** to cover **85% of the front and back panels** of the tobacco product package.
- **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019** which prohibits Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement of e-Cigarettes.

## 4.5. SECONDARY HEALTH CARE IN INDIA

### Why in News?

Recently, NITI Aayog released a performance assessment report “Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals”.

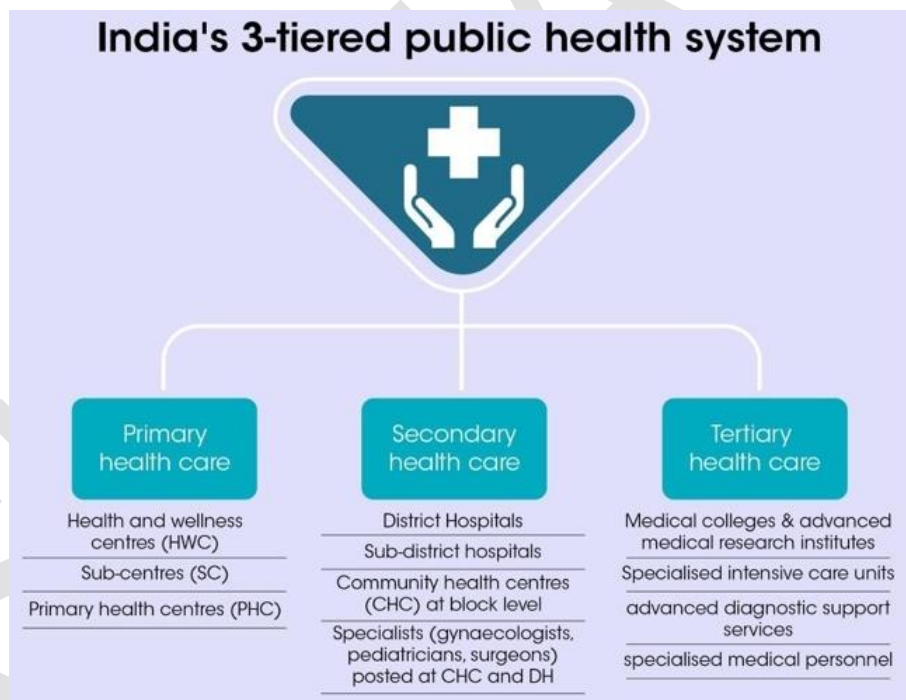
### More on News

- It is the **first-ever performance assessment of district hospitals** and marks a shift in healthcare delivery system towards **data-driven governance for communities and people availing health services**.
- Report is **released jointly by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India**.
- **Key Highlights of the report**

- District hospitals in India have **on an average 24 beds per 1 lakh population**, with Bihar having the lowest average of six beds and Puducherry the highest of 222.

✓ Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2012 guidelines **recommend district hospitals to maintain at least 22 beds per 1 lakh population** (based on 2001 census).

- A **district hospital in India has 11 support services on an average** against IPHS identified 14 support services that a district hospital is expected to maintain.
- **Only 189** (around 27%) of the total 707 districts assessed met the **doctor-to-bed ratio of 29 doctors per 100 beds** in a hospital (based on IPHS norm).
- The **average bed occupancy rate in district hospitals in India is 57%** (IPHS guidelines recommend at least 80% bed occupancy).
- District hospitals have been **employing unique initiatives in different arenas** in order to improve their service delivery.
- For instance, **Belgaum district hospital, Karnataka has an impressive blood bank replacement rate of 0%** (0 blood units issued on replacement).



### Related news

#### NITI Aayog Released Report on Not-for-Profit Hospital Model in India

- **Private hospitals are largely divided into “for-profit hospitals,”** which account for 23.3% of treated ailments and **“not-for-profit hospitals,”** which account for only 1.1% of treated ailments.
  - Report defined four categories for not-for-profit hospitals (refer infographic).

	Faithbased Hospitals	Community based Hospitals	Cooperative Hospitals	Private Trust Hospitals
Premise	Selfless service to the society as service to God.	Selfless service to the underprivileged of the society, not necessarily influenced by faith.	Self-sufficiency in healthcare by self-participation.	service rendered on a no profit and no loss basis.

- Need for Not-for-Profit Model**
  - Lack of penetration of quality healthcare, especially among the economically weaker sections of society.
  - Challenges of **unavailability and unaffordability** in healthcare services.
  - India has a **lower Bed density** (1/1000 population) than rest of the world.
  - Hospitalization services have a high level of concentration in urban areas (72% of the hospital beds).

## 4.6. DRUG ABUSE

### Why in news?

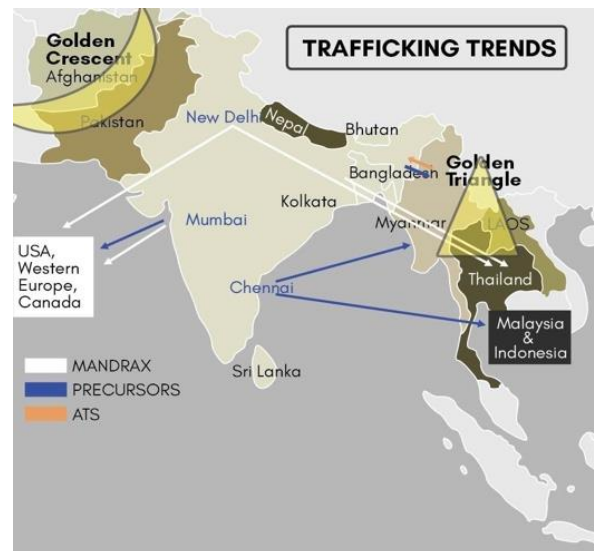
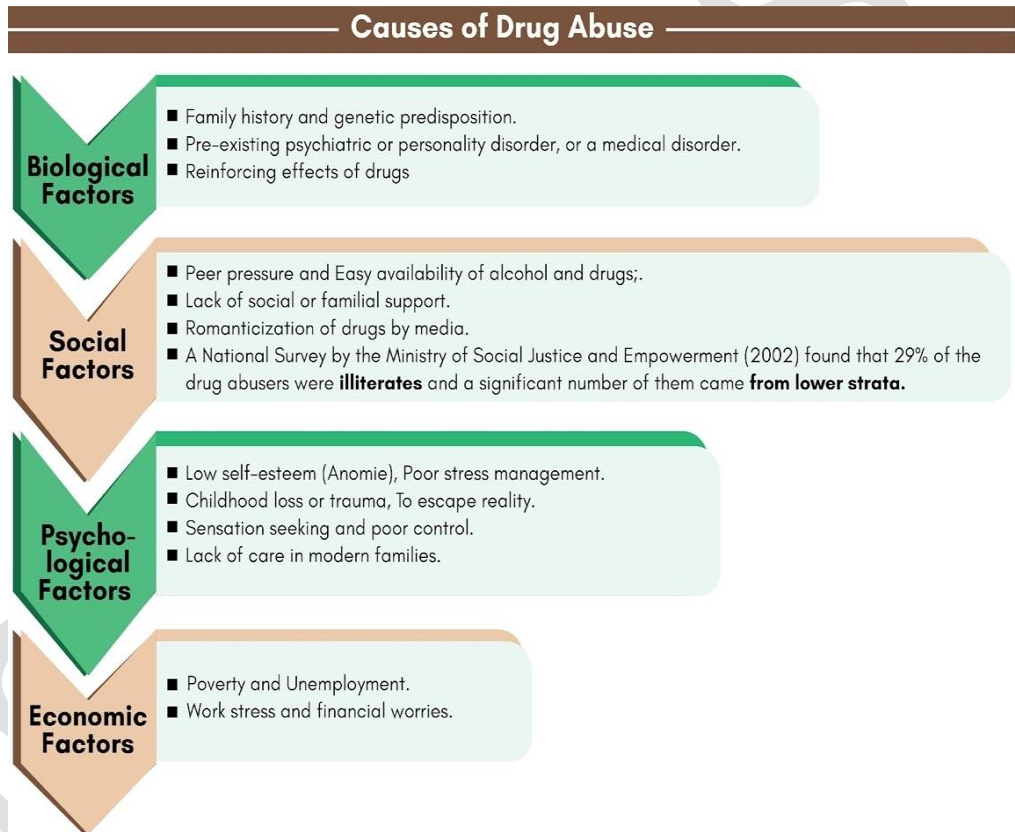
Calling for a humane approach towards **drug users and addicts**, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recommended changes to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 to **exempt them from a prison term**.

### More about news

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

### About drug abuse

- Drug abuse or Substance abuse** refers to the harmful or **hazardous use of psychoactive substances**, including alcohol and illicit drugs.
  - Psychoactive substances** are substances that, when taken in or administered into one's system, **affect mental processes**.
- India is vulnerable to high drug abuse as, geographically, India lies between the **Golden triangle and the golden crescent**, the **major opium production regions**. Thus, India acts as a hub for drug trafficking (refer the map).



#### Major Initiatives taken by government to curb drug abuse

- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act):** It was enacted with the objective to make **stringent provisions and consolidate the law** in relation to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- The Act created **Narcotics Control Bureau** which carries out functions like **coordination** among various agencies engaged in drug law enforcement, collection, and dissemination of **intelligence** etc.
- **Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse for Social Defence Services:** The scheme helps Voluntary Organizations for Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug abuse.
- The **Mental Health Care Act (2017)** has included **alcohol and drug use** disorders under its ambit. This measure is likely to increase the availability and access to the minimum standard of **care and rehabilitation for people with substance use disorders**.
- **National Survey:** To analyse the **extent of drug abuse** in the country, Government conducted the **first National Survey** on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India through the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the AIIMS, New Delhi **during 2018**.
- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025:** Formulated and implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, it aims at **reduction of adverse consequences** of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving Awareness generation programmes, Community outreach, Capacity Building Programmes, etc.
- **'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan'** or a **'Drugs-Free India Campaign'** launched in 2020 across **272 districts of the country found to be most vulnerable** based on the data available from various sources.
- **UN Conventions:** India is a party to the **three United Nations drug conventions:** Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

## 4.7. GAMING DISORDER

### Why in news?

The gaming disorder is quickly growing as the pandemic spurred an increased use of Internet devices.

### More on news

- According to the All-India Gaming Federation, India's **online gaming industry is expected to be worth ₹15,500 crore by 2023**.
- A 2019 survey by the U.S.-based Limelight Networks found that
  - **India had the second largest number of gamers** after South Korea
  - While time spent online is still not as high as in other countries, it found that **almost a quarter of adult Indian gamers had missed work** while playing games.
- Recently, **China limited gamers under 18 years to just three hours of online games per week**, during specified times, and made the industry responsible for enforcing the restriction.

### About gaming disorders

- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) **categorised gaming disorder as a mental health condition in 2018**.
- According to the WHO's definition, a person who has gaming disorder will show the **following characteristics for at least 12 months:**
  - Lacking control over their gaming habits
  - Prioritizing gaming over other interests and activities
  - Continuing gaming despite its negative consequences
- Thus, according to WHO, the **criteria doesn't include a certain number of hours spent playing**. Instead, the description is of someone with an **inability to stop playing** even though it interferes with other areas of one's life, such as family relationships, school, work, and sleep.
- **Consequences**
  - Gaming disorders cause **physical, social and emotional damages, impairing sleep, appetites, careers and social lives**.
  - A Delhi-based NGO named the Distress Management Collective documented other ways in which online gaming could lead to **financial distress**. "For a poor family, even the money needed to recharge a mobile phone to feed a gaming addiction can bankrupt a family."
  - People who remain physically inactive for extended periods due to gaming may also have a **higher risk of obesity, sleep problems, and other health issues**.

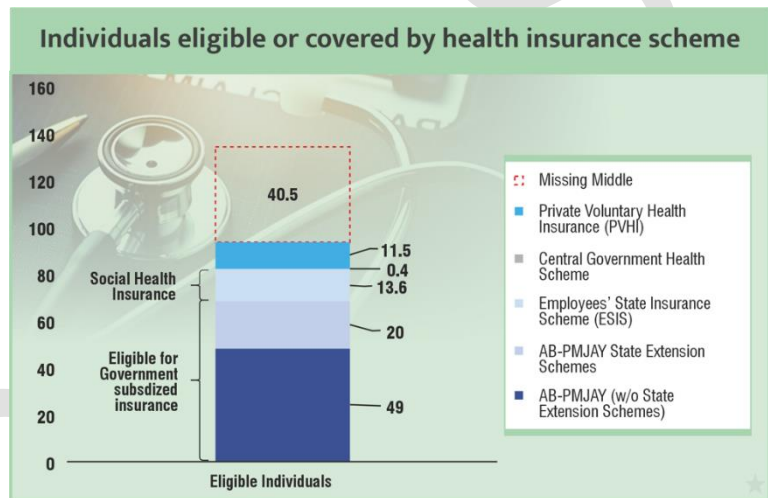
## 4.8. HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDIA'S MISSING MIDDLE

Why in news?

NITI Aayog has recently released the report "Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle".

More on news

- India has a **decentralized approach to health care** that allows **health insurance to be optional**.
- India has **multiple types of health insurance schemes**.
  - **Government Subsidized health insurance schemes** like Centrally Sponsored AB- PMJAY and state specific schemes such as 'Arogya Karnataka Scheme'.
  - **Social Health Insurance (SHI) Schemes** like Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) run by Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Central departments such as Railways and Defence have separate schemes for their employees, and Paramilitary has large hospitals in border areas.
  - **Private voluntary health insurance (PVHI) schemes**
- Report highlights the **gap in India's insurance coverage for 30% of India's population, or 40 crore individuals named as the 'missing middle'**.



- **Missing middle** is the **non-poor segments of the population positioned between deprived poorer sections, and relatively well-off organized sector** who remain prone to impoverishing health expenditure, **despite the financial capacity to pay for contributory health insurance**.
- It contains **multiple groups across all expenditure quintiles, in both urban and rural areas**.
- It **predominantly constitutes the self-employed** (agriculture and non-agriculture) informal sector in rural areas, and a broad array of occupations – informal, semi-formal, and formal – in urban areas.

**PT 365**

**ENGLISH | 22 Mar | 5 PM**

**हिन्दी | 29 Mar | 5 PM**

- 📖 Specific targeted content: oriented towards Prelims exam
- 📖 Doubt Clearing sessions and mentoring
- 📖 Complete coverage of The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, Economic Times, Yojana, Economic Survey, Budget, India Year Book, RSTV, etc from May 2021 to April 2022
- 📖 **Live and online** recorded classes that will help distance learning students and who prefers flexibility in class timing

**One Year CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS 2022 IN 60 HOURS**

# 5. NUTRITION AND SANITATION

## 5.1. GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX (GHI), 2021

### Why in news?

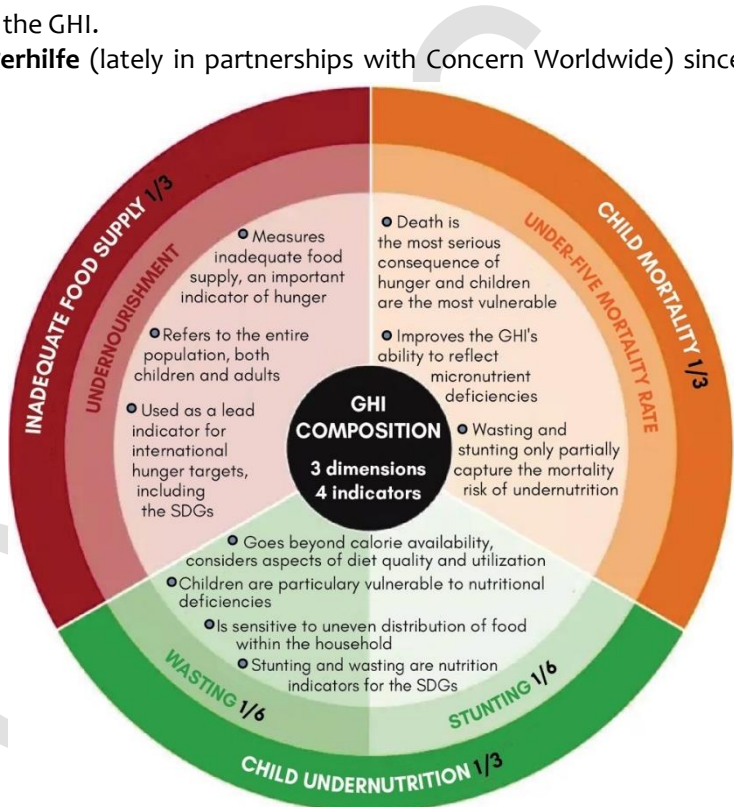
India was ranked 101 among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2021, trailing behind its South Asian neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

### About Global Hunger Index

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.
- High-income countries are not included in the GHI.
- The GHI has been released by Welthungerhilfe (lately in partnerships with Concern Worldwide) since 2000.
- The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst, although neither of these extremes is reached in actuality.

### Key Highlights of report

- Global Scenario:** Global hunger, represented by a GHI score of 17.9, is in the moderate category. The world as a whole will fail to achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.
- Driving forces:** Conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic are the most powerful forces driving hunger.
- Level of hunger across the world:**
  - Regions with extreme hunger:** Somalia, suffers from an extremely alarming level of hunger. Africa, South of the Sahara and South Asia are the world regions where hunger levels are highest. Hunger in both regions is considered serious.
  - Better performing countries:** Europe and Central Asia has the lowest 2021 GHI score of any region.
- Case in India:** With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is serious. Performance under various indicators:
  - Wasting in children under five years (%): 17.3
  - Proportion of undernourished in the population (%): 15.3
  - Prevalence of stunting in children under five years (%): 34.7
  - Under-five mortality rate (%): 3.4



PT 365 - Social Issues

### Related news

#### NITI Aayog convenes the National convention on prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood obesity

- The aim of the consultation is to develop policy options for prevention of overweight and obesity in children, adolescents and women in India.
- NITI Aayog described obesity as a 'silent epidemic'.
  - Obesity is defined as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to health. A body mass index (BMI) over 25 is considered overweight, and over 30 is obese.
  - The vast majority of overweight or obese children live in developing countries, where the rate of increase has been more than 30% higher than that of developed countries.
- Risk factors for obesity:**
  - Unhealthy food environment (accessibility, desirability, affordability of unhealthy foods)
  - Inadequate physical Activity and sedentary lifestyle
  - Inadequate breastfeeding practices

- Parental obesity, maternal under-nutrition
- India's action towards reducing obesity:
  - FSSAI's Eat right India initiative: Integrates safe and nutritious food intake, promotes healthy eating around school premises.
  - Fit India initiative: Spread awareness on fitness and physical activities and make fitness reach every school, college and village.
  - Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme for Infant and Young Child Feeding.

## 5.2. STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2021

### Why in news?

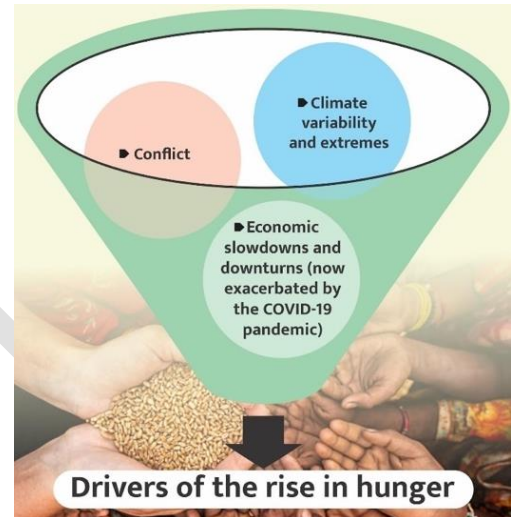
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report.

### About State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021

- It was jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- This report presents the **first global assessment of food insecurity and malnutrition for 2020** and highlights the need for a deeper reflection on how to better address the global food security and nutrition situation.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Hunger and food insecurity are closely related but distinct concepts.
- Hunger refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort, while food insecurity refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the household level.



Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
  - Indicator 2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment
  - Indicator 2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

### Key Findings of report

Parameter	Findings
People facing hunger in 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Estimated <b>between 720 and 811 million people</b></li> <li>● Around <b>118 million more</b> than in 2019</li> <li>● <b>21 percent</b> of the population was facing hunger in <b>Africa</b> (higher than any other region)</li> </ul>
Prevalence of undernourishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World <b>not on track to achieve targets</b> for any of the nutrition indicators by 2030</li> <li>● Remained <b>virtually unchanged from 2014 to 2019</b></li> <li>● Increased from <b>8.4 percent to around 9.9 percent</b> between 2019 and 2020</li> <li>● <b>More than half live in Asia</b> and more than one-third in Africa</li> <li>● <b>Adult obesity: 13.1 percent in 2016</b></li> </ul>
Moderate or severe food insecurity (based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale) at the global level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Risen from 22.6 percent in 2014 to <b>26.6 percent in 2019</b></li> <li>● <b>10 percent higher among women than men</b> in 2020</li> <li>● <b>One in three people in the world did not have access</b> to adequate food in 2020</li> </ul>
Child malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Stunting:</b> 22.0 percent of children under the age of five years</li> <li>● <b>Wasting:</b> 6.7 percent of children under the age of five years</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overweight:</b> 5.7 percent of children under the age of five years</li> <li>• <b>44 percent of infants</b> under 6 months of age were <b>exclusively breastfed in 2019</b> (37% in 2012)</li> </ul>
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### India Specific findings

Parameter	Findings
Prevalence of Undernourishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15.3% during 2018-20 (21.6 % during 2004-06)</li> <li>• <b>Adult obesity: 3.9% in 2016</b></li> </ul>
Child malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stunting: 30.9%</b> of children under the age of five years</li> <li>• <b>Wasting: 17.3%</b> of children under the age of five years</li> <li>• <b>Overweight: 1.9%</b> of children under the age of five years</li> <li>• <b>Exclusive breastfeeding</b> among infants 0-5 months of age: <b>58% in 2019</b></li> </ul>

## 5.3. GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT 2021

### Why in news?

The 2021 Global Nutrition Report (GNR) reveals that the world continues to face a nutrition crisis.

### About Global Nutrition Report

- GNR is a **multi-stakeholder initiative**, consisting of a Stakeholder Group, Independent Expert Group and Report Secretariat.
- GNR was conceived following the **first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013** as a mechanism for tracking the commitments made by 100 stakeholders spanning governments, aid donors, civil society, the UN and businesses.
- The GNR offers the world's most comprehensive picture of the **state of global nutrition** and **assesses the scale of the challenges** faced in the fight to tackle poor diets and malnutrition in all its forms.
  - It comes up with **an independent analysis of the best data on nutrition** which is critical for **evidence-based, timely and effective actions** to ensure we deliver on our global commitment to end poor diets.

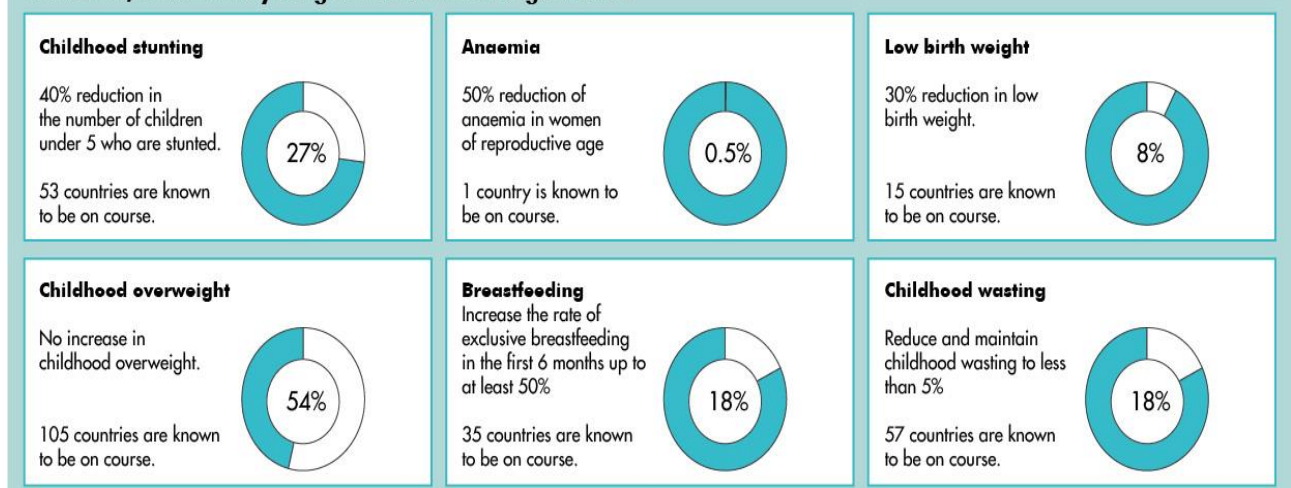
**GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS 2025:**

- Stunting**  
 TARGET: 40% reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted
- Anaemia**  
 TARGET: 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age
- Low birth weight**  
 TARGET: 30% reduction in low birth weight
- Childhood overweight**  
 TARGET: No increase in childhood overweight
- Breastfeeding**  
 TARGET: Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%
- Wasting**  
 TARGET: Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%

### Key findings

On course   
  Off course

#### Maternal, infant and young child nutrition targets 2025



**India related findings**

- There has been a **rise in anaemic Indian women** since 2016.
- **India is among 23 countries that have made no progress** or are worsening on reducing ‘**childhood wasting**’.
- **India is among 105 countries that are ‘on course’ to meet the target for ‘childhood overweight’** and among 53 countries ‘on course’ to meet the target for ‘**exclusive breast feeding**’.
- **India does not have adequate data** on prevalence of ‘**low birth weight**’.

**5.4. GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES**

**Why in news?**

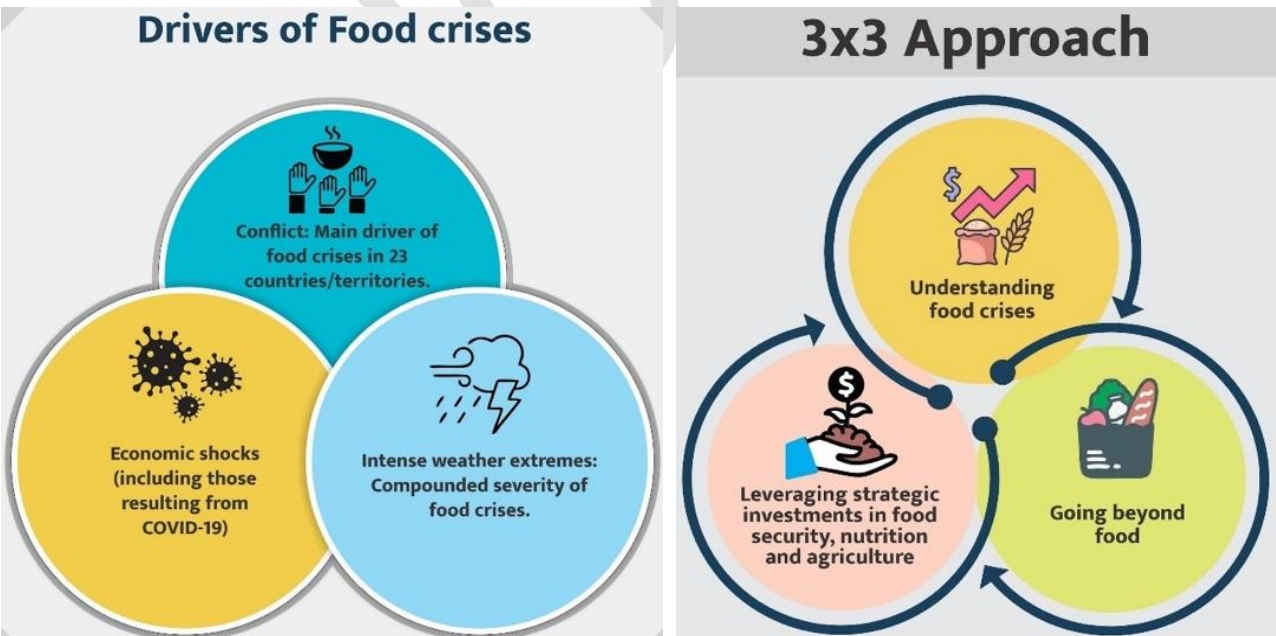
Global Network against Food Crises has recently released ‘Global Report on Food Crises’.

**About the report**

- It provides **estimates for populations in countries/territories based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** and Cadre Harmonisé (CH) or comparable sources.
- The report focuses on **55 countries** that account for **97% of humanitarian assistance**.

**Key findings of the report**

- Around **1.3 lakh people** were in the **most severe phase – Catastrophe**– in **Burkina Faso, South Sudan and Yemen** and needed urgent action to prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods.
- **Forecast for 2021** puts this figure at around **1.5 lakh people**.
- In 2020, over **15.8 million children under 5 years old** living in the 55 food crises were **suffering from wasting**.
- **Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan** accounted for **more than one-third** of all children affected by wasting.
- **What does 3X3 mean?**
  - **Global Network’s partners operate at 3 levels** (Global, regional and national)
  - **There are 3 interlinked dimensions:** understanding food crisis, strategic investment in food and nutrition security, and Going beyond food



**Global Network against Food Crises**

- It was founded by the **European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and **World Food Programme (WFP)** at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.
- It seeks to
  - **Reduce vulnerabilities** associated with acute hunger
  - **Achieve food security** and improved nutrition



- Promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, using a '3x3 approach' (refer infographic)
- About Integrated Food Security Phase Classification**
- It is an innovative multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis and decision-making.
  - It was originally developed in 2004 to be used in Somalia by FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit.
- About Cadre Harmonisé**
- It is a unifying tool that helps to produce analyses of current and projected food and nutrition situations.

## 5.5. SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2021 REPORT

### Why in news

The Swachh Survekshan 2021 Report was released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

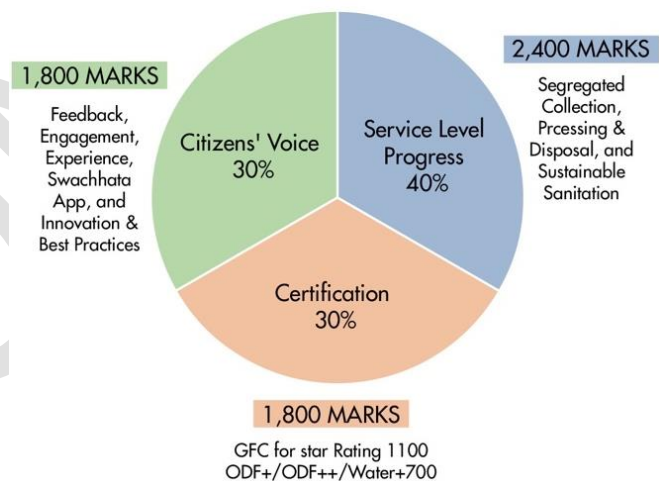
### About the Swachh Survekshan (SS) report, 2021

- SS is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).
  - It is conducted by MoHUA with Quality Council of India (QCI) as its implementation partner.
  - The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free cities (GFC) and open defecation free cities (ODF) among others.
  - First Survekshan was done in 2016.
- With the participation of 4,320 cities, the 6th edition of SS has become the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.
  - Survey was divided into 3 major parts - (Refer infographic)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Sanitation is a State subject.
- **SDG Goal 6:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

### SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2021 & TOTAL MARKS: 6,000



### Key Findings

- Indore won title of 'Cleanest City' for fifth consecutive time followed by Surat and Vijayawada in the 'more than 1 lakh population' category.
- Varanasi emerged as 'Best Ganga Town' while Ahmedabad Cantonment won title of 'India's Cleanest Cantonment'.
- Additionally, under Prerak Daar Samman, a new performance category introduced under Swachh Survekshan 2021, five cities – Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi Municipal Council and Tirupati were categorized as 'Divya' (Platinum).

### Quality Council of India

- It was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- It aims to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.
- It is governed by a Council of 38 members with equal representations of government, industry and consumers.
- Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the industry to the government
- The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.

### WASH

- WASH is the collective term for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Due to their interdependent nature, these three core issues are grouped together.
  - For example, without toilets, water sources become contaminated; without clean water, basic hygiene practices are not possible.
  - According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for WASH report titled 'Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2020: Five years into the SDGs India responsible for largest drop in open defecation since 2015.'

**Related News**

**SDG India Index 2021: NITI Aayog**

- Recently, the third edition of the report titled ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action’ was released by NITI Aayog.

**Key Findings of the report**

- India’s overall score across SDGs improved marginally from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2021 on accounts of improvement in performance in providing facilities including clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) among others.
  - However, there has been a major decline in the areas of industry, innovation and infrastructure as well as decent work and economic growth.
- Kerala retains top rank followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu while Bihar is at bottom followed by Jharkhand and Assam.
- Chandigarh maintained its top spot among the UTs followed by Delhi.



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## 6. MISCELLANEOUS

### 6.1. POPULATION CONTROL POLICY

#### Why in News?

Recently, on World Population Day (11<sup>th</sup> July), Uttar Pradesh (UP) government **announced a new population policy for 2021-2030**. This year, the theme of World Population Day 2021 is 'the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility'.

#### More on News

- If enacted, the provisions of the proposed legislation titled Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021 **will come into force after one year from the date of publication in the gazette**.
- It cites **strain on resources due to growing population** as the need to have a population control policy in place.
- **UP is India's most populous state** with a population of around 220 million.

#### Related information

- **Civil Registration System (CRS)** is the **unified process of continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of vital events** (births, death, stillbirths) and characteristics thereof.
  - The **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969** provides for the compulsory registration of births and deaths.
  - Births and deaths are registered **only at the place of their occurrence** within 21 days of occurrence of the event.

#### Measures taken by the Centre for population control

- India was the **first country in the world** to have launched a **National Programme for Family Planning in 1952**.
- **National Population Policy 2000** gave a focused approach to the problem of population stabilization.
  - **National Commission on Population was formed in the year 2000**. The Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister, has the mandate to review, monitor and give directions for implementation of the National Population Policy.
- **Mission Parivar Vikas** has been introduced for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services in 146 high fertility districts in 7 high focus states.
- **Expanded Contraceptive Choices**: The current contraceptive basket has been expanded with inclusion of new contraceptives namely Injectable contraceptive (Antara programme) and Cent chroman (Chhaya).
- **Post-partum Intrauterine contraceptive device (PPIUCD) incentive scheme** under which PPIUCD services are provided post-delivery.
- **Redesigned Contraceptive Packaging**: The packaging for Condoms, OCPs and ECPs has now been improved and redesigned to augment the demand for these commodities.
- **Family Planning Media Campaign**: A holistic media campaign is in place to generate contraceptive demand.
- **Vasectomy fortnight** is observed throughout the country in November each year to lay emphasis on male participation.
- **Scheme for Home Delivery of contraceptives** by ASHAs at doorstep of beneficiaries has been taken up.
- **Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS)** is being implemented to ensure last mile availability of FP commodities.

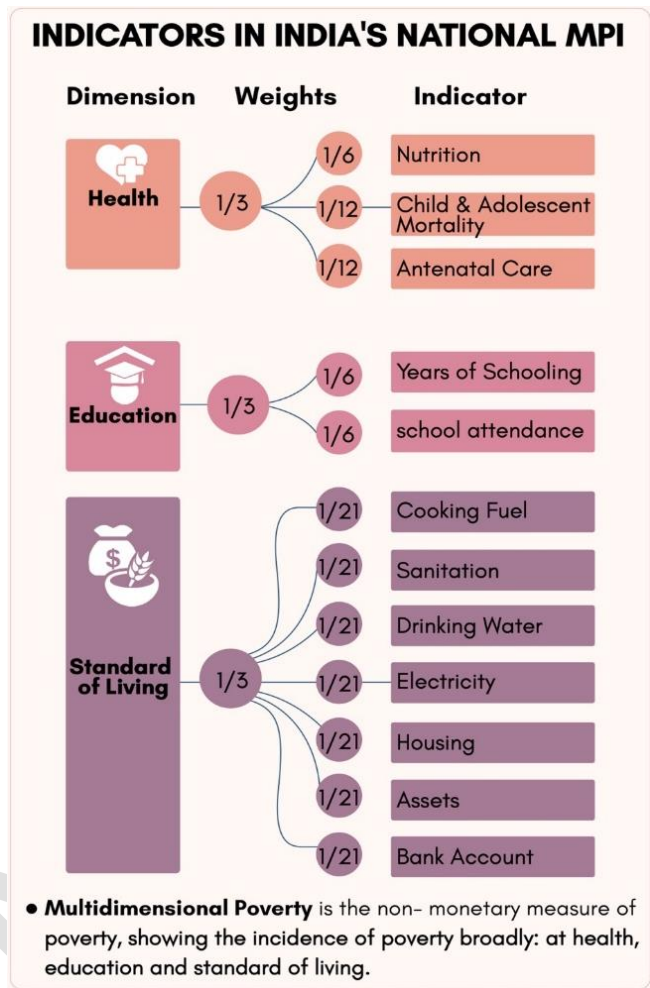
### 6.2. NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (NMPI)

#### Why in news?

Recently NITI Aayog released **India's First NMPI**.

- **Key findings from MPI report –**
  - **51.91% of the population in Bihar is poor**, followed by Jharkhand (42.16%), Uttar Pradesh (37.79%).
  - **Kerala registered lowest population poverty levels (0.71%)**, followed by Puducherry (1.72%).
  - **37.6% Indian households are deprived of healthy nutrition levels**.
  - **At least 13.9% households** have a member aged 10 years or older who has **not completed six years of schooling**.
  - **At least 52% households** are with **unimproved or no sanitation facility or are sharing their resources with other households**.
- **About NMPI**
  - It follows the **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (GMPI)** launched by **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**.

- ✓ GMPI had earlier ranked India 62nd out of 109 nations and showed that 27.9% of India's population were multidimensionally poor.
- NMPI based on the National Health Family Survey-4 (NHFS-4) for 2015-16.
- It is based on three dimensions & 12 segments (Refer to infographic).
- **Significance of NMPI**
  - Captures multiple and simultaneous deprivation faced by households.
  - Contribute in instituting a public policy tool for informed evidence-based and focused interventions.



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# 7. APPENDIX: PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY, 2020

## 7.1. SCHOOL EDUCATION

Dimensions	Provisions
Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECCE to be delivered through Anganwadis and pre-schools with universal access for children of 3-6 years age.</li> <li>NCERT to develop a <b>National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE)</b> for children up to the age of 8.</li> </ul>
Attainment of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy</b> by Ministry of Education: Under it, States/UTs will prepare an implementation plan for <b>attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy</b> in all primary schools for all learners <b>by grade 3 by 2025</b>.</li> <li><b>National Book Promotion Policy</b> is to be formulated to ensure the availability, accessibility, quality, and readership of books across geographies, languages, levels, and genres.</li> <li><b>National Repository of high-quality resources</b> on foundational literacy and numeracy will be made available on the <b>Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)</b>.</li> </ul>
Curtailing Dropout Rates and Ensuring Universal Access to Education at All Levels	<p>Policy aims to achieve <b>100% GER in preschool to secondary level by 2030</b>. Following are the initiatives to achieve this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Providing effective and sufficient infrastructure</b> so that all students have access to safe and engaging school education.</li> <li><b>Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes</b> offered by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools will be expanded and strengthened with <b>special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)</b>.</li> <li><b>Tracking students</b> as well as their learning levels through counsellors or well-trained social workers.</li> </ul>
Curriculum and Pedagogy	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Transforming Curricular &amp; Pedagogical Structure</h3> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px;">Existing Academic Structure</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px;">New Academic Structure</div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education (5+3+3+4): 3 years in Anganwadi/pre-school and 12 years in school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Secondary Stage(4)</b> multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects</li> <li><b>Middle Stage (3)</b> experiential learning in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities</li> <li><b>Preparatory Stage (3)</b> play, discovery, and activity-based and interactive classroom learning</li> <li><b>Foundational stage (5)</b> multilevel play/activity-based learning</li> </ul> </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Freedom of choosing a variety of subject combination:</b> no rigid separation among 'curricular', 'extracurricular', or 'co-curricular', among 'arts', 'humanities', and 'sciences', or between 'vocational' or 'academic' streams.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction of contemporary subjects</b> such as Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Holistic Health, Organic Living, Environmental Education, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), etc..</li> <li>• <b>Vocational education</b> through 10-day bagless period sometime during Grades 6-8 where students will <b>intern with local vocational experts</b> such as carpenters, gardeners, potters, artists, etc.</li> <li>• <b>National Curricular Framework for School Education</b> will be developed by the NCERT.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8</b> which will be conducted by the appropriate authority.</li> <li>• <b>Board exams for Grades 10 and 12</b> will be continued but redesigned.</li> <li>• <b>National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)</b>, will be set up as a standard-setting body under Ministry of Education.</li> <li>• <b>Holistic Progress Card</b> with 360-degree, multidimensional report that reflects the progress as well as the uniqueness of each learner in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. It will also include self-assessment, peer assessment, and teacher assessment.</li> <li>• <b>National Testing Agency (NTA)</b> to serve as <b>autonomous testing organization</b> to conduct entrance examinations for undergraduate and graduate admissions and fellowships in higher education institutions.</li> </ul>
<b>Multilingualism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medium of instruction</b> up till grade 5, and preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be <b>home language/ mother-tongue/ local language</b>.</li> <li>• <b>'The Languages of India'</b> a fun project/ activity on to be taken by every student under the <b>'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'</b> initiative.</li> <li>• <b>Three languages formula with greater flexibility</b>.</li> <li>• <b>All classical languages</b> (Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia) will be widely available in schools as options. In addition, Pali, Persian, and Prakrit will also be widely available as options.</li> <li>• <b>Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized</b> across the country.</li> </ul>
<b>Equitable and Inclusive Education (Provisions for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged groups -SEDGs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Gender Inclusion Fund</b> for female and transgender students.</li> <li>○ <b>Special Education Zones (SEZs)</b>- Large populations from SEDGs to be declared SEZs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Children with disabilities</b> will be enabled to fully participate in the regular schooling process from the foundational stage to higher education.</li> <li>• <b>Every state/district</b> will be encouraged to establish <b>"Bal Bhavans"</b> as a <b>special daytime boarding school</b>, to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities.</li> <li>• Free school infrastructure can be used as <b>Samajik Chetna Kendras</b> to promote social, intellectual, and voluntary activities.</li> <li>• <b>Special mechanisms for children belonging to tribal groups</b> to receive quality education.</li> <li>• <b>Fee waivers and scholarships</b> will be offered to meritorious students from <b>all SEDGs</b></li> <li>• <b>Additional Schools</b>- Setting-up of additional JNVs and KVs in aspirational districts/SEZs</li> </ul>
<b>Robust Teacher Education and Recruitment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and comprehensive <b>National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (by 2021)</b>.</li> <li>• By 2030, the <b>minimum degree qualification</b> for teaching will be a <b>4-year integrated B.Ed. degree</b>.</li> <li>• <b>NTA testing</b> for admission to B.Ed.</li> <li>• Setting-up of <b>National Mission for Mentoring</b> with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty.</li> <li>• <b>Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs) for all teachers</b> across Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary stage in both public and private schools.</li> <li>• More <b>autonomy to teachers</b> in choosing aspects of pedagogy in classroom teaching.</li> <li>• <b>National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)</b> will be developed by the National Council for Teacher Education by 2022.</li> <li>• <b>Restructuring of NCTE</b>- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to be restructured as a Professional Standard Setting Body (PSSB) under General Education Council (GEC).</li> </ul>
<b>School Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>twinning/pairing of one public school with one private school</b> will be adopted across the country, so that such paired schools may learn from each other, and also share resources, if possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent <b>State School Standards Authority (SSSA)</b> to be set up by States/UTs.</li> <li>• <b>School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAF)</b> to be developed by SCERT.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public and private schools</b> (except the schools that are managed/aided/controlled by the Central government) will <b>be assessed and accredited on the same criteria</b>.</li> <li>• For a <b>periodic ‘health check-up’ of the overall system</b>, a sample-based <b>National Achievement Survey (NAS) of student learning levels will be carried out</b> by the proposed new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH</li> </ul>
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## 7.2. HIGHER EDUCATION

<b>Institutional Restructuring &amp; Consolidation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All higher education institutions to be consolidated into three types of institutions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Research Universities</b> - equal focus on research and teaching</li> <li>○ <b>Teaching Universities</b> - primary focus on teaching with significant focus on research</li> <li>○ <b>Autonomous degree-granting colleges</b> – almost exclusive focus on teaching</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting <b>graded autonomy</b> to colleges.</li> <li>• Over a period of time, it is envisaged that <b>every college</b> would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.</li> <li>• There shall, <b>by 2030</b>, be <b>at least one large multidisciplinary HEI</b> in or <b>near every district</b>.</li> <li>• <b>By 2040</b>, all higher education institutions (HEIs) shall aim to become <b>multidisciplinary institutions</b>.</li> <li>• The aim will be to <b>increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio</b> in higher education including vocational education from <b>26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Holistic Multidisciplinary Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy envisages undergraduate education with <b>flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points</b> with appropriate certification.</li> <li>• An <b>Academic Bank of Credit</b> is to be established for <b>digitally storing academic credits</b> earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.</li> <li>• <b>Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)</b>, at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards.</li> <li>• <b>The National Research Foundation</b> will be created as an <b>apex body</b> for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.</li> </ul>
<b>Regulation</b>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <pre> graph TD     HECI[HECI] --- NHERC[National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation]     HECI --- GEC[General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting]     HECI --- HEGC[Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding]     HECI --- NAC[National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation]             </pre> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms</b> for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.</li> <li>• <b>Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)</b> will be set up as a <b>single overarching umbrella body</b> for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. <b>HECI to have four independent verticals</b> (refer to the infographics)</li> </ul>
<b>Internationalization of HEIs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Internationally relevant curricula</b>, meaningful opportunities for social engagement, quality residential facilities and on-campus support, etc.</li> <li>• An <b>International Students Office at each HEI</b> hosting foreign students will be set up.</li> <li>• <b>High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries</b>, and similarly, selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.</li> <li>• A <b>legislative framework facilitating such entry</b> will be put in place, and such universities will be given <b>special dispensation</b> regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India.</li> <li>• <b>Research collaboration and student exchanges</b> between Indian institutions and global institutions will be promoted.</li> <li>• <b>Credits acquired in foreign universities</b> will be permitted, where appropriate as per the requirements of each HEI, to be counted for the award of a degree.</li> </ul>

PT 365 - Social Issues

<b>Equity and Inclusion</b>	<p><b>Steps to be taken by Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earmark <b>suitable Government funds</b> for the education of SEDGs</li> <li>• Set clear targets for higher GER for SEDGs</li> <li>• Enhance gender balance in admissions to HEIs</li> <li>• Enhance access by establishing more high-quality HEIs in aspirational districts and Special Education Zones containing larger numbers of SEDGs</li> </ul> <p><b>Steps to be taken by all HEIs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigate opportunity costs and fees for pursuing higher education</li> <li>• Provide more financial assistance and scholarships to SEDGs</li> <li>• Make curriculum more inclusive</li> <li>• Ensure sensitization of faculty, counsellor, and students on gender-identity issue</li> <li>• Strictly enforce all no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules</li> </ul>
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### 7.3. OTHER MAJOR PROVISIONS

<b>Financing Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Centre and the States will work together to <b>increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP.</b></li> <li>• Policy calls for <b>promotion and support for private philanthropic activity</b> in education sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology in education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appropriate integration of technology into all levels</b> of education will be done to improve classroom processes, support teacher professional development, enhance educational access for disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Adult Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy aims to achieve <b>100% youth and adult literacy.</b></li> <li>• <b>Use of schools/ school complexes beyond school hours</b> and public library spaces for adult education courses.</li> <li>• <b>Quality technology-based options for adult learning</b> such as online courses, satellite-based TV channels and ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centres, etc. will be developed.</li> </ul>
<b>Online Education and Digital Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>comprehensive set of recommendations</b> for promoting online education in order to ensure preparedness with alternative modes of quality education whenever and wherever traditional and in-person modes of education are not possible, has been covered.</li> <li>• A <b>dedicated unit for the purpose of coordinating building of digital infrastructure</b>, content and capacity building will be created in the MHRD for both school and higher education.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Education</b>	<p>All professional education will be an integral part of the higher education system. Stand-alone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities etc. will aim to become multi-disciplinary institutions.</p>
<b>Promotion of Indian Languages, Arts, and Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strong departments and programmes in Indian languages</b>, comparative literature, creative writing, arts, music, philosophy, etc. will be launched and developed across the country, and degrees including 4- year B.Ed. dual degrees will be developed in these subjects.</li> <li>• <b>Outstanding local artists and craftspeople</b> will be hired as <b>guest faculty</b> to promote local music, art, languages, and handicraft.</li> <li>• Every higher education institution and every school or school complex will aim to have <b>Artist(s)-in-Residence</b> to expose students to art, creativity, and the rich treasures of the region/country.</li> <li>• <b>High-quality programmes and degrees</b> in Translation and Interpretation, Art and Museum Administration, Archaeology etc will also be created.</li> <li>• For each of the <b>languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India</b>, Academies will be established consisting of scholars and native speakers to determine simple yet accurate vocabulary for the latest concepts, and to release dictionaries on regular basis.</li> </ul>

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