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SOCIAL ISSUES

Classroom Study Material

(May 2020 to January 2021)

DELHI LUCKNOW JAIPUR HYDERABAD PUNE AHMEDABAD CHANDIGARH GUWAHATI

8468022022
9019066066

enquiry@visionias.in /c/VisionIASdelhi /Vision_IAS vision_ias www.visionias.in /VisionIAS_UPSC

SOCIAL ISSUES

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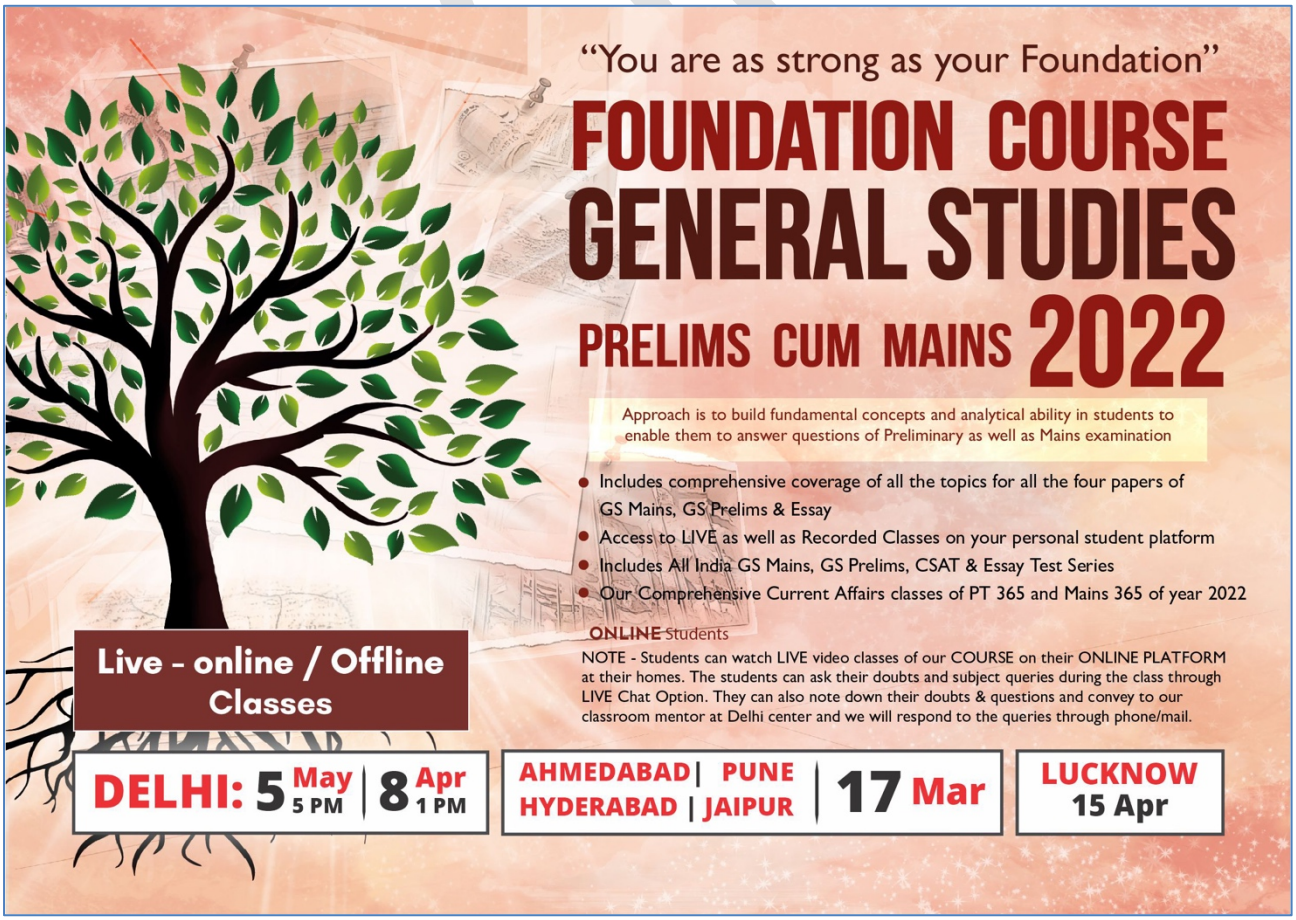
Note:

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.

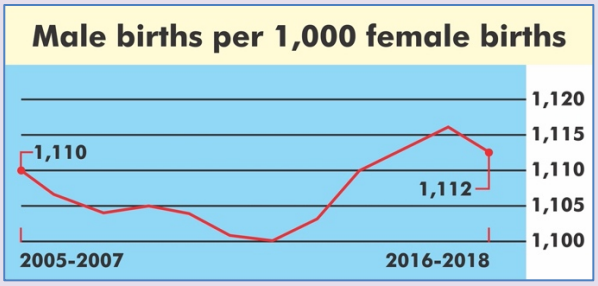
QUIZ **SMART QUIZ**	You can scan this QR code to practice the smart quiz at our open test online platform for testing your understanding and recalling of the concepts.	



1. WOMEN AND CHILD

1.1. WOMEN & CHILD'S HEALTH

Facts & data related to Women & Child's Health

Term	Definition	Data related to it
Under-five mortality rate (U5MR)	• **Probability of dying between birth and exactly 5 years of age,** expressed per 1,000 live births.	<table><tr><th></th><th>Male</th><th>Female</th><th>Overall</th></tr><tr><td>1990</td><td>122</td><td>131</td><td>93</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>34</td><td>35</td><td>38</td></tr></table>
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	• **Number of deaths under 1 year of age occurring for 1000** live births in a given year.	• **Declined to 32** in 2018 from 129 in 1971. • In last 10 years, **IMR declined by about 35% in rural areas** and about 32% in urban areas. • **Madhya Pradesh has highest IMR** at 48 and Nagaland lowest at 4.
Neonatal mortality rate	• **Probability of dying between birth and 28 days** of age, expressed per 1,000 live births.	**Declined** between 1990 and 2019 from 57 to 22.
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	• **Number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live** births. • As per WHO, **maternal death** is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.	• **Declined to 113** in 2016-18 from 122 in 2015-17. • **Highest MMR state:** Assam (215), **Lowest MMR state:** Kerala (43)
Adolescent (ages 10–19) mortality rate	• **Probability of dying between 10 and 19 years of age,** expressed per 1,000 children aged 10.	**Adolescent mortality has declined** by nearly 40% since 1990.
Birth Rate	• **Number of live births per 1000** of population per year.	• **Declined** from 36.9 in 1971 to 20.0 in 2018. • Rural-urban differential has also narrowed. However, birth rate has continued to be higher in rural areas. • Bihar has the **highest BR** at 26.2 and Andaman and Nicobar Islands has lowest BR of 11.2.
Death rate (DR)	• **Number of deaths per 1000** people per year.	• **Declined to 6.2** in 2018 from 14.9 in 1971. • **Chhattisgarh has highest death rate at 8** and Delhi has a rate of 3.3.
Sex ratio at birth (SRB)	• **Number of male births** per female births.	
Total fertility rate (TFR)	• **Total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman** in her life time. • TFR of about **2.1 children per woman is called Replacement-level fertility (RLF).** • **TFR lower** than RFL leads to a **decline in a country's population.**	**Reduced** from 3.6 in 1991 to **2.2 in 2018.**
Institutional delivery	• It refers to **childbirth that takes place at medical facilities** that are equipped with technology and also under the supervision of skilled birth attendants.	Over past two decades, proportion of women delivering a child in a hospital (or health care institution) **increased by nearly 73% in rural India and 37% points in urban India.**

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1.1.1. SAFE MOTHERHOOD ASSURANCE (SUMAN)

Why in News?

Recently, Ministry for Health and Family Welfare highlighted importance of SUMAN at the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Accountability Breakfast event.

Related information
Sample Registration System (SRS)
- Recently, SRS Bulletin was released.
- SRS is a **demographic survey** for providing reliable **annual estimates** of IMR, birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels.
- It was initiated on a pilot basis in 1964-65, and became **fully operational during 1969-70.**
- SRS is conducted by **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner** under **Ministry of Home Affairs**

About SUMAN

- It is an initiative (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) **for zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths.**
- **Under the scheme, free healthcare benefits are provided** to pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns.
- **Other features of the scheme are**
  - **Zero expense delivery** and C-section facility in case of pregnancy complications.
  - **Free transport** to pregnant women from home to health facility and back.
  - **Zero-tolerance for denial of services** at public health facility.
- **Services include** at least four ante natal check-ups that also includes one checkup during the 1st trimester, Iron Folic Acid supplementation, Tetanus diphtheria injection etc.
- PMNCH is the **world's largest alliance for women's, children's and adolescents' health,** bringing together over 1,000 partner organizations across 192 countries.
  - It **enables partners to share strategies, align objectives and resources, and agree on interventions.** The Vice Chairs of PMNCH's Board are the Government of India and UK.

1.2. WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Facts & data related to Women's Education
- **Females constitute 48.6% of the total enrolment** in higher education
- In STEM **40% of graduates are women in India** as compared to 35% of the global average.
- Only **14% of researchers in India are women** as compared to 30% of the global average.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females** in higher education is 26.4% against 26.3% for boys.
- **Gender Parity Index (GPI) has increased** from 0.92 in 2014-15 to 1 in 2018-19.

1.2.1. STEM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN INDIA

Why in news?

Recently, The **Department of Science & Technology (DST) and IBM India** announced two collaborations to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning among students.

Related information
Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE)
- It is **India's First of its kind social, national initiative by IIT Delhi** and supported by **Department of Science and Technology**.
- It aims to **strengthen women entrepreneurship in the country** and promote an ecosystem that enables creation and sustenance of such enterprises by women.
- It **helps women ranging from college going students to middle-aged housewives** to take up entrepreneurship as a viable, fulfilling career option.
- It **connects women entrepreneurs from all across India** to potential investors and buyers for their products so that they can take their business idea to a financially sustainable enterprise.

More about news

- The first collaboration involves **DST's 'Vigyan Jyoti' program**, the second collaboration is with **Vigyan Prasar** (an autonomous organisation of DST) that will build and run a technology-driven interactivity platform named **'Engage With Science'**.
- **Vigyan Jyoti** is a programme to promote STEM learning among girl students.
  - It aims to **inspire them towards STEM careers** by creating a level-playing field for meritorious girls from grades 9 to 12 to pursue STEM in their higher education, especially from the top colleges in the areas where girls are hugely underrepresented.
  - The partnership with IBM India will strengthen the current activities and **expand to include more schools in future.**
  - **Women tech experts** working at IBM India will interact and **be role models for inspiring girl students** to plan for a career in STEM under the program.

- **Engage with Science of Vigyan Prasar** aims to build interest and create a community of practice with students, teachers, and scientists connecting the high school students to the higher education institutions.
  - As part of the collaboration for 'Engage With Science' initiative, IBM will run the day-to-day activities of the program, including student workshops, seminars and **leverage its expertise to mentor the students.**

Steps being taken to plug the gender gap:

- **Science and Technology Policy 2020 (STP)**
- **Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN):**
  - In the year 2014, **DST restructured all women specific programmes under one umbrella** called KIRAN.
  - The mandate of KIRAN Program is **to bring gender parity in S&T** through gender mainstreaming.
  - **'Women Scientist Scheme (WOS)' under KIRAN** provides career opportunities including fellowships to unemployed women scientists and technologists.
  - **'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE)' Programme under KIRAN** only women Universities are being supported for development of research infrastructure and creation of state-of-the-art research laboratories to enhance women's participation in S&T domain.
  - **Mobility Scheme under KIRAN** addresses relocation issues of working women scientists and provides support in project mode for 2-5 years.
- **Indo-U.S. Fellowship for Women in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine)**: It provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A.
  - It is a **joint endeavour of Department of Science and Technology** and Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF).
- **UDAAN**: Launched by **Ministry of Education to address the lower enrolment ratio of girl students** in science and engineering colleges.
  - It aims to **enrich and enhance teaching** and learning of Science and Mathematics at Senior Secondary level by providing free and online resources to every girl, with a focus on special incentives and support to 1000 selected disadvantaged girls per year.
- **Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARe):** An initiative of **Department of Biotechnology**, it mainly focuses on Career Development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists upto 55 years of age.
  - The purpose is to **build capacities for women Scientists employed fulltime in Universities** and small research laboratories or unemployed women Scientist's after a career break so as to help them undertake independent R&D projects.
- **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) under DST** is an attempt to bring about gender balance in the institutions.
  - It **aims to nudge institutions of higher education and research towards supporting** diversity, inclusion and the full spectrum of demographic talent for their own success and progression.

Related information: Athena SWAN Charter

- It is an **evaluation and accreditation programme enhancing gender equity** in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.
- **Department of Science and Technology,** under new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, is **incorporating a system of grading institutes depending on the enrolment of women** and advancement of careers of women faculty and scientists.
  - In 2015-16, share of **women in scientific research and development was 14.71%**
- This concept is borrowed from **Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) program of UK.**

1.3. PROTECTION OF WOMEN

1.3.1. PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT (PWDVA), 2005

Why in News?

Recently, SC ruled that **woman will have the right to residence in the shared house** even if it was rented or owned by the in-laws and the husband had no ownership right over it.

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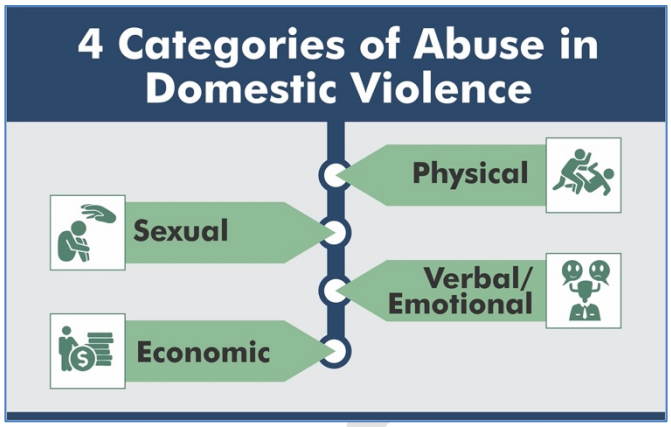
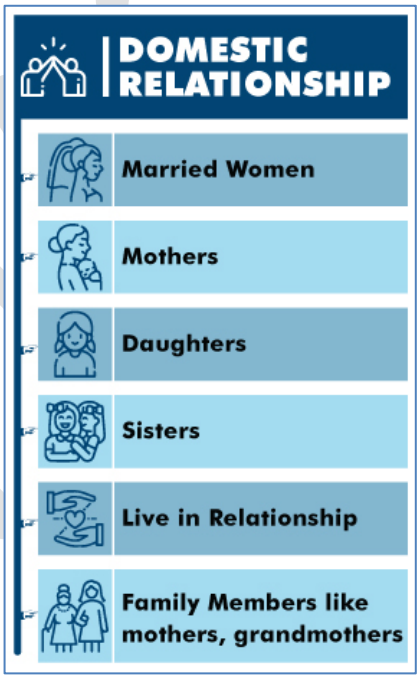
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA)



- **It is a civil law which focuses on the reliefs given to the aggrieved woman** such as compensation, protection, right to residence in the "shared household" etc.
  - It enshrines principles of the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women** (CEDAW), which **India ratified** in 1993.
- **Domestic relationship is defined** under the Act. (Refer to infographics)
- It **defines shared household** as the place where the woman lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship either singly or along with the husband and it includes the house "owned or tenanted".
- Act **excludes abuses pertaining to martial rape.**
- **Protection against domestic violence**: Under this law, women can **seek financial compensation** and they can **get maintenance** from their abuser in case they are living apart.
  - It **provides the Right to Secure Housing** i.e. right to reside in the matrimonial or shared household, whether or not she has any title or rights in the household. This right is secured by a residence order, which is passed by a court.
  - A **magistrate can pass a protection order under the Act** to ensure the abuser doesn't contact or get close to the survivor.
- **Punishment:** 1-year maximum imprisonment and Rs. 20,000 each or both to the offenders.
- **Protection officer**: Provides for appointment of protection officers and NGOs to help the woman for medical examination, legal aid and safe shelter.
- **Exclusion of liability of informant:** Any person who has reason to believe that an act of domestic violence has been, or is being, or is likely to be committed, may give information about it to the concerned Protection Officer.



Related News

Maintenance rules

- Recently, Supreme Court (SC) **laid down maintenance rules.**
- Supreme Court held that deserted wives and children are entitled to **alimony/maintenance from the husbands from the date they apply for it in a court of law.**
- It will **ensure uniformity of grant of maintenance available under various legislations** as well as filling a lacuna that existed in the **Hindu Marriage Act as well as Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act** which did not specify when maintenance order would be enforceable.

Earlier Important judgments on PWDVA

- "Adult male" word was struck down from PWDVA to lay down that a **woman can also file a complaint against another woman, accusing her of domestic violence. (2016 SC Judgement)**
- PWDVA intends to safeguard women against marital abuse, will **apply even after divorce (2018 SC Judgement)**
- A live-in partner can seek maintenance **(2018 SC Judgement)**
- **Granting maintenance does not depend** on wife's earning (**2019 Delhi HC judgement**)

1.3.2. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

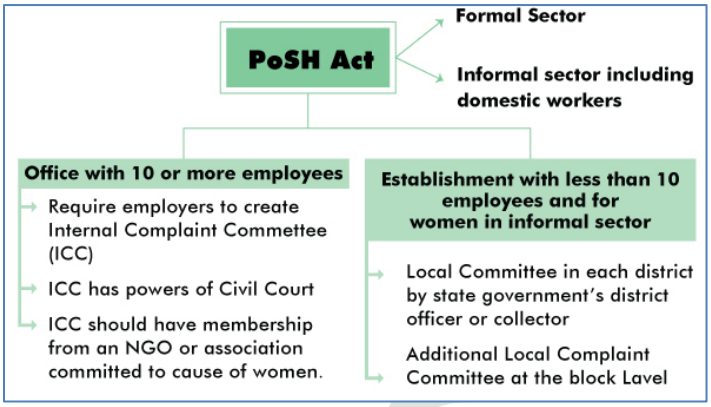
Why in news?

Several Indian companies have not effectively implemented the provisions of **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 or the PoSH Act**.

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

- Act **defines sexual harassment at the workplace** and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.

- Act covers concepts of **quid pro quo harassment and hostile work environment** as forms of sexual harassment if they occur in connection with an act or behaviour of sexual harassment.
- It **provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.**
- It was enacted to **implement Vishakha Guidelines** laid down by the Supreme Court.
- **Online platform, SHe-Box** enables women employees to file complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace, hence ensuring effective implementation of 2013 Act.



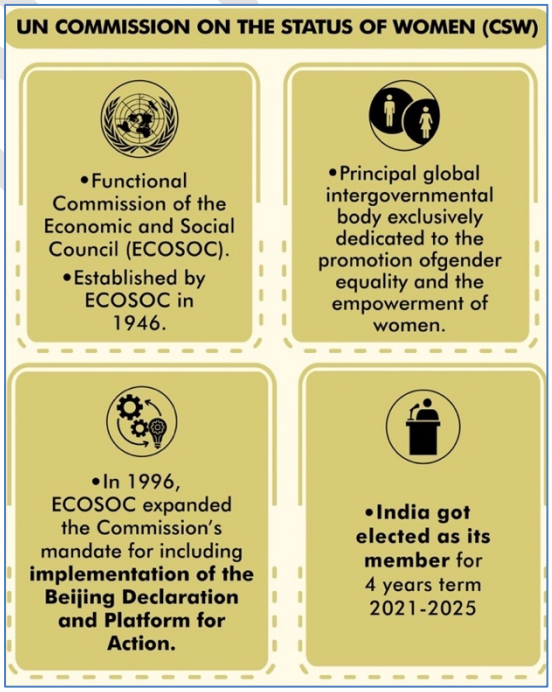
Related information
National Database of Sex Offenders (NDSO)

- NDSO comprising those convicted on charges of rape, gang rape, child sex abuse and eve teasing - **has crossed 1 million names.**
- NDSO is a **central database of sexual offenders in the country** which is being maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- This **online facility is exclusively for the use of law enforcement agencies** having access to Inter-operable Criminal Justice System.
- It was launched by **Ministry of Home Affairs** in 2018.

1.4. NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF BEIJING +25

Why in News?

To mark 25 years of adoption of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD), National Commission for Women (NCW) and UN Women organized a National Consultation on Review of Beijing +25.



About Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

- BPfA was adopted in **Fourth World Conference on Women** (1995), held in Beijing.
  - **United Nations has organized four world conferences** (WC) on women. Three others are: First WC in Mexico City (1975), Second WC in Copenhagen (1980) and Third WC in Nairobi (1985).
- BPfA sets **strategic objectives and actions for advancement of women** and achievement of gender equality in **12 critical areas of concern.**
- Worldwide progress in implementation of BPfA is reviewed every five years by **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).**
- The platform is **not a legally binding document**, but rather a guide for the U.N. governments and NGOs.
- It for the first time facilitated the **"persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child",** getting included as a separate critical area of concern addressing issues such as **child marriage, female infanticide, genital mutilation and prenatal sex selection.**

About National Commission for Women (NCW)

- It is the **statutory body established in 1992** under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- The commission will consist of **one Chairperson, who is committed to the cause of women**, five members from various fields and a member secretary.
- All the **members of the commission are nominated by the Central Government.**
- **Mandate of commission**
  - safeguard of rights of women granted by the constitution and laws,
  - study problems faced by women in the current day and make recommendations to eradicate these problems,

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- evaluating the status of Indian women from time to time and
- funding and fighting cases related to women's rights violations.

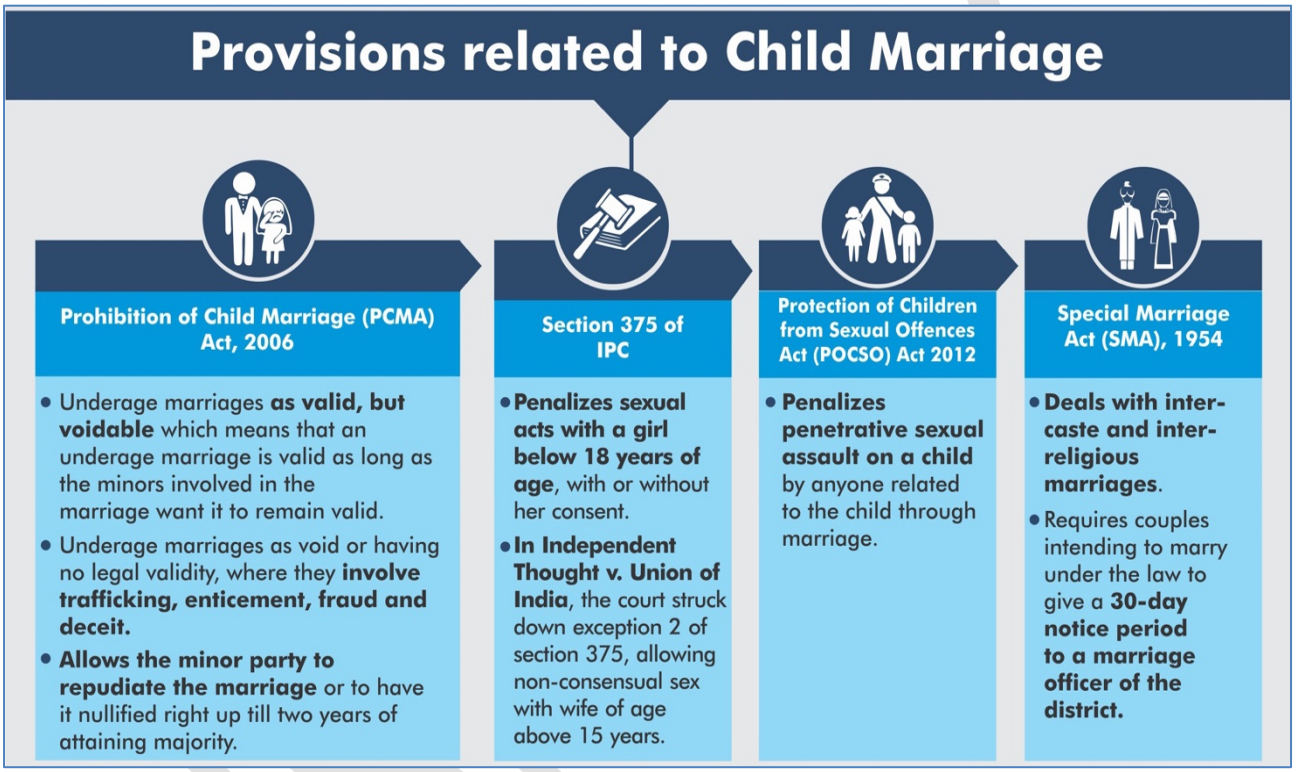
About UN Women:

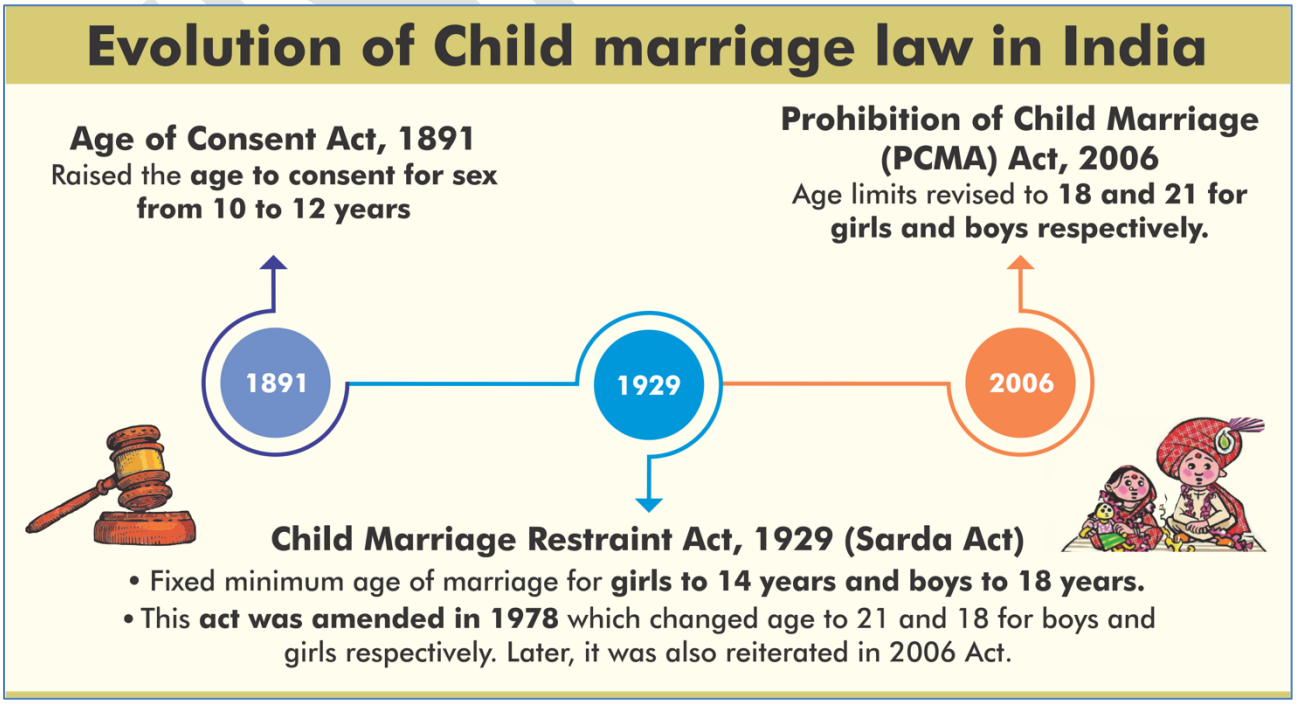
- It is the United Nations entity, established in 2010, **dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.**
- It works globally to make the vision of the **Sustainable Development Goals** a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life.

1.5. CHILD MARRIAGE

Why in News?

The government is likely to decide on revising the minimum age of marriage for girls based on **Task Force report (headed by Jaya Jaitly)** to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR and improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.





1.6. PATERNITY LEAVE

Why in news?

Recently the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) granted paternity leave to the Indian captain.

	Paternity leave	Maternity leaves
Definition	• It is a **leave period (paid) reserved exclusively for fathers in relation to childbirth** and it is granted in addition to the other annual leaves.	• It is **time off that new mothers** can use to care for their newborns.

Provisions in India	• **No legal provision for paternity leave** in India.
	• **All India and Central Civil Services Rules** allow Central government employees **with less than two surviving children** 15 days of paternity leave**.**
	  ○ This also extends to cases where **a child has been adopted.**
	  ○ This **could be availed up to six months** from the date of delivery or adoption of the child.
	• **Private organisations:** There isn't any such law that mandates private sectors to provide the paternity leaves to its employees.
	  ○ Certain private establishments also provide paternity leaves.
		• Leave policy is regulated by the **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017.**
		• Applies to all establishments **employing 10 or more people.**
		• For the **first two surviving child up to 26 weeks of paid maternity leave** is granted.
		  ○ Women who are expecting a**fter having 2 children, paid maternity leave is 12 weeks i.**e. 6 weeks pre-delivery and 6 weeks post-delivery.
		• **For adoptive and commissioning mothers 12 weeks** of maternity leave is granted.
		• To be eligible for maternity benefit, a woman must have been working as an employee in the **establishment for a period of at least 80 days in the past 12 months.**
		• **Act makes it mandatory for employers to educate women** about the maternity benefits available to them at the time of their appointment.

Related information

Menstrual Leave

- Zomato recently announced a new **paid 'period leave' policy** for employees.
- The **State of Bihar has had two extra days of casual leave per month for women government employees** to take time off for periods since 1992.
- **Menstruation Benefit Bill 2017** (Tabled in Lok Sabha in 2018) also seeks to provide women **working in the public and private sectors two days of paid menstrual leave every month** as well as better facilities for rest at the workplace during menstruation.

Child Care leaves

- According to All India Services (Leave) Rules, **Women employees and "single male parent" employees** with less than 2 surviving children are **granted 730 days (2 years)** of aggregate child care leave.
  - Out of the total 730 days of leave, **employees get full salary during the first 365 days and 80% of salary** in the next 365 days.
  - Also, CCL can also be availed by a **government servant for a disabled child of any age** (earlier it was up to the age of 22 years of the child).
- This could be **availed anytime before the child reaches the age of 18** (for disabled child no ceiling on the age of the child).
- **Child Care Leave was introduced by the 6th Pay Commission.** Earlier, CCL was granted to women employees, however it was extended to Single Male employees in 7th Pay Commission.
- Earlier, in 2019, **Ministry of Defence extended the benefits of CCL** to single male service personnel.

1.7. CHILD LABOUR

Why in news?

Convention No. 182- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, of the International Labour Organization (ILO), has become the first international labour standard ever to **achieve universal ratification** (i.e. all 187 member countries of ILO have now ratified it)**.**

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

- ILO is a **tripartite U.N. agency,** formed in 1919 that brings together governments, employers and workers of its member states, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- India is a **founder member** of the ILO.

8 ILO fundamental Conventions

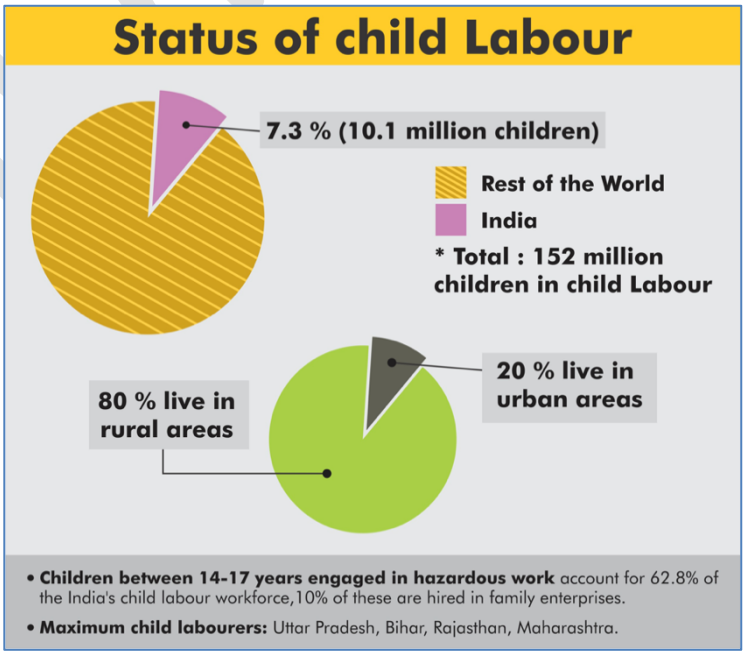
Convention	Ratified by India
No. 29: The Forced Labour Convention, 1930	✓
No. 87: The Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948	✗
No. 98: The Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949	✗
No. 100: The Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951	✓
No. 105: The Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957	✓
No. 111: The Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958	✓
No. 138: The Minimum Age Convention, 1973	✓
No. 182: The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999	✓

About ILO's Convention no. 182

- It calls for the **prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour,** which includes deployment of children in-
  - **all forms of slavery**: such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced recruitment of children in **armed conflict;**
  - **prostitution,** or pornography;
  - **illicit activities,** such as production and trafficking of drugs;
  - any work which is likely to harm their **health, safety or morals.**
- It is one of the ILO's eight Fundamental Conventions and was adopted in a meeting in Geneva in 1999.
- As ratification rates increased and countries adopted laws and policies, including relating to minimum age to work, the incidence of child labour and its worst forms has dropped by almost **40% between 2000 and 2016.**

Definition of child under different acts

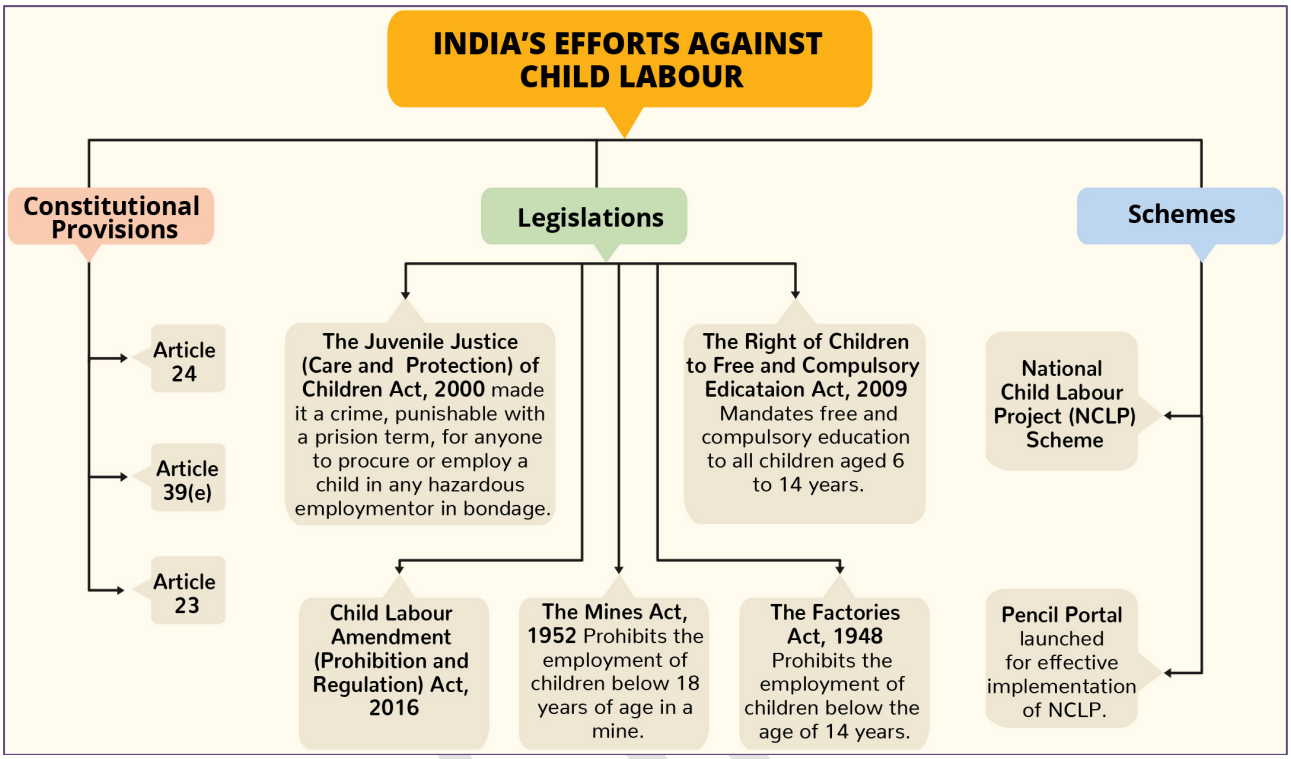
- **POCSO Act:** Less than 18
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2016:** Less than 14
- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015:** Less than 16
- **Factories Act, 1948:** Less than 15



About Child Labour

- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016,** prohibits "the engagement of children in all occupations and of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes".
  - It imposes a fine on anyone who employs or permits adolescents to work.
  - It **allows child labour in "family or family enterprises"** or "an artist in an audio-visual entertainment industry".
  - It created a **new category of 'adolescents'** (the 14-18 age group) who can be employed in 'non-hazardous' occupations.

- **National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme:** It is a Central Sector Scheme **under Ministry of Labour & Employment** which seeks to eliminate all forms of child labour through Identification and withdrawal of all children in the Project Area from child labour.
  - **District Project Societies (DPS) are set up at the district level** under the Chairmanship of the Collector/District Magistrate for overseeing the implementation of the project.
  - **Children in the age group of 9-14 years are withdrawn from work** and put into NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training etc.



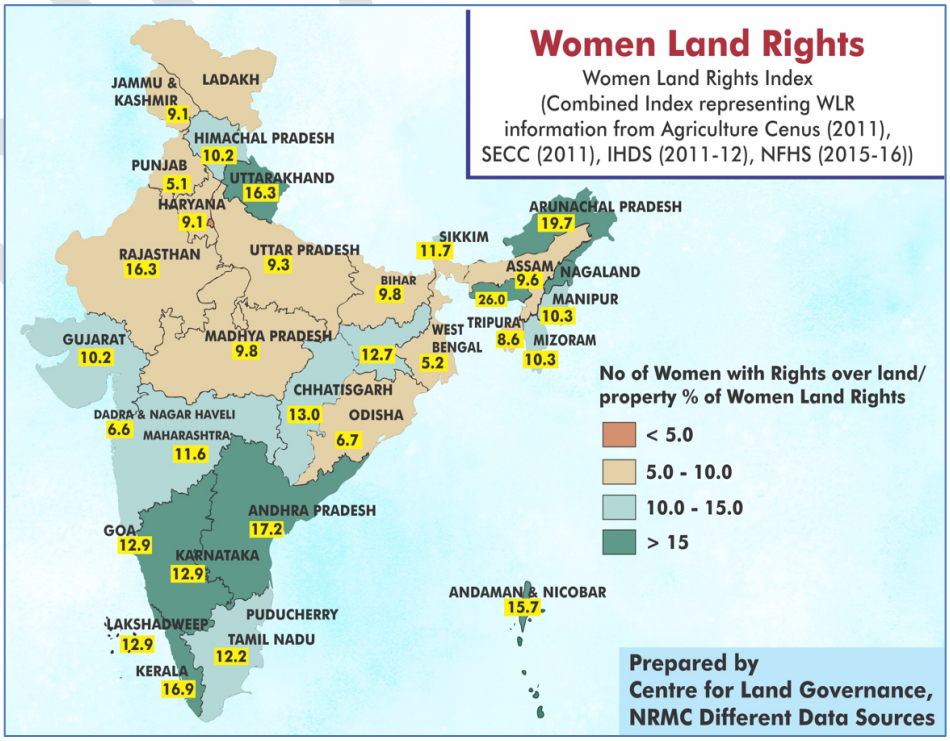
1.8. WOMEN IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Why in news?

The recent farmers' protests have cast a spotlight on a traditionally overlooked group of female farmers.

Women in Agriculture

- Women **account for 32% of the agricultural labour force** and contributing an estimated 55-66% to farm production.
- As per **Agriculture Census 2015-16, female operational holdings increased** to 14.0% in 2015-16 against and 12.8% in 2010-11. This indicates rising participation of females in management and/or operation of agricultural holdings in the country, also termed as **feminization of agriculture.**



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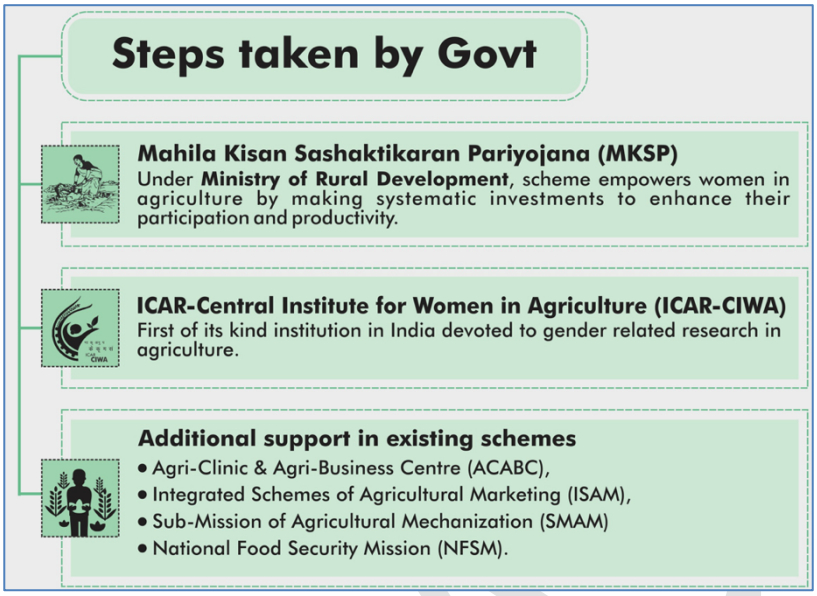
- Also with growing rural to urban migration by men, **there is feminisation of agriculture sector, with increasing number of women in multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs, and labourers.**

- **Benefits of increasing women's ownership:**
  - Bring a sense of security, self-confidence, increases bargaining power and increases public participation.
  - Improved living conditions, better nutrition and food sovereignty, improved health and education outcomes.



1.9. IMPORTANT REPORTS

"Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Women's Equality"	• Jointly published by **World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization (WTO).**
	• **Other Important reports**
	  ○ **The World Bank**
	  ✓ Ease of Doing Business
	  ✓ World Development Report
	  ✓ Global Economic Prospective
	  ○ **The World Trade Organisation**
	  ✓ The World Trade Statistical Review
	  ✓ The World Trade Report
	• This report marks the first major effort to **quantify how women are affected by trade** through the use of a new gender-disaggregated labor dataset.

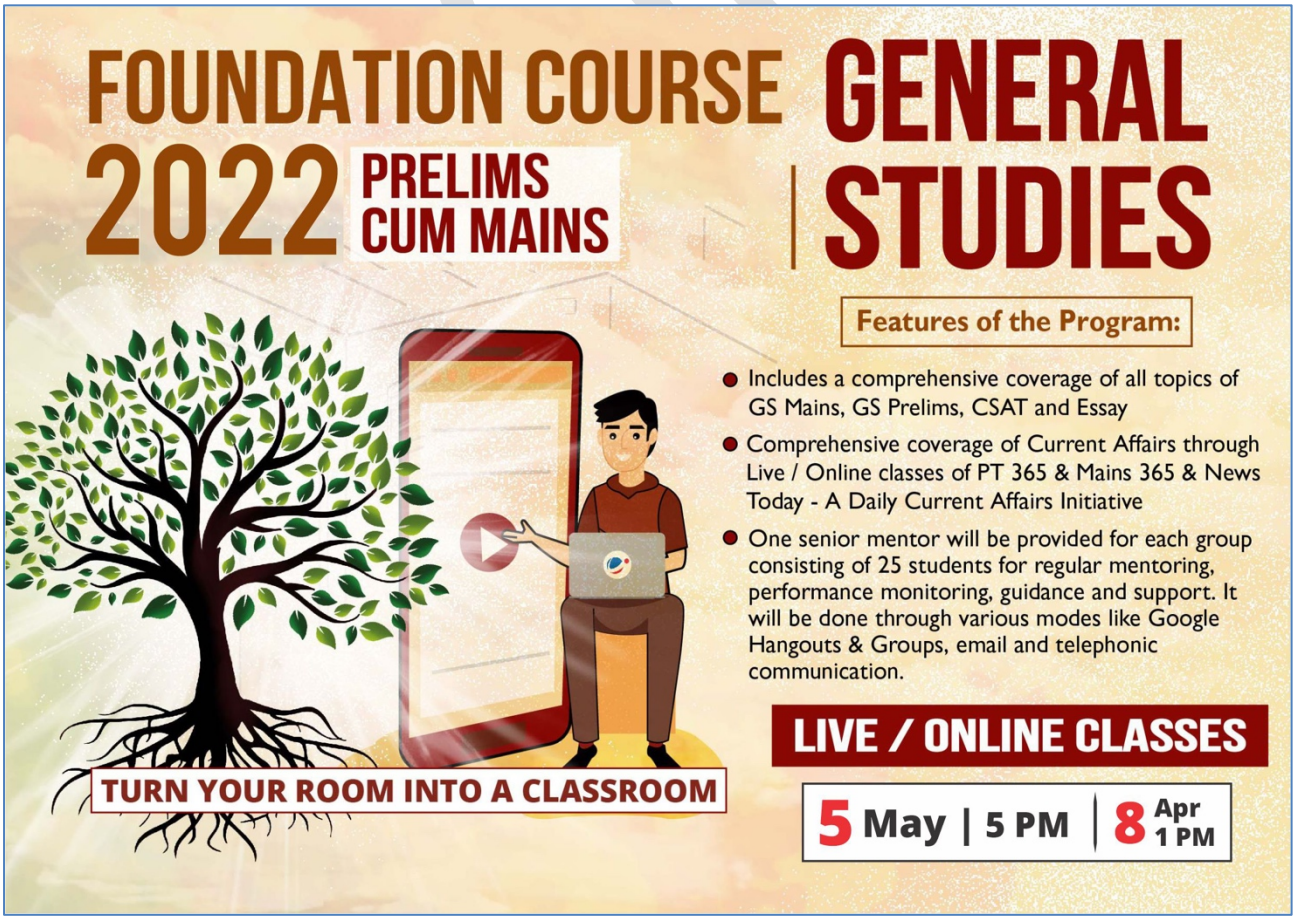
SDG Gender Index	• It is a new index launched **to measure global gender equality.** • **In 2019** India was at 95th among 129 countries. • It has been **developed by Equal Measures 2030**, a joint effort of regional and global organisations including African Women's Development and Communication Network, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, International Women's Health Coalition etc • It **includes 51 gender specific indicators across 14 of 17 official SDG** that cover aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at workplace. • The overall index scores are based on a scale of 0–100. A score of 100 indicates the achievement of gender equality in relation to the underlying indicators.

"Lost at Home" Report	• It is published by **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).**
	• Report **looks at the risks and challenges internally displaced children face**, and the urgent actions needed to protect them.
	• **According to report**
	  ○ **In India**, total number of new internal displacements in 2019 stood at around 5 million (majority due to disasters).
	  ○ **Conflict** & **violence** are key causes of internal displacement for children & their families.

1.10. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

India's First International Women's Trade Centre	• It will be **setup at Angamaly (Kochi), Kerala** in consonance with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. • It aims to **accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity.**
COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge	• **MyGov in collaboration with UN Women,** launched this Challenge in April 2020. • It was launched with an objective **to encourage and involve women led start-ups** to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID19 or solve problems that impact a large number of women.

Supreme Court (SC) issues 'mirror order' in child custody case	• **A mirror order** is ancillary or auxiliary in character. It **supports order passed by the court which has exercised primary jurisdiction** over custody of a child.
	  ○ Judgment was **based on a petition regarding custody of a child** whose father is based in Kenya and mother is in India.
	  ○ SC granted child custody to the father, ordering him **to get a mirror order** from a court in Kenya.
	• It is passed **to ensure that courts of the country where the child is being shifted are aware of the arrangements** which were made in the country where he had ordinarily been residing.
	  ○ It is **to safeguard interest of the minor child** and to ensure that both parents are equally bound in each State.
	• Mirror orders find a more prominent place where **Hague Convention on Civil Aspects on International Child Abduction, 1980** does not apply.
	  ○ Convention **seeks to protect children from harmful effects of abduction and retention** across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return.
	  ○ Presently, **India and Kenya are not signatory to the convention.**



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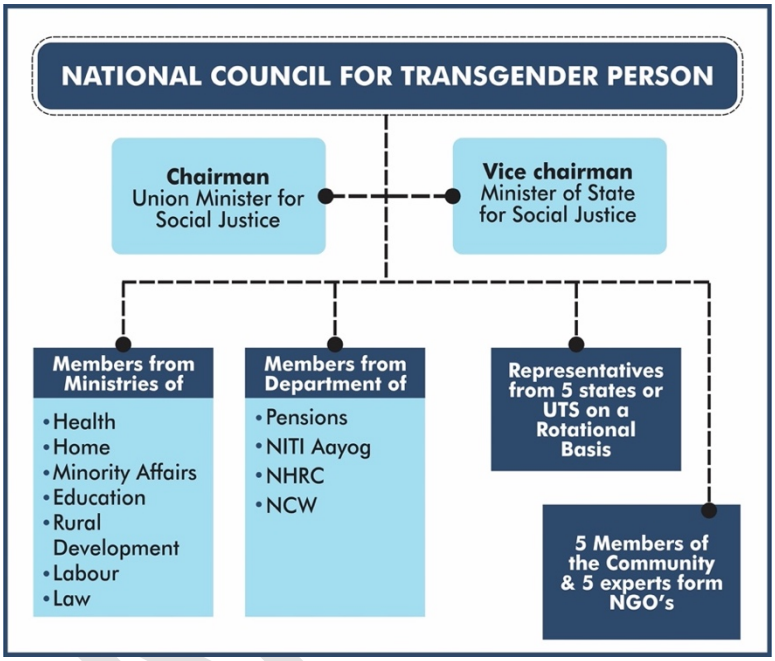
2. OTHER VULNERABLE SECTIONS

2.1. TRANSGENDERS

2.1.1. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS

Why in news?

The Centre recently constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons under **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.**



About the council

- **Term:** The members of the council other than the ex officio members, shall hold office for a **term of 3 years.**
- **Main functions of NCTP:**
  - **Advising central government** on policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.
  - **Monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies and programmes** designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons.
  - **Reviewing and coordinating activities** of all departments.
  - **Redressing grievances** of transgender persons.
  - Performing such other **functions as prescribed by the Centre.**
  - NCTP was established by Centre under **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.**
  - Act provides for **prohibition against discrimination against transgender persons,** right to self-perceived gender identity, welfare measures by governments, offences and penalties provisions etc.

About Transgenders

- As per the Act, a **transgender is a person, whose gender does not match the gender assigned to that person at birth** and includes trans-men or trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons having socio-cultural identities such as kinnar, hijras, aravani, and jogta".
- As per the Census of 2011, **Transgender population in India is 4.9 lakh.**
- The **highest proportion (about 28%), has been identified in Uttar Pradesh** followed by Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

Other Provisions of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

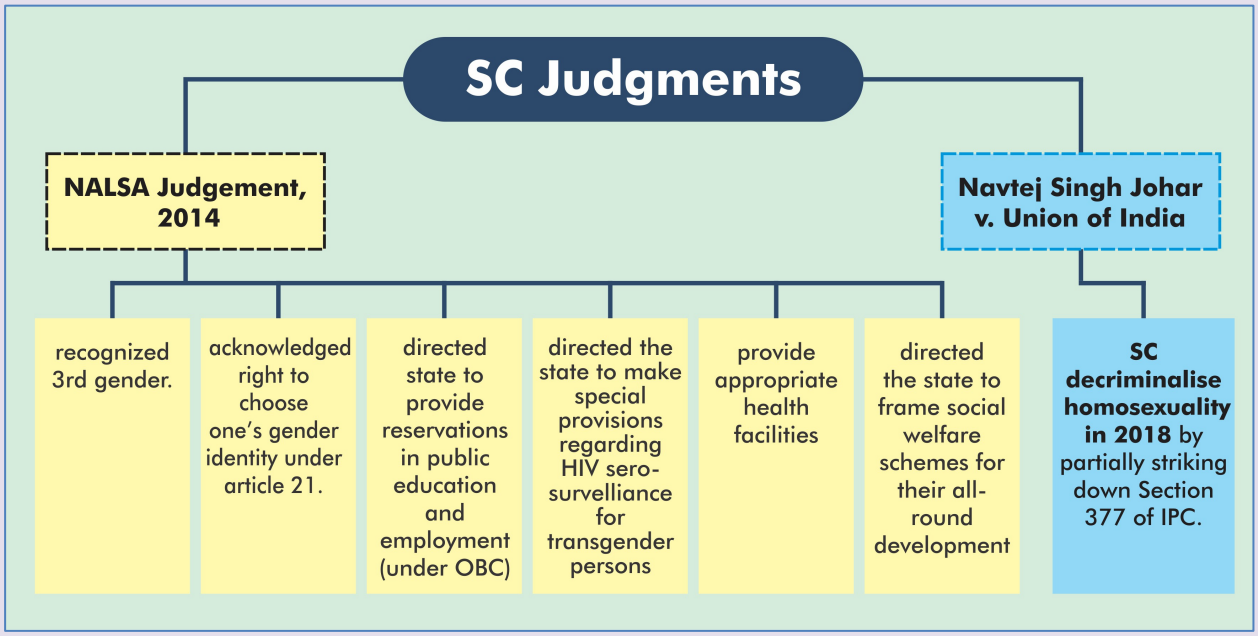
- Act aims to **protect the rights of transgender persons** by granting them recognition and making welfare provisions for them.
- **Certificate of identity for a transgender person:** A transgender person may make an application to **the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity,** indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
  - A **revised certificate may be obtained only if the individual** undergoes surgery to change their gender either as a male or a female.
- **Welfare measures by the government:** Steps must be taken for their rescue and rehabilitation, vocational training and self-employment, create schemes that are transgender sensitive, and promote their participation in cultural activities.
- **Offences and penalties:** Penalties for the following offences vary between 6 months and 2 years, and a fine:
  - forced or bonded labour (excluding compulsory government service for public purposes),

- denial of use of public places
- removal from household, and village,
- physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse.

- **Health care:** Govt must take steps to provide health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centre and sex reassignment surgeries.
  - Government shall review medical curriculum to address health issues of transgender persons and provide **comprehensive medical insurance schemes for them.**

Other provisions to protect the community

- **Constitutional Safeguards under** Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21.
- **'National Portal for Transgender Persons'**: for issuing I-cards to transgender without physical Interface and without having to visit any office.
- **Garima Greh:** Shelter home to provide shelter to Transgender persons, with basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and support capacity-building.
- **Khudol (gift) Initiative in Manipur**: Crowdfunded initiative of Ya All, an Imphal-based NGO that had created **India's first transgender football team.**
- **Kerala** became the **first state to formulate a transgender policy** in 2015.



2.1.2. TRANSGENDER PERSONS (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) RULES, 2020

Why in News?

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment framed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020.

About rules

- Rules are issued under **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act**, 2019.
- **Key Features are:**
  - **District Magistrate will certify the gender of a person based** on an affidavit by the applicant**, without any medical or physical examination.**
  - State governments **to constitute welfare boards for transgender persons** to protect their rights and interests and facilitate access to schemes and welfare measures framed by the Centre.
  - Provides for **review of all existing educational, social security, health schemes, welfare measures** etc. to include transgender persons.
  - **State governments are required to take steps to prohibit discrimination of transgender persons** in any government or private organisation, or private and public educational institution under their purview.
  - **Transgender-sensitive infrastructure** such as separate wards in hospitals and washrooms be constructed within two years of the Rules being notified.
  - State governments have to set up **Transgender Protection Cell** to monitor cases of offences against transgender persons.

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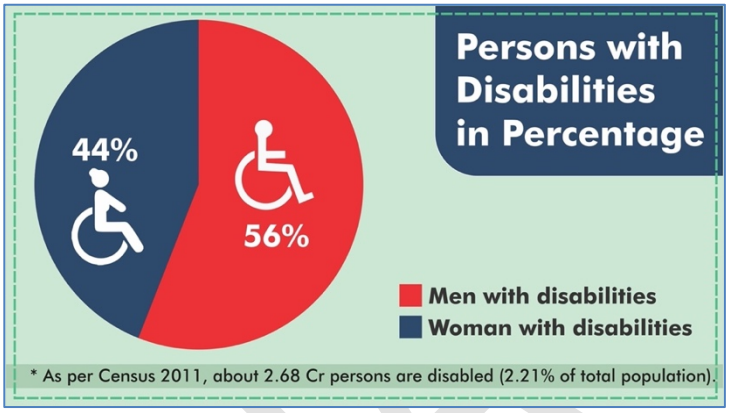
Related news
India Workplace Equality Index (IWEI)

- It is **India's first comprehensive benchmarking tool for employers to measure their progress** on lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT+) inclusion in the workplace.
- Index is **created by Keshav Suri Foundation in partnership with Pride Circle, Stonewall UK and FICCI.**
  - Index is built on the expertise of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, which launched in 2005.
- The index **measures 9 areas:** policies and benefits, employee lifecycle, employee network group, allies and role models, senior leadership, monitoring, procurement, community engagement and additional work.

2.2. RIGHT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (RPWD) ACT, 2016



Why in News?

Government is recently looking to amend parts of Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

More about news

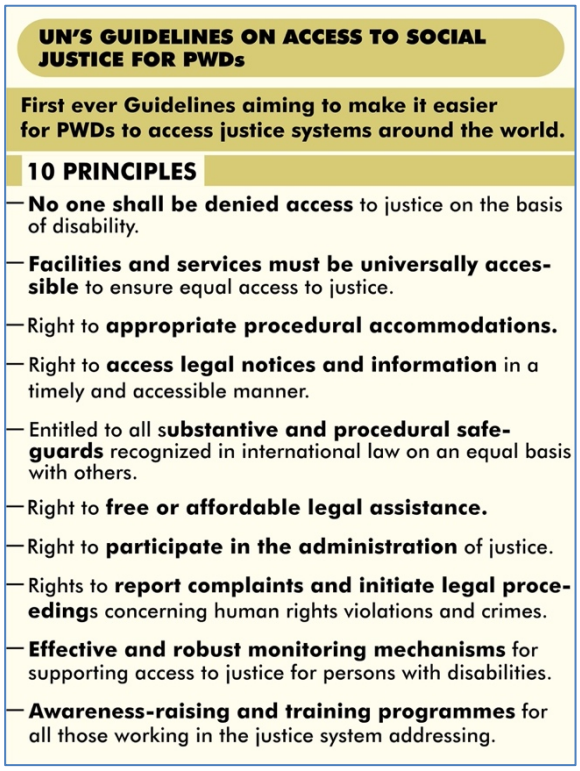
- As per Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's, **move is aimed to de-criminalise minor offences** for improving business sentiment and unclogging court processes.
  - It will alleviate the risk of imprisonment for **actions which do not necessarily have mala fide intent.**
  - Uncertainty in legal processes and **time taken for resolution in the courts hurts ease of doing business.**
- However, activists opposed the amendments stating it **will dilute the whole effectiveness of RPwD Act, 2016.**

Reservation of PwDs

- **Reservation for disabled is called horizontal reservation** which cuts across all vertical categories such as SC, ST, OBC & General.
- **Vertical reservation** is provided in favour of **backward classes** like SC/ST, OBC under Article 16(4).
  - **Horizontal reservations** are **reservation within reservation** like reservation to female, physically challenged person, etc.

About RPwD Act, 2016

- It **replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.**
- Act fulfils **the obligations to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,** to which India is a signatory.
- **RPwD Act, 2016** provides that appropriate Government shall ensure that **PwD enjoy right to equality, life with dignity, and respect for his or her own integrity** equally with others.
- It **covers 21 types of disabilities** and rights of disabled persons. **Centre** will have the **power to add more types of disabilities.**
- Persons with "benchmark disabilities" are defined as those certified to have **at least 40% of the disabilities mentioned in the Act.**
  - Every child with benchmark disability between the age **group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.**



- It has now **brought private establishments within its ambit**. Though it does not require private establishments to mandatorily appoint PwD, there are certain obligations imposed on private establishments under the Act.
- It provides for **right to education, right to employment and right to livelihood**, reservation in government offices and educational institutions.
- It provides for **penalties & imprisonment for offences** committed against PwD.
  - Special Courts will be designated in each district to handle cases concerning violation of rights of PwDs.
- **Broad based Central & State Advisory Boards on Disability** are to be set up to serve as apex policy making bodies at the Central and State level.
- **National and State Fund** will be created to provide financial support to the persons with disabilities.
- For strengthening **Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**, stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings (both govt. and private) in a prescribed time-frame.

Related information

UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disability

- Entered into force in 2008, it is the **first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century and first legally binding** instrument with comprehensive protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- **Its guiding principles include**- respect for inherent dignity, non-discrimination, participation and inclusion in society, equality of opportunity, accessibility, equality between men and women and respect for the rights of children with disabilities.
- Though the **convention does not explicitly define disability**, it recognizes that the notion of "disability" is not fixed and can alter, depending on the prevailing environment from society to society.
- **India has ratified the convention.**

National Disaster Management Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

- Ministry of Home Affairs released **National Disaster Management Guidelines** on **Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR)**.
- DiDRR strives to **reduce the impact of disasters** on affected communities by mitigating and reducing risks.
- These guidelines provide **practical directions to support implementation mechanism of DiDRR** based on established and nationally accepted norms and practices so that all stakeholder will implement and carry forward the process.

Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing / fitting of aids / appliances (ADIP) scheme

- Objective of the scheme is to a**ssist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances** that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation and at the same time enhance their economic potential.
- ADIP scheme is major initiative of **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** and it is implemented through implementing agencies such as **NGOs, National Institutes under this Ministry and ALIMCO (a PSU).**

2.3. SCHEDULED CASTES

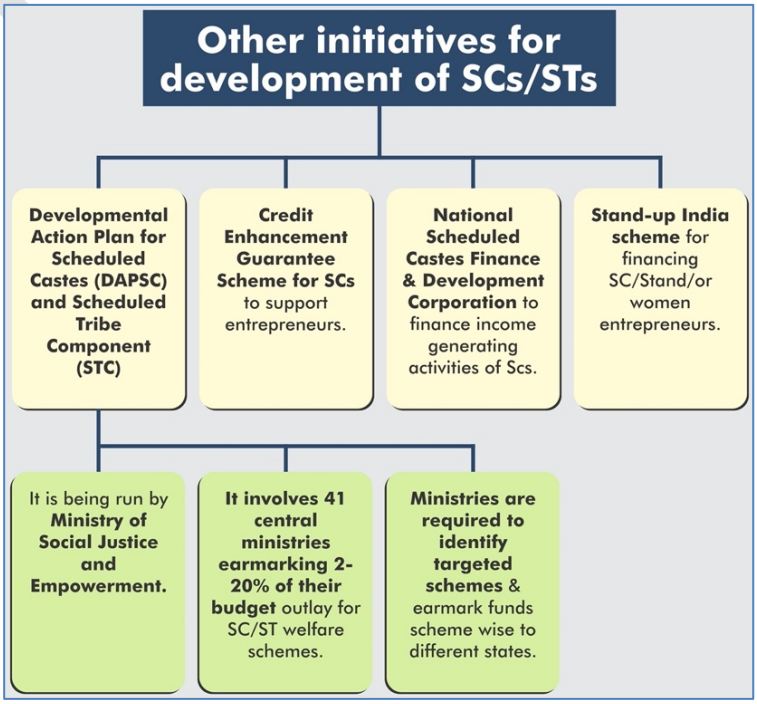
2.3.1. AMBEDKAR SOCIAL INNOVATION & INCUBATION MISSION (ASIIM)

Why in News?

Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) launched Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission (ASIIM) for Scheduled Castes.

Details

- **ASIIM was launched under Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC)** to promote innovation and enterprise among Scheduled Castes (SC) students studying in higher educational institutions (HEI).



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- VCF-SC (by MoSJE) is **for developing entrepreneurship amongst SC and Divyang youth**, by providing concessional finance to entities of SC entrepreneurs.

- Under ASIIM, **1,000 initiatives of SC youth would be identified** and funded up to Rs. 30 lakhs in three year as equity.
- **Objectives of ASIIM are:**
  - **Promoting entrepreneurship** among SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
  - **Supporting (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024** through Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)
    - ✓ TBIs are set up by Department of Science and Technology in HEI.
  - **Support, promote, hand-hold the start-up ideas** till they reach commercial stage by providing liberal equity support;
  - Incentivise students with innovative mind-set to take to **entrepreneurship with confidence.**

Related information
Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta Yojana (VISVAS Yojana)

- It is an **Interest subvention Scheme at 5% interest per annum** for:
  - **SHGs comprising exclusively of SC and/or OBC beneficiaries** with loans/borrowings up to Rs.4.00 Lakh
  - **SC and OBC individual beneficiaries** with loan/borrowing up to Rs.2.00 Lakh.
- It is being implemented by **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**
- It **provides direct benefit of lower rate of interest** to the eligible SHGs formed under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) or National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) or NABARD/ individual beneficiaries who have availed loans through PSBs, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and similar financial institutions.
- **Implementing Agencies:**
  - **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation** (NSFDC) (for SC SHGs/beneficiaries).
  - **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation** (NBCFDC) (for OBC SHGs/beneficiaries).
- SHG members must be having **annual family income less than Rs.3.00 Lakh.** Also, SHG must be registered with NRLM/NULM or NABARD
- All individual members having annual **family income less than Rs.3.00 lakh belonging to either SC or OBC get** interest subvention**.**

2.4. SCHEDULED TRIBES

Why in news?

Union Tribal Affairs Minister e-launched Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal **"Swasthya"** for Scheduled Tribes.

Details

- It is **e-portal on tribal health and nutrition** which will be providing all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.
  - It will **curate innovative practices, research briefs** etc. collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences.
- **Other initiatives launched:**
  - **National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal** to bring greater transparency and easy information to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.
  - Online Performance Dashboard **"Empowering Tribals, Transforming India"** under Digital India to work towards empowering STs and will bring efficiency and transparency.
  - e-newsletter on health and nutrition- **ALEKH.**

Data related to Tribals and Tribal Health

- According to 2011 census, the tribal population in India is over 104 million which is spread across 705 tribes and accounts for **8.6% of country's population**.
  - More than 90% of tribal people live in **rural areas.**
- **Madhya Pradesh has highest tribal population** followed by Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- **Socio-economic condition of tribals:**
  - **Livelihood status** - **40.6% of tribals live below poverty line** vis-a-vis 20.5% non tribals.
  - **Lack of Basic amenities**- The 2011 census data shows that access to tap water, sanitation facilities,
  - **Drainage facilities and clean cooking fuel is much lower** among the tribal population.
  - **Education gap**-There is also a stark gap in educational status as 41% of STs are illiterate.
  - **Sex ratio among tribals is 990/1000** as compared to national average of 933/1000.
- **Tribal Health:**
  - Tribals suffer from a **triple burden of diseases**

- ✓ **Malnutrition and communicable diseases** like malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis, viral fevers etc. Tribals account for 30% of malaria cases and 60% of malaria related mortality.
- ✓ **Genetic disorders and lifestyle diseases**- like hypertension, diabetes, respiratory diseases etc. Also, genetic disorder in form of sickle cell anaemia ranges from 1-40%. G-6-PD red cell enzyme deficiency is reported in tribes like Adiyan, Irula, Paniyan, Gonds.
- ✓ **Mental illness and addictions**- According to NFHS-3, 72% of tribal men in the age of 15-54 use tobacco as compared to 56% of non-tribal men

- **Other Indicators** - The performance related to life expectancy, maternal mortality, adolescent health, child morbidity, mortality and under five mortality is below national average by 10-25%. Fore.g.:
  - ✓ **life expectancy of tribals is 63.9** compared to national average of 67 years,
  - ✓ **Under 5 mortality rate is 74** as against national average of 62
  - ✓ **50% Adolescent ST girls are underweight** and BMI below less than 18.5.
  - ✓ **About 80% of tribal children are undernourished** and suffering from anaemia. While 40% of under five tribal children in India are stunted.

Other Initiatives for Tribals

- **North Eastern Region Community Resource and Management Program (NERCORMP)**
  - **Livelihood and rural development project aimed to transform the lives of poor and marginalized tribal families in North East.**
  - **Focus areas:**
    - ✓ Social mobilization, organization and capacity building
    - ✓ Intervene with economic and social activities and infrastructure with predominant thrust on income generating activities
  - Being implemented in four States, viz. **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya.**
  - Joint initiative of North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- **Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for Tribals:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme meant **for needy ST students** studying in classes IX and X.
  - Under **Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
  - **Its objective is to**
    - ✓ **support parents of ST children so that the incidence of drop-out is minimized.**
    - ✓ **improve participation of ST children in pre- matric stage.**
- **Online Performance Dashboard "Empowering Tribals, Transforming India":** Interactive and dynamic online platform that showcases **updated & real-time details of 11 schemes / initiatives** of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for achieving SDGs.
  - **Part of Digital India Initiative to work towards empowering ST and will bring efficiency and transparency in the system.**
  - **Developed by: Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)'s initiatives**
  - **Trifood Project**: Joint initiative of **Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.**
    - ✓ Aims to **enhance the income of tribals through better utilization** of and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribal forest gatherers.
  - **Tribes India e-Marketplace:** Initiative through which **TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, natural food products**.
    - ✓ Connects tribal forest dwellers and artisans with national and international markets and **will further enable their economic welfare and also bring them closer towards mainstream development**.
  - **Tech for Tribals: Supported by Ministry of MSME** it aims at **capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills** to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY).
    - ✓ Trainees undergo a 30 days program over six weeks.
    - ✓ Ensure higher success rate of the Tribal Entrepreneurs by enabling and empowering them to run their **business with marketable products with quality certifications.**
- **Namath Basai:** Kerala government's unique programme of **teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.**

2.5. ELDERLY POPULATION IN INDIA

Why in News?

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare **launched Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)** on International Day for Older Persons (1st October).
- **Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)** is endorsed by World Health Assembly in August 2020.

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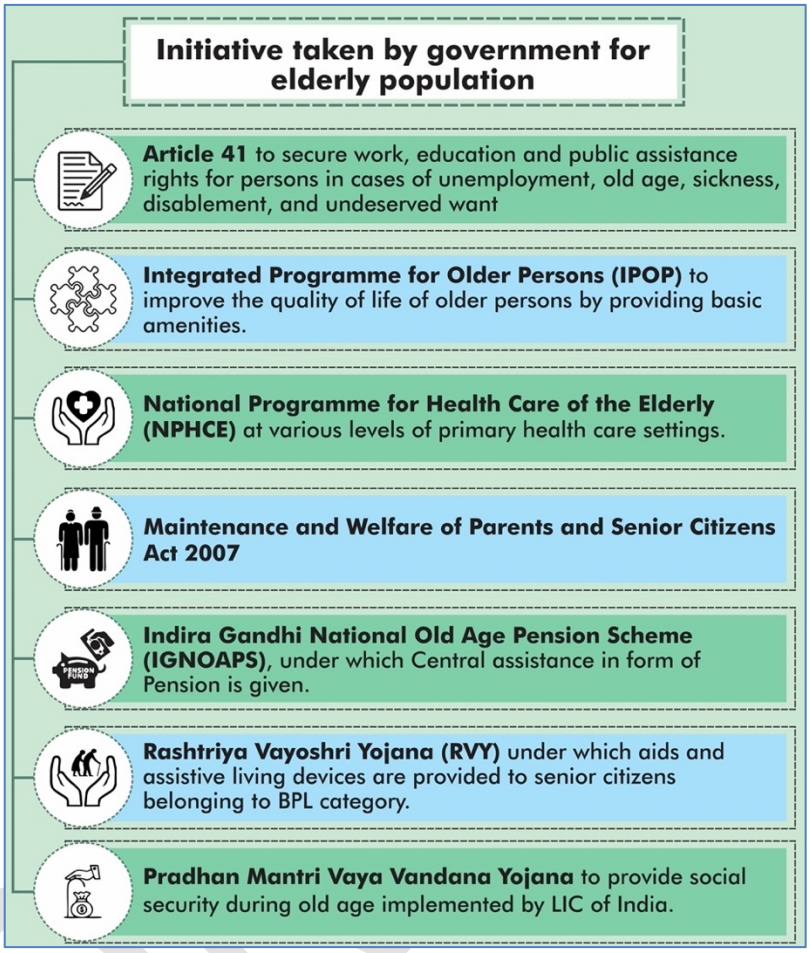
About Healthy Ageing

- World Health Organisation (WHO) defines healthy ageing **as "the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age."**
  - Functional ability is about having the capabilities that **enable all people to be and do what they have reason to value.** For e.g. meeting their basic needs; make decisions; be mobile etc.
  - It includes **all the physical and mental capacities** of an individual and their interaction with environment (home, community etc.)
- **Healthy ageing replaces the World Health Organization's previous focus on Active ageing**, a policy framework developed in 2002.
  - Active ageing is the **process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.**
  - **It is based on Madrid International Plan of Action, 2002.**
  - Madrid Plan of Action offers a bold new agenda for handling the issue of ageing in the 21st-century.



Elderly Population - status in India

- According to **Population Census 2011 there are nearly 104 million elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India**; 53 million females and 51 million males.
  - **71% of elderly population resides in rural areas while 29 % is in urban areas.**
- The **old - age dependency ratio climbed from 10.9% in 1961 to 14.2% in 2011** for India as a whole.
  - The **dependency ratio is an age-population ratio of those typically not in the labour force** (the dependent part) **and those typically in the labour force** (the productive part).
  - It is used to **measure the pressure on productive population**.
- **Kerala has maximum proportion of elderly people** in its population (12.6%) and the **least proportion is in Dadra & Nagar Haveli (4.0%).**
- With India's elderly population increasing, government is exploring ways to promote **the idea of "silver economy"** by developing residential and infrastructure facilities of different grades for seniors through public-private partnership for a dignified and safe aging experience.
  - Silver economy is defined as **the market that is being developed around the needs of an ageing population,** with a focus on innovation.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

- Act ensures **need-based maintenance for parents and senior citizens** and their welfare.
- **Key Features of Act**
  - **Children** includes son, daughter, grandson and grand-daughter.
  - **Parents**: means father or mother whether biological, adoptive or step father or step mother.
  - **Relative**: means any legal heir of the childless senior citizen who is not a minor and is in possession of or would inherit his property after his death.
  - **Maintenance**: includes provisions for food, clothing, residence and medical attendance and treatment so that such parent may lead a normal life.
  - **Maintenance orders:** The upper limit on the maintenance fee which is Rs. 10,000 in the Act.

- **Deposit of maintenance amount:** The children or relative who is required to pay any maintenance shall deposit the amount within thirty days of the date of announcing the order by tribunal.
- **Appeals:** Any senior citizen or a parent, as the case may be, aggrieved by an order of a Tribunal may, within sixty days from the date of the order, prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal.

- **Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019** was also introduced in Lok Sabha which seeks to amend 2007 Act.

National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)

- It is an **articulation of the International and national commitments** of the Government as envisaged under:
  - the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),
  - National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) adopted in 1999
  - Section 20 of "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" dealing with provisions for medical care of Senior Citizen.
- It **provides an easy access to promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services** to the elderly through community based primary health care approach
- Core strategy is **based on primary health care approach** including domiciliary visits by trained health care workers.

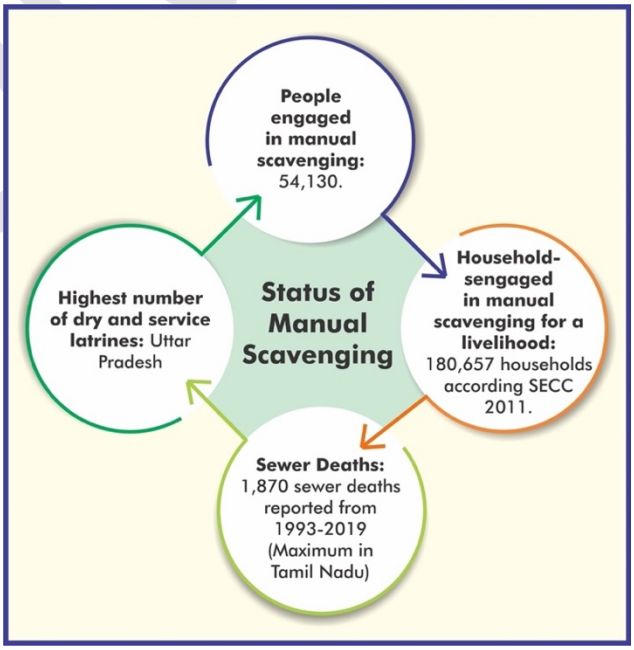
Related News: Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1, India Report

- LASI is a full–scale national survey of scientific **investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population ageing in India.**
- It was released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Key Findings:**
  - Growing at around 3% annually, **number of elderly people (aged 60 years or above) will rise to 319 million in 2050** from 103 million in the 2011 census.
  - About **one in two elderly suffers from some chronic disease.** 27% elderly have multi-morbidities, around 40% have a disability and 20% have issues related to mental health.
  - People above 45 years in India have an **average per capita income of ₹44,901,** a third of them suffer from hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.
  - 78% of elderly are **neither receiving pension not expected to receive one.**

2.6. MANUAL SCAVENGING

Why in news?

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the **'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge'** in 243 cities across the country **to end manual scavenging by 2021.**



More on news

- Under the campaign, **sewers and septic tanks in 243 cities will be mechanized and a helpline created to register complaints** if manual scavenging is reported. Cities which reach the end result will receive prize money.
- Its mission is to **prevent any loss of life** due to the issue of 'hazardous cleaning' of sewers and septic tanks.
- The measures are part of the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India initiative).**

About Manual Scavenging

- **Manual Scavenging** is the practice of manual cleaning of human excreta from **service/dry latrines.**
  - The **scavengers crawl into the dry latrines and collect the human excreta** with their bare hands, carry it as head-load in a container to dispose it off.
  - **Service/dry latrine** is a type of toilet which is waterless and from which human excrement is collected from buckets, cesspools and privies manually.

Key provisions under Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

- It **prohibits employment of manual scavengers, manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks without protective equipment**, and the construction of insanitary latrines. Offences are cognizable and non-bailable.

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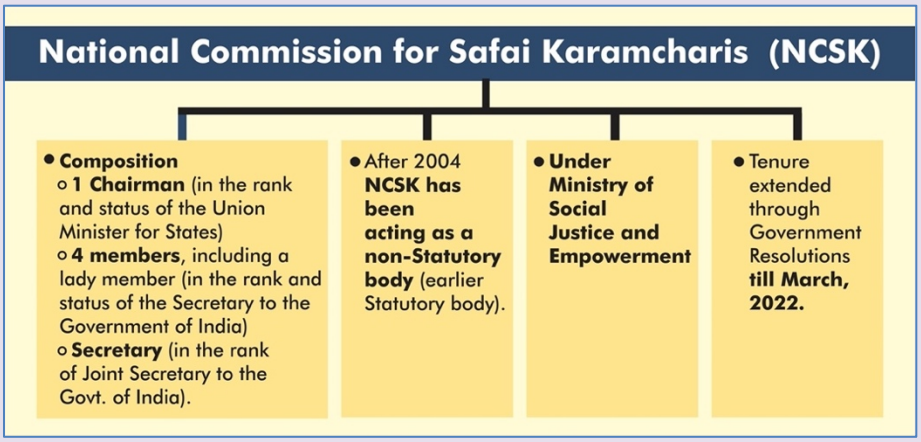
- **Provides definition of manual scavenging**: All forms of manual removal of human excreta like an open drain, pit latrine, septic tanks, manholes, and removal of excreta on the railway tracks.
- **For Rehabilitation:** Initial onetime cash assistance to manual scavengers, skill training to manual scavenges and one of the adult family members for livelihood,
- **Responsibility to identify manual scavengers lies with local authority** (municipality or panchayat, cantonment board or railway authority).
- Under section 8 of this Act, a person violating this will be **punishable with imprisonment for up to 2 years or a fine of up to 12 lakh or both**. For any subsequent violations, the imprisonment may extend up to 5 years and the fine can go up to 15 lakh or both.
- Act also has following provisions for the **rehabilitation of the identified 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.

Measures taken so far in India

- **Constitutional/Legal/Institutional Measures:**
  - **Sanitation is a State subject.**
  - India's Constitution **bans the practice of untouchability under Article 17**, and the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**, prohibits compelling anyone to practice manual scavenging.
  - **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) Act, 1993** enacted to form NCSK to look into matters concerning the Safai Karamcharis' welfare.
  - **Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993,** declared the employment of manual scavengers and construction of dry toilets to be punishable with fines and imprisonment.



  - Superseding the 1993 Act, **the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013,** goes beyond prohibitions on dry latrines, and outlaws all manual excrement cleaning of insanitary latrines, open drains, or pits.
  - **National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation**, established in 1997, mandated to monitor implementation of programs and extend financial assistance.
- **Sanitation Schemes**
  - Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme (1969),
  - Total Sanitation Campaign, 1999, renamed Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan
  - Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, 2014
- **Rehabilitation Schemes**
  - National Scheme of Liberation of Scavengers and their Dependents, 1992.
  - Scheme for Self-Employment for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, revised in 2013.
- **Civil Society/other Initiatives**
  - **Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA), 1995**, currently spearheaded by **Wilson Bezwada**..
  - In 2002, **Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan**—a coalition of 30 community-based organizations from 13 states—started a campaign to encourage manual scavengers to voluntarily leave the practice.
- **BANDICOOT:** Spider-shaped robot in Kerala that cleans manholes and sewers.

2.6.1. SANITATION AND HYGIENE FUND (SHF)

Why in news?

Recently, United Nations (UN) launched the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF).

About SHF

- SHF is global financing mechanism which will provide accelerated **funding to countries with heaviest burden of diseases stemming from lack of sanitation services** and least ability to respond.
  - It aims to **raise $2 billion over the next five years** to support the efforts.
  - It is **hosted by UN Office for Project Services**.
- **Objective of SHF**
  - expanding household sanitation;
  - ensuring menstrual health and hygiene;
  - providing sanitation and hygiene in schools and healthcare facilities;
  - supporting innovative sanitation solutions.
- **Earlier, WHO's WASH Strategy 2018-2025** was adopted which describes how WHO will increase its impact through introduction of transformational approaches, and tackling new results areas like WASH in health care facilities.

Related News

Swachh Bharat Mission Academy (SBMA)

- **It was launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- It is an Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based **training course with modules on Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus programme.**
  - ODF Plus is an extension of the ODF programme under the Swachch Bharat Mission.
  - Its objective is to sustain the ODF programme and to take up **Solid and Liquid Waste Management.**
- SBMA will **boost the capacity building efforts in training of Swachhagrahis,** community-based organizations, NGOs, SHGs and others who are associated with phase 2 of SBM(G).

Swachhata Abhiyan app

- Launched by**: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- It **will identify and geotag data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers.**
- It will help in replacing insanitary latrines with sanitary latrines **and to rehabilitate all manual scavengers**.

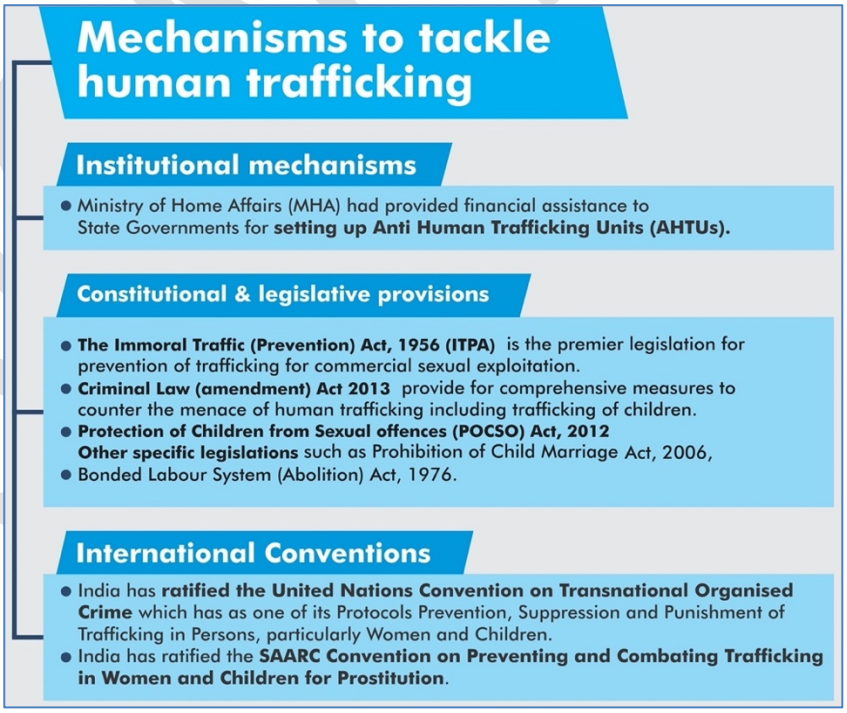
2.7. MODERN SLAVERY

Why in News?

According to a **report titled 'Stacked Odds'**, one in every 130 females globally is living in modern slavery.

Modern Slavery

- There is no universally accepted definition of "modern slavery" or "contemporary forms of slavery.". Essentially, it refers to **situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuse of power.**
- **Modern slavery takes many forms such as**
  - **Human trafficking**
  - **Forced labour**
  - **Debt bondage/bonded labour**
  - **Descent–based slavery:** People are treated as property, and their "slave" status was passed down the parental line.
  - **Slavery of children** including child trafficking, child soldiers etc.
  - **Forced and early marriage.**



Modern slavery in India

- Global Slavery Index reported that there were 8 million people in modern slavery in India.
  - 6.10 out of 1000 are estimated proportion of population living in modern slavery
  - 55.49people out of 100 has vulnerability to modern slavery
  - It was **released by the Walk Free.**

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India's Response to Modern Slavery

- India has **criminalised most forms of modern slavery**, including trafficking, slavery, forced labour, and child sexual exploitation in its Penal Code (eg: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012).
  - There is currently no legislation criminalising use of children in armed conflict.
- The **Ujjawala and Swadhar schemes** initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development run shelter and rehabilitation services for rescued women.
- In 2016, the government adopted the new **"Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers"** which recognises the needs of different groups trapped in bonded labour and provides cash compensation.
- The **government ratified two core ILO conventions** in 2017, namely No. 138 on Minimum Age to Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

2.7.1. BONDED LABOUR

Why in News?

SC recently asked NHRC to frame Guidelines for Protection & Rehabilitation of Victims of Bonded Labour.

Details

- **ILO defines forced or compulsory labour as:** all work or service which is exacted from any person under threat of penalty and for which person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.
- Bonded labour is a **type of forced labour.**
- Bonded labour is **prohibited under Articles 21 and 23 and Bonded Labour Abolition Act (BLSA),1976.**
  - BLSA is supported by other legislations like Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act,1970; Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act,1979; Minimum Wages Act,1948.
  - BLSA provide for the a**bolition of bonded labour system with a view to preventing the economic and physical exploitation** of the weaker sections of the people.
  - BLSA is being **implemented by the concerned State Govts./UTs.**
  - BLSA provides for an **institutional mechanism at the district level** in the form of Vigilance Committees.
  - **State Governments/UTs may confer, on an Executive Magistrate, the powers of a Judicial Magistrate** of the first class or second class for trial of offences under this Act.

Three-pronged strategy for abolition of bonded labour by Centre		
• BLSA,1976 empowers **executive magistrates to exercise powers of judicial magistrate of first or second class for trial of offences.**	• **Vigilance committees at district and sub-divisional levels** to identify and rehabilitate bonded labourers.	• **Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour** under which Centre and states contribute Rs 10,000 each for rehabilitation.

Related information
Domestic Workers

- Recently, DW have brought out a **manifesto demanding universal registration of employers and domestic workers and national legislation.**
  - In the wake of COVID-19, many are denied their earnings, protective gear, and the rightful access to information about the virus, and healthcare services.
  - At least 85% workers have not received their wages.
- **According to ILO, Domestic work** refers to housework such as sweeping, cooking, caring of children and such other work which is carried out for an employer for remuneration.
  - It provides an **important livelihood source for illiterate women** or those with very little education.
  - As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 2011-12, there are **37.4 million home-based workers in India**.
- With respect to home-based workers, there is no legislation in India **which provides social protection**, mandates a minimum wage and fixes the maximum number of working hours per day.
- **Some steps have been taken by Government**
  - Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act (2008) and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (2013)
  - **Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu have constituted Welfare Boards for DW** who can avail welfare benefits by registering.

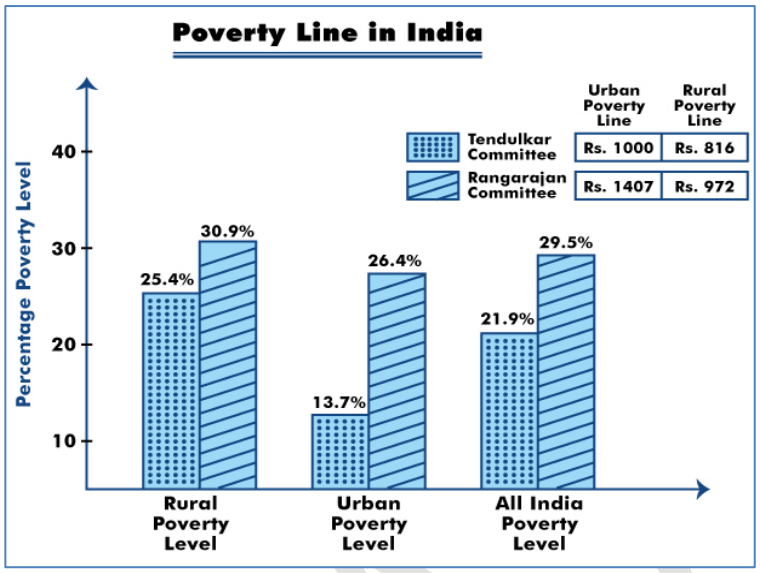
2.8. URBAN POOR

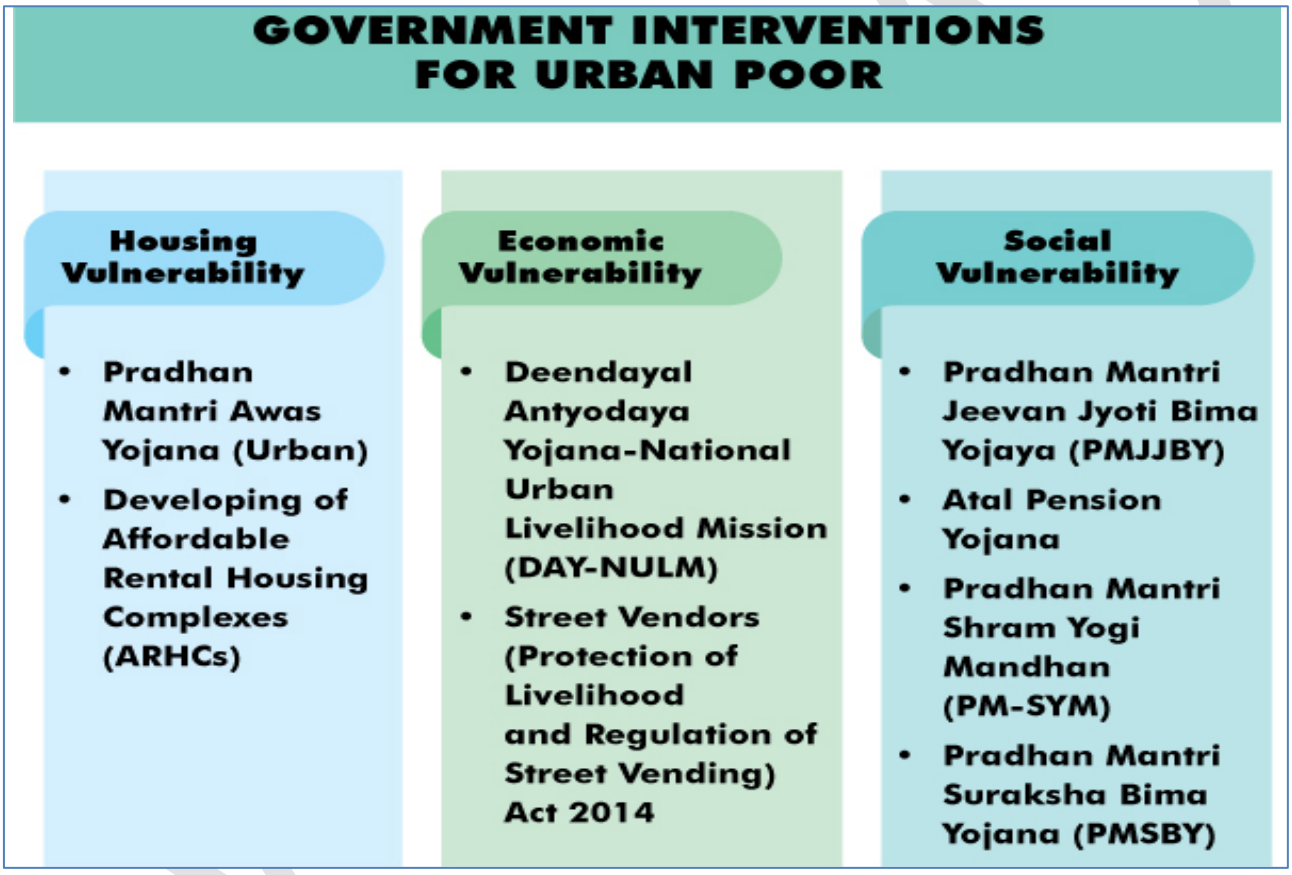
Why in news?

The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 pandemic on urban informal workers including their migration from cities to their native places brought into focus the issues of urban poor.

Urban Poor in India

- India's urban population has grown rapidly over the last century from 25 million in 1901 to 377 million in 2011 which **constitute 31.2% of the total population in the country.**
  - According to Census 2011, **17.7% of urban population comprising 65 million people lives in slums.**
- Employment guarantee programme can **strengthens the 'Right to Life' enshrined under Article 21.**
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) is the nodal agency** at the Centre responsible for development of urban poor.





2.9. MIGRANT WORKERS

Why in News?

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had sought Supreme Court (SC) intervention on migrant crisis.

Measures suggested

- **Insert special provision to Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to** deal with emergency situations like COVID-19, natural disasters etc.
- Maximum benefits be extended to migrant labour as provided under **Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008.**

Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

- Act was enacted to **regulate employment of inter-state migrant workmen** and to provide fair and decent conditions of employment etc.

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- It provides for **payment of minimum wages similar to other workmen, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation,** medical facilities and protective clothing etc.
- It **requires all establishments hiring inter-state migrants to be registered,** and contractors who recruit such workmen be licensed by the appropriate Government.
    - Contractors are **obligated to provide details of all workmen** to the relevant authority.
    - Contractors are also required to ensure **regular payment, non-discrimination, provisioning of suitable accommodation, free medical** facilities and protective clothing for the workmen.

Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008

- It **provides social security to all unorganized workers** including domestic workers.
- It **provides formulation of social security schemes** viz life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits & old age protection.
- The **State Governments are mandated under Act to formulate suitable welfare schemes** for the unorganized sector workers including domestic workers on matters relating to:
    - **life and disability cover,**
    - **health and maternity benefits,**
    - **old age protection**
    - relating to provident fund,
    - employment injury benefits housing,
    - education schemes for children,
    - skill up gradation of workers.

OTHER INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

INTERSTATE MIGRANT POLICY INDEX (IMPEX)

- Released by **India Migration Now** (non-profit organization).
- **Ranks and compares all the states** based on their migrant integration policies.
- **Examines policy areas such as** child rights, education, health and sanitation, housing, political inclusion etc.

NATIONAL MIGRANT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NMIS)

- Developed by: **National Disaster Management Authority.**
- NMIS is a **central online repository on Migrant Workers** to facilitate their seamless movement across States.
- It would help in **speedy inter-State Communication/co-ordination.**
- It has additional advantages like **contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID-19 response.**

NATIONAL DATABASE OF UNORGANISED WORKERS (NDUW)

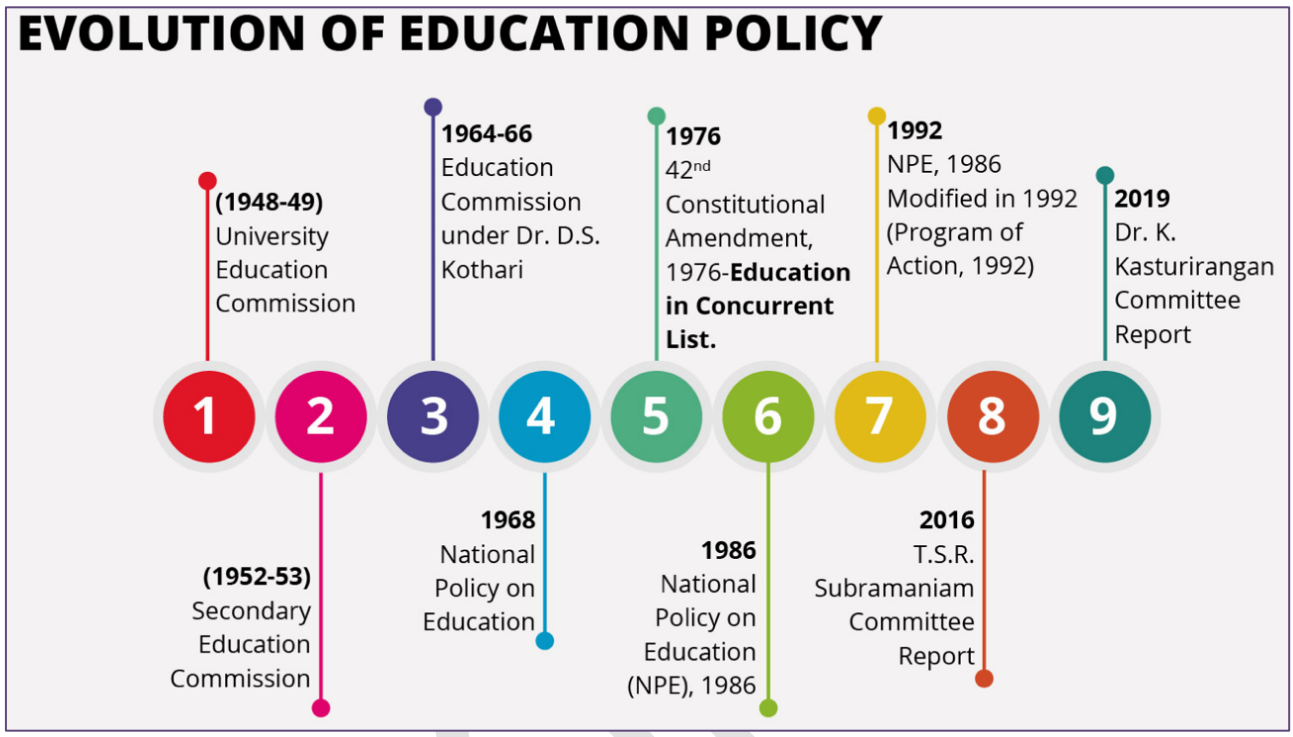
- Recently, **Ministry of Finance** Moved to Set up NDUW.
- **First-ever national database of unorganized sector** workers including migrant workers.
- Aims to **provide a platformfor workers and Employers, and for the government** to Implement specific programmes for Such labourers.
- Ministry of labour & employment has envisaged development of NDUW **seeded with Aadhaar.**
- **Helps workers to share information about their skills** which, in turn, will make it easy For employers to find a suitable person.
- **Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008** had first mandated that every worker be registered and issued a smart id card.

3. EDUCATION

3.1. NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020

Why in news?

Union Cabinet approved the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



About the Policy

- New policy aims to **pave way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems** in the country.
- This policy will **replace the 34-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE),1986.**
- In this line, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has been **re-designated as Ministry of Education (MoE)** to bring the focus back on education and learning.

Vision of the New Education Policy 2020

- An education system that contributes to an **equitable and vibrant knowledge society,** by providing high-quality education to all.
- Develops a **deep sense of respect towards the fundamental rights, duties and Constitutional values,** bonding with one's country, and a conscious awareness of one's role and responsibilities in a changing world.
- Instils skills, values, and dispositions that support **responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and global well-being,** thereby reflecting a truly global citizen.

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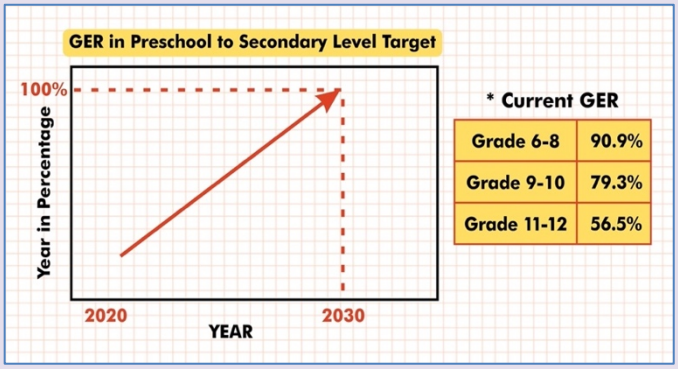
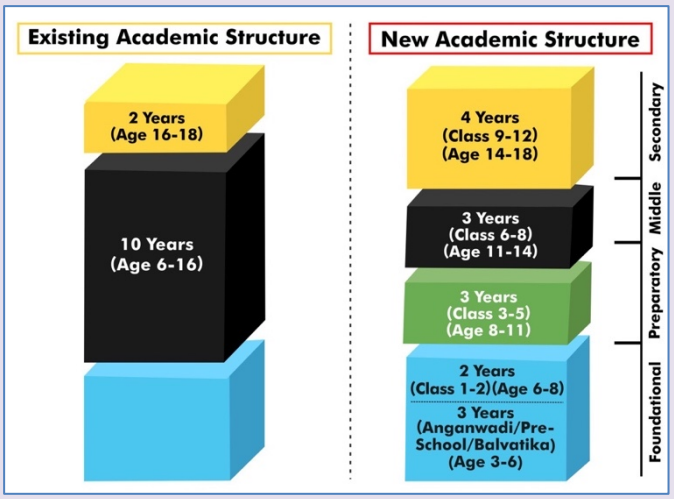
3.1.1. SCHOOL EDUCATION

Dimensions	Details
Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)	• **Universal Access for children of 3-6 years:** bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years (crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child) under school curriculum. • **ECCE will be delivered through Anganwadis and pre-schools** that will have teachers and Anganwadi workers trained in the ECCE pedagogy and curriculum. • **Pre-school sections** covering at least one year of early childhood care and education will be added to Kendriya Vidyalayas and other primary schools, **particularly in disadvantaged areas.** • **NCPFECCE** • **Implementation to be jointly carried** out by Ministries of Education, Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare (HFW), and Tribal Affairs.
Attainment of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy	• **National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy** • **National Book Promotion Policy** • **National Repository of high-quality resources** on foundational literacy and numeracy will be made available on the **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA).**
Curtailing Dropout Rates and Ensuring Universal Access to Education at All Level	**Following are the initiatives to achieve the target of 100% GER:** • **Providing effective and sufficient infrastructure** so that all students have access to safe and engaging school education. • **Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes** offered by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools will be expanded and strengthened with **special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).** • **Tracking students** as well as their learning levels through counsellors or well-trained social workers. 

Curriculum and Pedagogy	• Restructuring school curriculum and pedagogy in a **new 5+3+3+4 design (refer infographics)** • **Reduced curriculum content** to its core essentials to enhance essential learning and critical thinking. • **Experiential learning** will be adopted in all stages, including hands-on learning, arts-integrated and sports-integrated education. • **Freedom of choosing a variety of subject combination:** no rigid separation among 'curricular', 'extracurricular', or 'co-curricular', among 'arts', 'humanities', and 'sciences', or between 'vocational' or 'academic' streams. • **Introduction of contemporary subjects** such as Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Holistic Health, Organic Living, Environmental Education, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), etc. • **Vocational education** through 10-day bagless period sometime during Grades 6-8 where students will **intern with local vocational experts** such as carpenters, gardeners, potters, artists, etc. • **National Curricular Framework for School Education** by the NCERT. 
Student Assessment	• **School examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8** which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. • **Board exams for Grades 10 and 12** will be continued but redesigned. • **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** • **Holistic Progress Card 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 • **National Testing Agency (NTA)**
Multilingualism and the power of language	• **Medium of instruction** up till grade 5, and preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be **home language/ mother-tongue/ local language.** • **'The Languages of India'** a fun project/ activity on to be taken by every student under the *'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'* initiative. • **Three languages formula with greater flexibility.** • **All classical languages** (Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia) will be widely available in schools as options. In addition, Pali, Persian, and Prakrit will also be widely available as options. • **Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized** across the country.

Equitable and Inclusive Education- Provisions for Socio-Economically Disadvantaged groups -SEDGs	• Setting up of
	  ○ **Gender Inclusion Fund** for female and transgender students
	  ○ **Special Education Zones** (SEZs)- Large populations from SEDGs to be declared SEZs.
	• **Children with disabilities** will be enabled to fully participate in the regular schooling process from the foundational stage to higher education.
	• Every state/district will be encouraged to establish **"Bal Bhavans"** as a **special daytime boarding school,** to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities.
	• Free school infrastructure can be used as **Samajik Chetna Kendras** to promote social, intellectual, and voluntary activities.
	• **Special mechanisms for children belonging to tribal groups** to receive quality education
	• **Fee waivers and scholarships** will be offered to meritorious students from all SEDGs
	• **Additional Schools-** Setting-up of additional JNVs and KVs in aspirational districts/SEZs

Robust Teacher Education and Recruitment	• New and comprehensive **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (by 2021).** • By 2030, the **minimum degree qualification** for teaching will be a **4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.** • NTA testing for admission to B.Ed. • Setting-up of **National Mission for Mentoring** with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty

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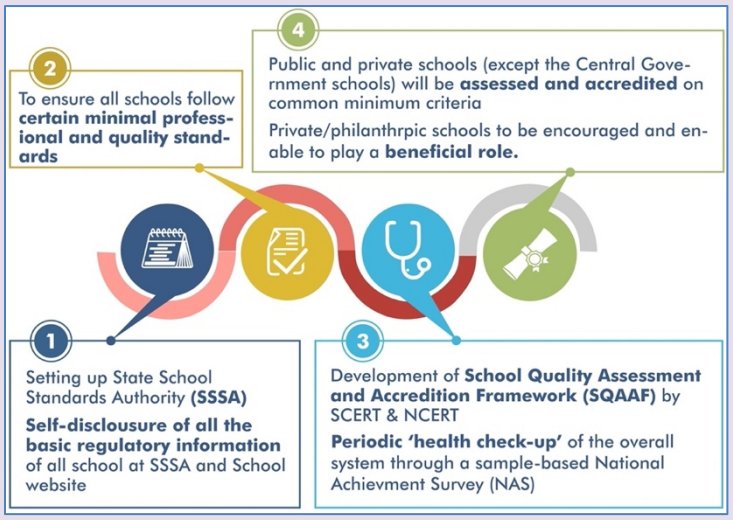
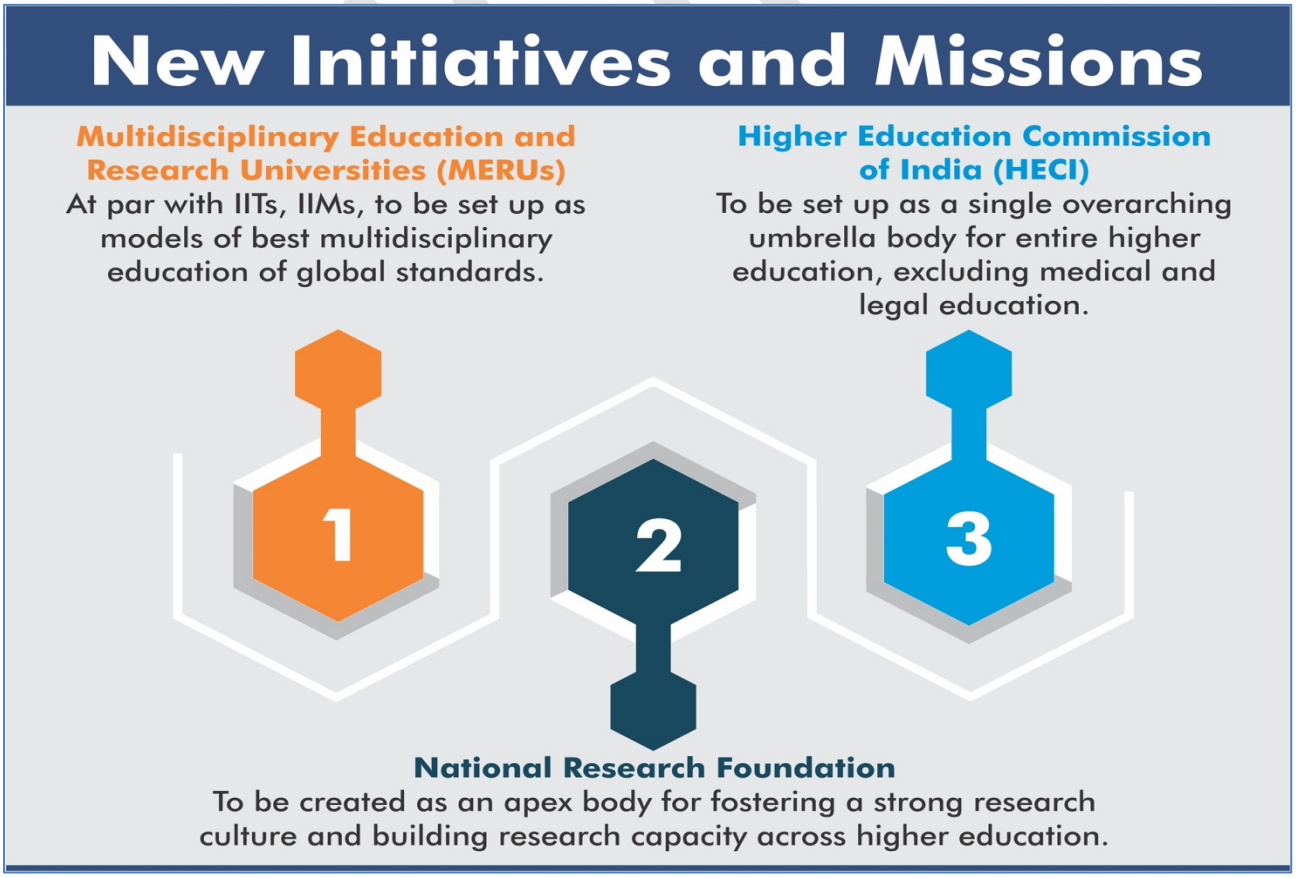
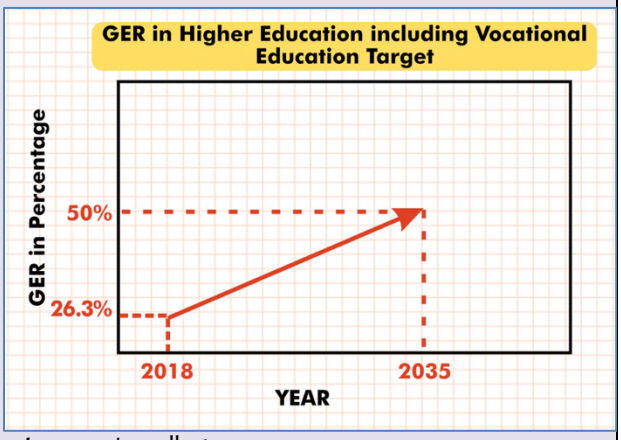
	• **Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs) for all teachers** across Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary stage in both public and private schools. • More **autonomy to teachers** in choosing aspects of pedagogy in classroom teaching • **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** • **Restructuring of NCTE**- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to be restructured as a Professional Standard Setting Body (PSSB) under General Education Council (GEC).
School Governance	• Schools can be organized into complexes or clusters which will be the basic unit of governance and ensure availability of all resources including a strong professional teacher community. • Schools will develop School Development Plans (SDPs). These plans will then become the basis for the creation of School Complex/Cluster Development Plans (SCDPs) • The **twinning/pairing of one public school with one private school** will be adopted across the country, so that such paired schools may learn from each other, and also share resources, if possible.
Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education	

3.1.2. HIGHER EDUCATION



Institutional Restructuring & Consolidation	• All higher education institutions to be consolidated into three types of institutions:
	  ○ **Research Universities** - equal focus on research and teaching
	  ○ **Teaching Universities** - primary focus on teaching with significant focus on research
	  ○ **Autonomous degree-granting colleges** - almost exclusive focus on teaching
	• Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting **graded autonomy** to colleges.
	• Over a period of time, it is envisaged that every college would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.
	• By 2040, all higher education institutions (HEIs) shall aim to become multidisciplinary institutions.
	• There shall, by 2030, be **at least one large multidisciplinary HEI** in or near every district.
	• The aim will be to **increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio** in higher education including vocational education from **26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035**.
	 

Holistic Multidisciplinary Education	• The policy envisages undergraduate education with **flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education** and **multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification**. • An **Academic Bank of Credit** is to be established for **digitally storing academic credits** earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned. • **MERUs** • **National Research Foundation**

Regulation	• HECI **to have four independent verticals** -
	  ○ National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation,
	  ○ General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting,
	  ○ Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding,
	  ○ National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.
	• **Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms** for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

Internationalization of HEIs	• **Internationally relevant curricula**, meaningful opportunities for social engagement, quality residential facilities and on-campus support, etc. • An **International Students Office at each HEI** hosting foreign students will be set up to coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting students arriving from abroad. • **High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries**, and similarly, selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. • A **legislative framework facilitating such entry** will be put in place, and such universities will be given **special dispensation** regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India. • **Research collaboration and student exchanges** between Indian institutions and global institutions will be promoted. • **Credits acquired in foreign universities** will be permitted, where appropriate as per the requirements of each HEI, to be counted for the award of a degree.
Equity and Inclusion	**Steps to be taken by Governments** • Earmark **suitable Government funds** for the education of SEDGs • Set clear targets for higher GER for SEDGs • Enhance gender balance in admissions to HEIs • Enhance access by establishing more high-quality HEIs in aspirational districts and Special Education Zones containing larger numbers of SEDGs **Steps to be taken by all HEIs** • Mitigate opportunity costs and fees for pursuing higher education

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	• Provide more financial assistance and scholarships to SEDGs • Make curriculum more inclusive • Ensure sensitization of faculty, counsellor, and students on gender-identity issue • Strictly enforce all no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules

3.1.3. OTHER MAJOR PROVISIONS

Financing Education	• Centre and States to work together to **increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP.** • Policy calls for **promotion and support for private philanthropic activity** in education sector
Technology in education	• **National Educational Technology Forum (NETF),** an autonomous body to be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration. • **Appropriate integration of technology into all levels of education**
Adult Education	• Policy aims to achieve **100% youth and adult literacy.** • **Use of schools/ school complexes beyond school hours** and public library spaces for adult education courses. • **Quality technology-based options for adult learning** such as online courses, satellite-based TV channels and ICT-equipped libraries and Adult Education Centres, etc. will be developed.
Online Education and Digital Education	• A **comprehensive set of recommendations** 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. • A **dedicated unit for the purpose of coordinating building of digital infrastructure,** content and capacity building will be created in the MoE for both school and higher education.
Professional Education	• All professional education to 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.
Promotion of Indian Languages, Arts, and Culture	• Strong departments and programmes in Indian languages, comparative literature, creative writing, arts, music, philosophy, etc. to be launched and developed across the country, and degrees including 4- year B.Ed. dual degrees will be developed in these subjects. • **Outstanding local artists and craftsperson** to be hired as **guest faculty** to promote local music, art, languages, and handicraft, and to ensure that students are aware of the culture and local knowledge where they study. • Every higher education institution and even every school or school complex will aim to have **Artist(s)-in-Residence** to expose students to art, creativity, and the rich treasures of the region/country. • **High-quality programmes and degrees** in Translation and Interpretation, Art and Museum Administration, Archaeology etc will also be created. • For each of the **languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India**, 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.

3.2. STRENGTHENING TEACHING-LEARNING AND RESULTS FOR STATES (STARS) PROJECT

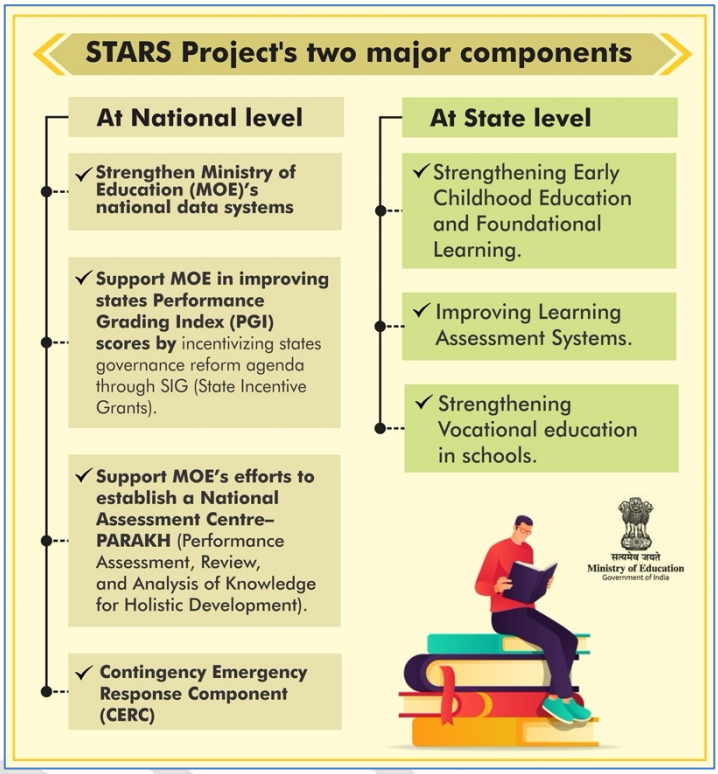
Why in news?

The Union Cabinet approved the **STARS project** under the new National Education Policy.

About STARS project

- It seeks to **support the states in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions** with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes.
- The overall focus and components of the STARS project are **aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes.**
- The **project covers 6 States** namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
    - The identified States will be **supported for various interventions for improving the quality of education**.

- Around 25 crore students (between the age of 6-17) in 15 lakh schools and over 1 crore teachers will benefit from the programme.
- It would be implemented as a **new Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MOE).
- Project cost is **shared between World Bank and participating states.** World Bank support is in form of a **results-based financing instrument called 'Program for Results' (PforR).**
- Reforms at State level will be ensured through a **set of disbursement-linked indicators and a State Incentive Grant** to meet desired project outcomes.
- It also aims to **focus on initiatives of PM e-Vidya, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission and National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education** as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It will supply **multi-year financing for India's participation in Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021.**



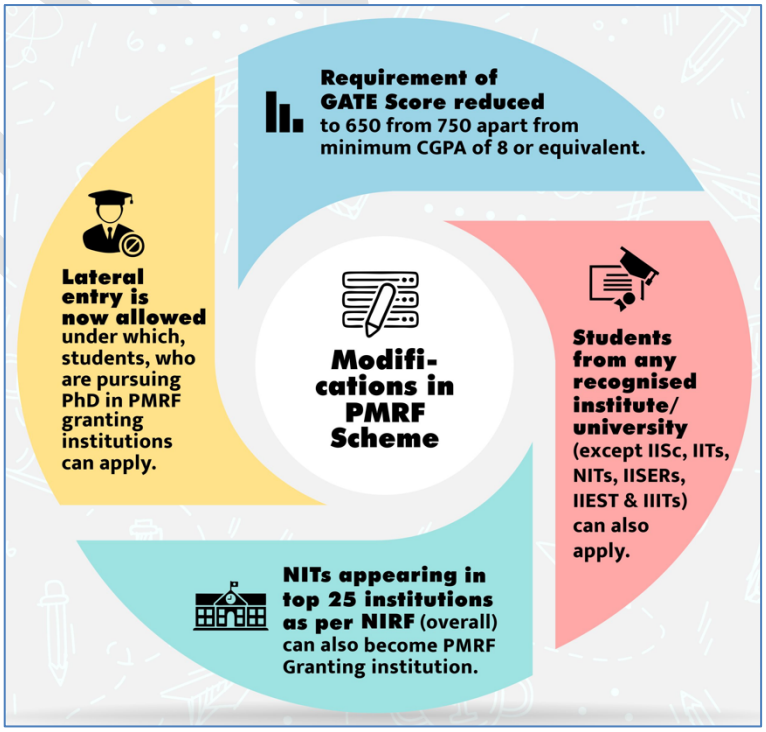
3.3. PRIME MINISTER'S RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (PMRF) SCHEME

Why in News?

Ministry of Education (MoE) announced modifications in PMRF Scheme.

About the scheme

- 'Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF)' Scheme was launched **for a period of seven years beginning 2018-19,** for **improving quality of research** in various higher educational institutions in the country.
  - Under it, students who have completed or are in final year of B. Tech or Integrated M.Tech or M.Sc. in Science and Technology streams from IISc/IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIITs will be offered **direct admission** in PhD programme in IITs/IISc.
  - With **attractive fellowships, research grant**, it seeks to attract the best talent into research.



- Now with aim to boost research in-country, **MoE has made certain modifications** (refer to infographics).

Related information
Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme

- It is to provide **5 year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from six notified minority communities viz.** Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh, to pursue M. Phil and Ph.D.
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs** implements MANF through the University Grants Commission.

- The selection of candidates for 2019-20 has been made through JRF-NET (Junior Research Fellow- National Eligibility Test) examination conducted by National Testing Agency.
  - Prior to 2019-20, the merit list was prepared on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in their Post Graduate examination.

Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)

- Scheme is being implemented by **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).**
- PMSSS was instituted in 2010 with the **aim to build the capacities of the youths of J&K and Ladakh by Educating, Enabling and empowering them to compete in the normal course.**
- Components of scholarships: Academic fee and maintenance allowance

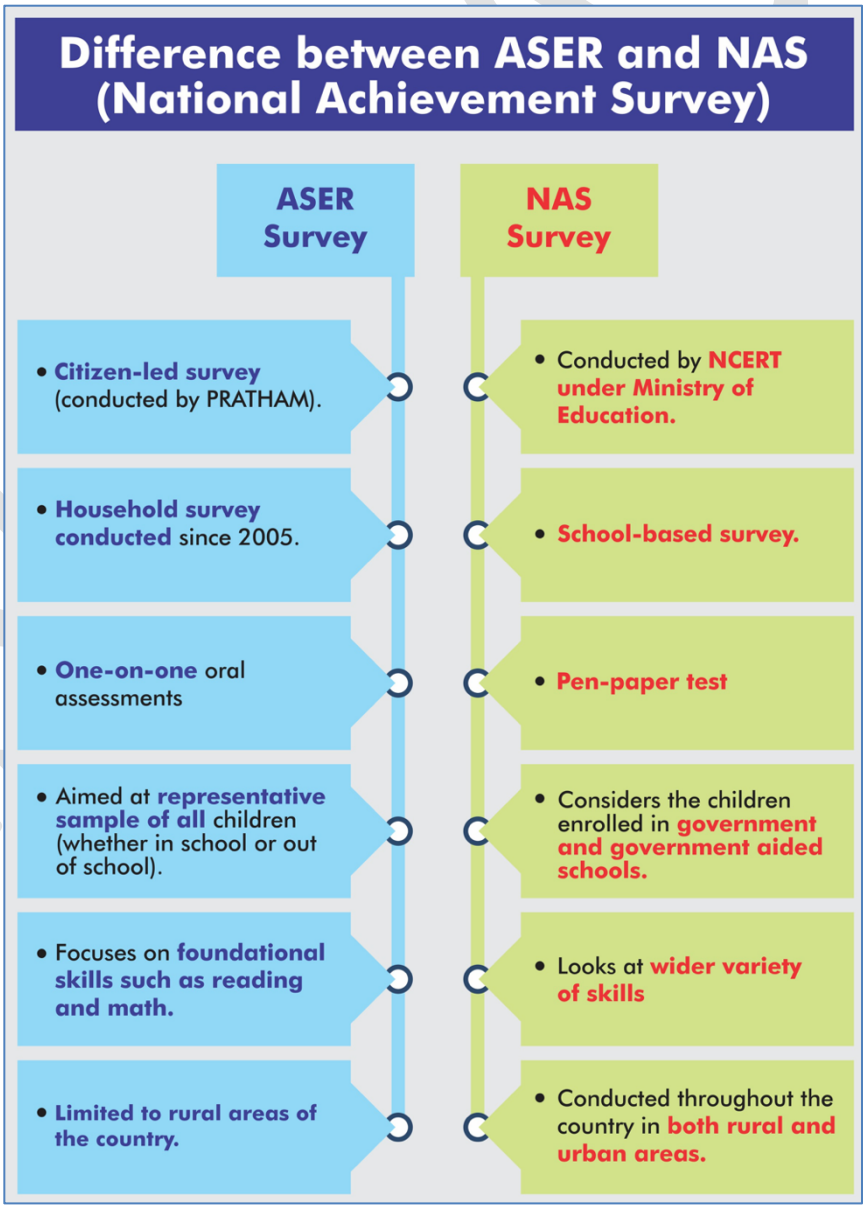
3.4. ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT 2020

Why in News?

Recently, fifteenth Annual Status of Education Report (ASER 2020 Wave 1) was released **by NGO Pratham.**

About ASER report

- ASER is an **annual survey that aims to provide reliable annual estimates of children's schooling status** and basic learning levels for each state and rural district in India.
  - **Urban areas are not covered.**
- **Schooling status is recorded for children in the age group 3 to 16,** and children in the age group 5 to 16 are tested for their ability to read simple text and do basic arithmetic.
- Except for 2015, **ASER has been conducted every year since 2005.**
- ASER is conducted by volunteers from local partner organizations in each district. **ASER is facilitated by Pratham.**
- In 2017, ASER 'Beyond Basics' focused on the abilities, experiences, and aspirations of youth in the 14-18 age group.



ASER 2020 Findings

- **Children's enrolment:** It shows small **shift in enrolment from private to government schools,** across all grades and among both girls and boys.
- **Children not currently enrolled:** It found that 5.3% of rural children aged 6-10 years had not yet enrolled in school this year, in comparison to just 1.8% in 2018.
- **Access to Learning Materials and Activities:** A **higher percentage of private school children received learning materials/activities** as compared to government school children in the same grades.
  - **There are significant variations by state in children's receipt of learning materials** or activities during the reference week.

3.5. GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING REPORT 2020

Why in news?

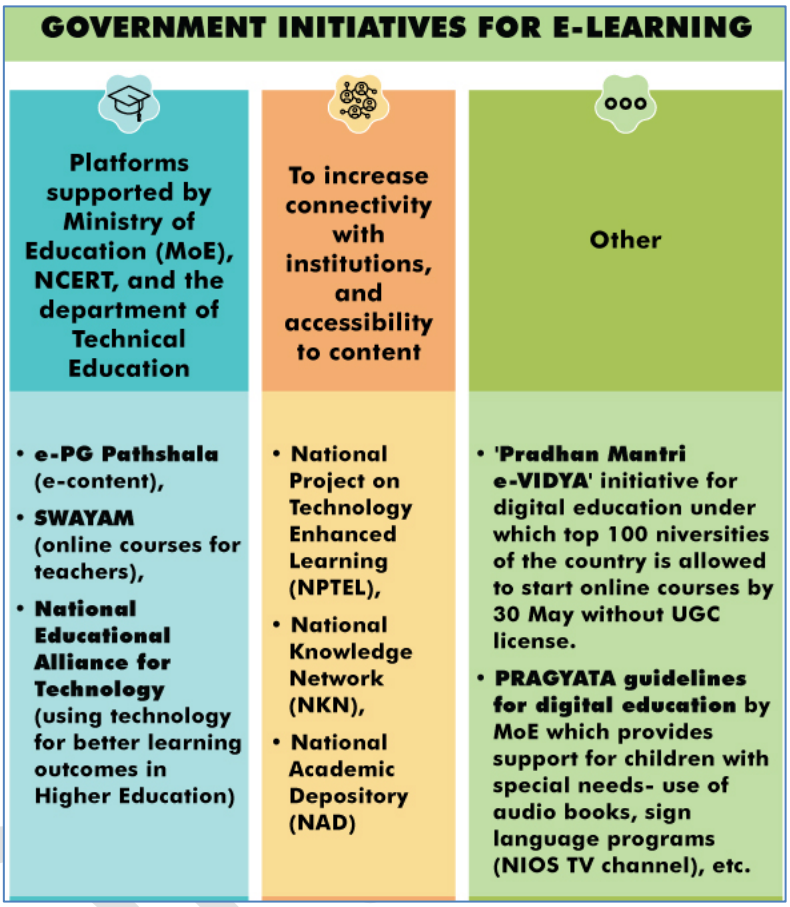
UNESCO recently published Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 titled **Inclusion and education: All means all.**

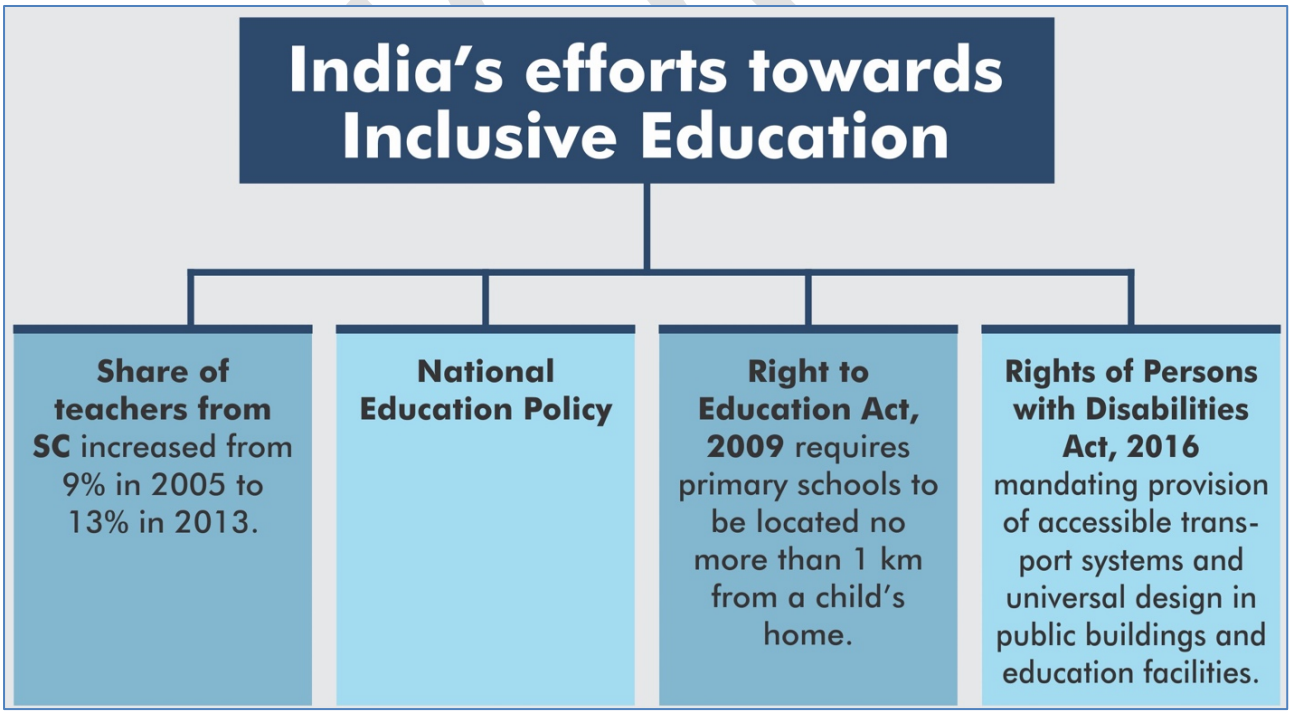
International declarations for inclusive Education

- **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4):** It aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):** It guaranteed the right to inclusive education.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- It is a **specialized agency of UN** that seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.
- Its headquarters are located in **Paris, France.**
- It has 193 Members, including **India**, and 11 Associate Members.





3.6. STATE OF THE EDUCATION REPORT FOR INDIA 2020

Why in News?

State of Education Report 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was released by UNESCO.

About the report

- Report **focuses on TVET and aims to support India** which has already announced skills development as a key national priority under the Skill India Mission.
- It **focuses on highlighting progress and achievements,** describing the intense on-going activity around TVET provision, and **outlining the directions for future growth** through the implementation of the new NEP 2020.

About TVET

- UNESCO defines TVET 'as **comprising education, training and skills development** relating to a wide range of occupational fields, production, services and livelihoods.
- As per Ministry of Education, **Technical education generally pertains to higher education** while school education up to secondary level is a part of vocational education.

Related news

Remote Learning Reachability Report released by UNICEF

- **Key findings of the report**
  - **At least or 31% (463 million) of school children worldwide cannot be reached** by remote learning programs, mainly due to a lack of necessary household assets or policies geared toward their needs.
  - Globally, 3 out of 4 students who cannot be reached by remote learning opportunities come **from rural areas and/or poor households.**
- **In India, only 24% of households have internet connections** to access e-education.

3.7. INSTITUTIONS OF EMINENCE (IOE)

Why in News?

New guidelines have been issued for IoE by University Grants Commission.

Guidelines

- IoEs are **allowed to set up campuses abroad** after receiving no objection certificates from Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - **Norms and standards of the offshore campus shall be the same** as that maintained on the main campus for similar courses.
- IoEs are **also permitted to start new off campus centres**, with a maximum of three in five years and not more than one in an academic year.
- The move is in **line with government's new National Education Policy**, which says that high performing universities should be encouraged to set up campuses abroad.

About IoE

- IoE scheme was launched to implement the **commitment of the Government to empower the Higher Educational Institutions** and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions.
- 20 institutions were to be selected -- 10 public and 10 private ones.

- These institutions **will enjoy benefits like additional funding, complete academic and administrative autonomy, assessment patterns etc.**
- Government will provide **funding upto₹1,000 crore to public institutions,** for private institutions no financial support.

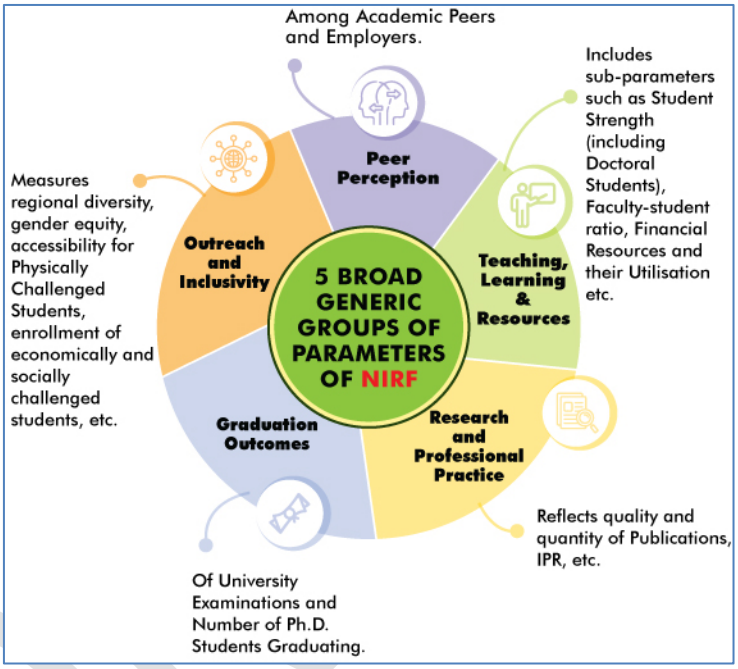
3.8. RANKINGS

3.8.1. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK (NIRF)

Why in news?

Recently, **"India Rankings 2020"** under National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was released by the Ministry of Education (MoE).

About NIRF "India Rankings 2020"



- The NIRF was launched by the MoE in 2015.
- This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country on a yearly basis under 10 categories- **Overall, University, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, College, Medical, Law, Architecture** and **Dental** (newly added in 2020).
- **Objective of these rankings:**
  - To act as a **guide to students for selection of universities** based on a set of criteria.
  - Helps universities to improve their performance on various ranking parameters and identify gaps in research and areas of improvement.
  - Ranking of Institutions at national level instill a **competitive spirit amongst institutions** to perform better and secure higher rank in international ranking.
- NIRF is a **voluntary exercise** where only institutions that submit required data are ranked.
- Top three institutes according to ranking included **IIT Madras, IISc Bangalore and IIT Delhi.**

Related News

QS World University rankings

- Recently, QS World University rankings for the year 2021 were published.
- **IIT Bombay, Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru**, and IIT Delhi featured in the top 200 list.
- It ranks universities on **six metrics**: Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty/Student Ratio, Citations per faculty, International Faculty Ratio and International Student Ratio
- Reasons for drop in rankings include **low ratio of international faculty and students** and **poor faculty-student ratio**.

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking (WUR) 2021

- THE assessed performance of 1527 higher education institutes from 93 countries or regions on several parameters including teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.
- 63 universities from India qualified for the ranking (highest ever from India).
  - However, none could make it to top 300.
  - Among India varsities, the highest rank is occupied by Indian Institute of Science.
- United States is the most represented country with 59 entries in top 200.
- Top spot: UK's University of Oxford

3.8.2. ATAL RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS (ARIIA) RANKINGS

Why in News?

Recently, Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) rankings 2020 were announced.

About ARIIA

- It is an **initiative of Ministry of Education** to systematically rank **all major higher educational institutions and universities in India** on indicators related to 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development' amongst students and faculties.
  - In the ARIIA 2020 rankings, **IIT Madras has bagged the top spot** for best centrally funded institution followed by IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi.
  - In the category of private institutions, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha has emerged as the winner.
  - College of Engineering Pune, Maharashtra has topped the list for State-Funded Autonomous Institutions.
  - For the first time, ARIIA 2020 rankings had a special prize category for women-only higher educational institutions.
- ARIIA focus on **quality of innovations and try to measure the real impact** created by these innovations nationally and internationally.

3.9. ACCREDITATION IN INDIA

Why in News?

600 Universities, 25,000 Colleges are not accredited In India.

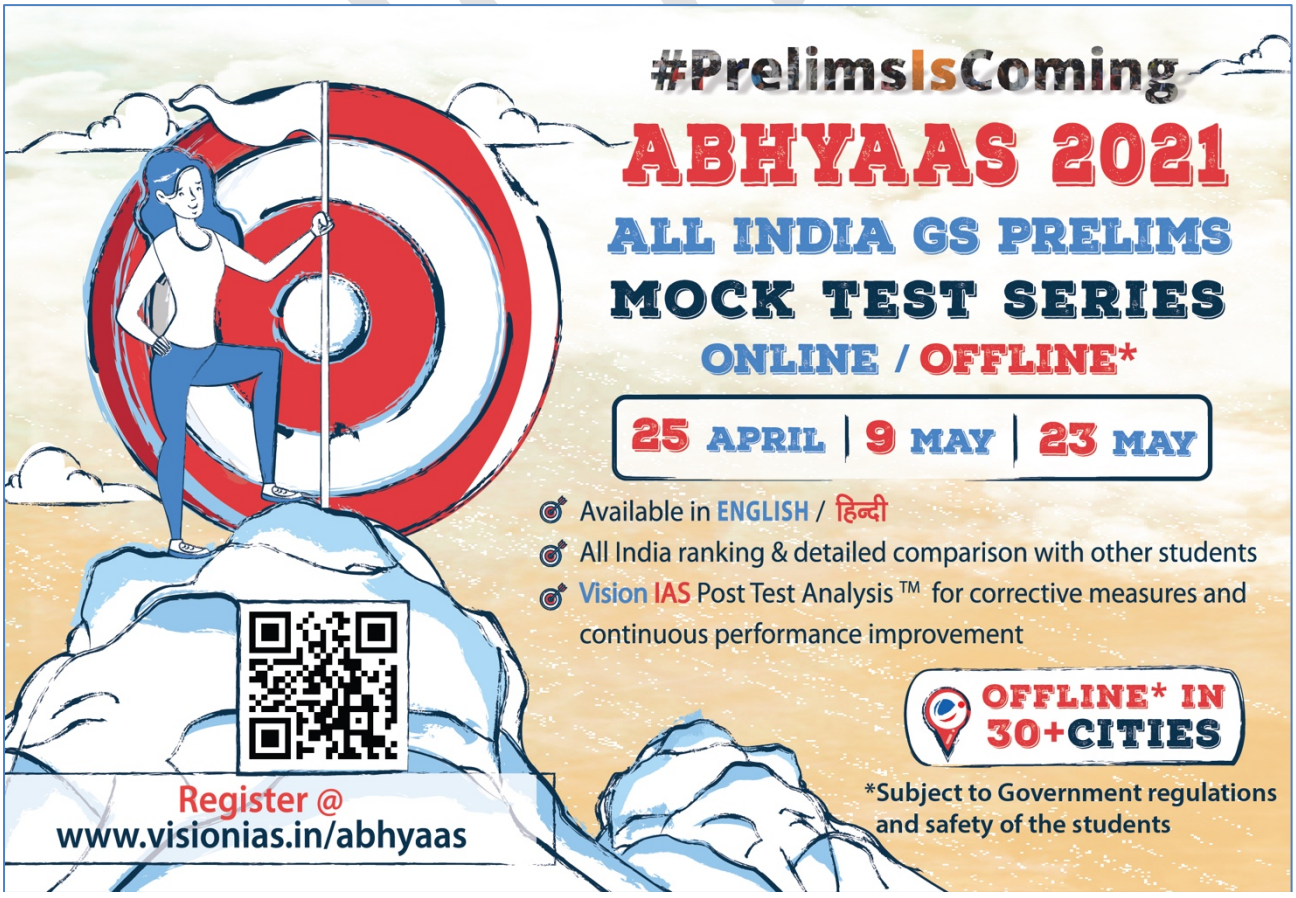
About Accreditation in India

- **Accreditation survey** was conducted by **National Assessment and Accreditation Council** (**NAAC**).
- Some findings are:
  - 26% of institutions didn't apply for accreditation as they lack permanent faculty and 5.5% for not having a permanent head of the institution.
  - 22 % of higher education institutions (HEI) didn't participate due to poor grades.
- NAAC is **autonomous body** established under **Ministry of Education**.
  - It conducts **assessment and accreditation** of HEI such as colleges, universities or other recognised institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution.
- In 2017, **Revised Assessment and Accreditation Framework** was introduced to make accreditation **ICT enabled, objective, transparent, scalable and robust**.

3.10. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)	• Recently, **on-line NISHTHA programme** was launched due to COVID-19 pandemic. • NISHTHA, launched under Samagra Shiksha is a **capacity building programme** for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training". • It aims to **build competencies among all the teachers and school principals** at the elementary stage. • It aims to **train 42 lakhs teachers.**
Roadmap for NCERT for the year 2020-21	• NCERT roadmap has been designed keeping in view the decision to set up the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission under Atma Nirbhar Bharat.** ○ Mission aims to ensure that every student in Grade 5 and beyond must **achieve foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025.**

	• Under this, NCERT has been asked to **prepare infographics, posters and presentations explaining each of the learning outcome**, for each subject and grade for classes one to five by October this year.
Students Learning Enhancement Guidelines	• Guidelines were released by **Ministry of Education.** • NCERT has prepared these guidelines to address the issues related to gaps and/or loss of learning among students, during and after the lockdown. • Also, these guidelines seek to help children who cannot access online learning, recommending ways to learn at home with their teachers or volunteers. • **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** is an **autonomous organisation** set up in 1961 by the Government of India to assist and **advise the Central and State Governments** on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education.
YUKTI (Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) 2.0 web portal	• It has been launched by **Minister of Education.** • It will help to **systematically assimilate technologies** having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in our higher education institutions.
Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP), SAMARTH	• ERP, SAMARTH, an e-Governance platform has been **implemented at National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra,** to automate processes of Institute. • It is an **Open Standard Open Source Architecture,** Secure, Scalable and **Evolutionary Process Automation** Engine **for Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).** • It caters to faculty, students and staff at University/HEIs. It **will enhance productivity** through **better information management** in institutes by seamless access to information, and its utilization for various purposes. • **Developed by:** Ministry of Education, under **National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme**.
Institution Innovation Council (IIC 3.0)	• IIC was established by Ministry of Education in 2018. • **Major focus of IIC is** to create a vibrant local innovation ecosystem, Start-up supporting Mechanism in HEIs, prepare institute for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements Framework etc. • So far, **IICs have been established in about 1700 higher educational institutions**. IIC will be established in 5000 higher educational institutions under IIC 3.0.

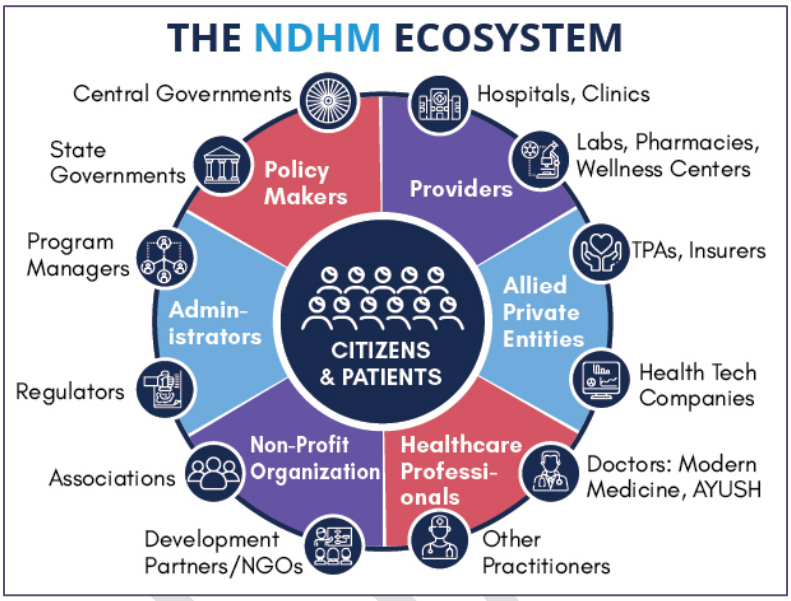


4. HEALTH

4.1. NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION (NDHM)

Why in news?

Recently, the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** was launched by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), in a pilot mode in six Union territories.



Background

- The genesis of a new digital health infrastructure in India came about in the **National Health Policy (NHP), 2017** which proposed a new **National Digital Health Authority** and envisaged creation of a **digital health technology eco-system** aimed at developing an integrated health information system.
- Based on the NHP, 2017, NITI Aayog proposed a visionary digital framework - **National health stack (NHS)** in 2018.
- In July, 2019 the **National Digital Health Blueprint** (NDHB) of the mission was prepared by a panel of MoHFW to create a framework for the NHS.

About National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)

- NDHM is **a voluntary healthcare programme** that aims to reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals, citizens etc by connecting them in an integrated digital health infrastructure.
- **Vision:** To create a national digital health ecosystem that supports **universal health coverage** in an **efficient, accessible, inclusive, affordable, timely and safe** manner.
- The scheme will be initially rolled out in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- **Features of NDHM**
  - **Building blocks or digital systems:**
    - ✓ **HealthID** - a repository of all health-related information of a person, such as medical tests, previous prescriptions, diagnosis, treatments etc. It can be created **voluntarily** by every Indian citizen.
    - ✓ **DigiDoctor** – a single, updated repository of all doctors enrolled in nation with relevant details such as name, qualifications, specializations, registration number, years of experience, etc
    - ✓ **Health Facility Registry (HFR)** - a single repository of all the health facilities (both public and private) in the country.
    - ✓ **Personal Health Records (PHR)** - an electronic record of health-related information on an individual that can be drawn from multiple sources while being managed, shared, and controlled by the individual.
    - ✓ **Electronic Medical Records (EMR)** - a digital version of a patient's chart which contains the patient's medical and treatment history from a single health facility.
    - ✓ **Consent Manager and Gateway** - The exchange of health information is enabled by the consent manager and gateway where Health records can only be issued / viewed with patient consent.
  - **National Health Authority,** attached office of MoHFW, will **design, build, roll-out and implement** the NDHM**.**
  - **Federated Architecture**: The **Government of India will own, operate and maintain the core building blocks** of NDHM such as Health ID, Digi-Doctor and HFR.
    - ✓ All other building blocks will be designed to be operated in a federated model that factors **regional, state-level and institution-level** platforms and systems to function independently but in an interoperable manner.

- ✓ Components, like **PHR and EMR** solutions can be developed by **private players**, in line with the official guidelines issued by the government.
- **NDHM sandbox** has been setup to enable any **software to integrate** with the digital building blocks and **test their compliance** to the guidelines and digital health standards.
- NDHM will be developed by adopting **India Enterprise Architecture Framework (IndEA)** notified by MeitY.
  - ✓ IndEA is a set of citizen-centric, efficiency-focused and event-driven architectural patterns, reference models and standards for designing Enterprise Architectures.

MoHFW's Initiatives related to digital health

- **E-Sanjeevani platform:** It enables two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.
  - More than 1,50,000 tele-consultations have been completed till date, enabling patient to doctor consultations from the confines of their home.
- **e-Hospital:** It is an ICT based Hospital Management System specifically meant for the hospitals in Government Sector.
- **Mera Aspatal:** It is a patient feedback system for the services received at the hospital.
- **e-Shushrut:** It is a hospital Management Information System developed by C-DAC.
- **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN):** It is an indigenously developed technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a Smartphone application.
- **National Health Portal (NHP):** It aims to establish a single point access for authenticated health information for citizens, students, healthcare professionals and researchers. Users can access detailed information pertaining to health related issues.
- **Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM):** National Health Authority (NHA) has recently released this policy which acts as a guidance document across the National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE) and sets out the minimum standard for data privacy protection that should be followed across the board in order to ensure compliance with relevant and applicable laws, rules and regulations.

4.2. COVID 19 AND MENTAL HEALTH

Why in news?

Widespread psychological distress has been recorded in various COVID-19 affected countries affecting overall mental health of the people.

Mental Health

- According to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO), **mental illness makes about 15% of the total disease conditions around the world.**
- **In India, Mental Health Care Act 2017** provides for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services.
- **Provisions of the Act includes:**
  - **Rights of person with mental Illness:** every person shall have a right to access mental health care and treatment from mental health services run or funded by the appropriate government at an affordable price, free for homeless and BPL.
  - **Advance Directives:** given by mentally ill person regarding her treatment and who shall be her nominated representative
  - **Central and State Mental Health Authority:** These bodies are required to regulate various provisions relating to mental health establishments, professionals, law enforcement officials and other issues.

- **Suicide is decriminalized**: person attempting suicide will be treated as mentally ill and will not be treated as criminal offence under Section 309 of IPC.
- **Mental Health Review Commission**: will be a quasi-judicial body that will periodically review the use of and the procedure for making advance directives and advice the government on protection of the rights of mentally ill persons.
- **Mental Health Review Board** to protect the rights of persons with mental illness and manage advance directives.
- A person with mental illness shall **not be subjected to electro-convulsive therapy** without the use of muscle relaxants and anesthesia.

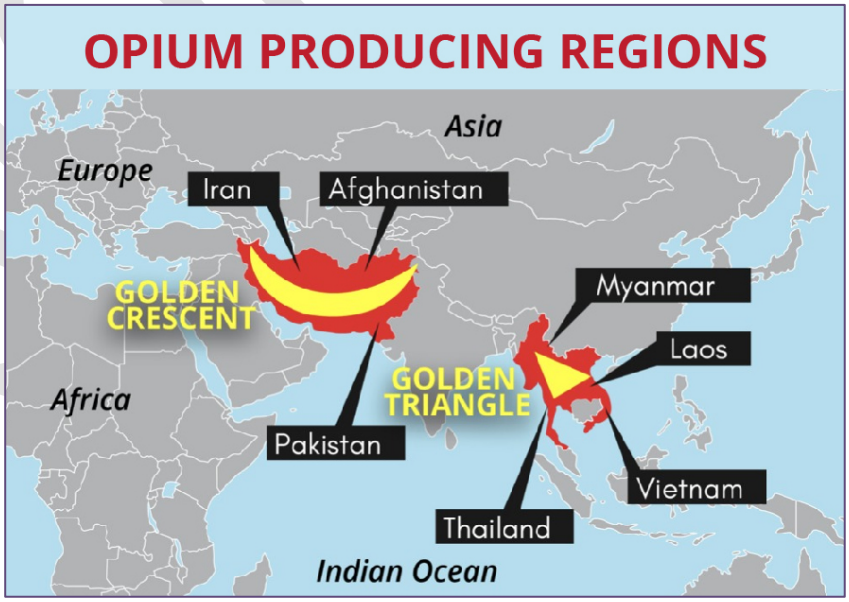
Other initiatives taken

- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):** implemented since 1982, the Government is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) in 517 districts of the country for detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/ illness.
- **National Mental Health Policy 2014**
  - Universal access to mental healthcare institutions.
  - Strengthen leadership in the mental health care.
  - Gives out role for central and state governments, local bodies and civil society organizations.
- **RAAH app**: **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)** created RAAH app. It is a mobile application which helps people to search for information about professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, etc.
  - NIMHANS is a **multidisciplinary institute for patient care and academic pursuit** in the field of mental health and neurosciences. In 2012, NIMHANS was conferred Institute of National Importance status.
  - It operates autonomously under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

4.3. DRUG ABUSE IN INDIA

Why in news?

- The **World Drug Report 2020 was released by The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** that has outlined the possible consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on Illegal Drug Production, Supply and Consumption.
- In India, **'Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21) for 272 Most Affected Districts' was e-launched** by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment **(MoSJE) on the occasion of "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" (June 26).**



Drug abuse in India

- Substances of abuse include alcohol, opiates, cocaine, amphetamines, hallucinogens, prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse.
- As per the UNODC 2020 report, India is also **among the countries with highest illicit cultivation and production of cannabis** from 2010 to 2017. In 2018, India topped with **largest seizure in South Asia**, amounting to 266.5 tons of cannabis herb.
- As per the report submitted by AIIMS in 2019,
  - **Alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance** used by Indians followed by Cannabis and Opioids.
- Within India, the **worst affected regions** are **North East India (especially Manipur) and North West India (especially Punjab)** followed by Mumbai and Delhi and now Haryana.
- India is the link country between the two major opium producing regions of the world, namely -the **"Golden Triangle" and the "Golden Crescent"**.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Annual Action Plan (2020-21)

- MoSJE is **nodal agency for Drug Demand Reduction** in India.
- **Annual Action Plan:**
  - It **focuses on 272 most affected districts**
  - **Three-pronged attack will be launched** combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through Health Dept.
  - **Components of Action Plan:**
    - ✓ Awareness generation;
    - ✓ Focus on Higher Educational institutions;
    - ✓ Community outreach and identification of dependent population;
    - ✓ Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital;
    - ✓ Capacity Building for Service Provider.

Legal framework and steps taken by government to deal with drug menace

- **Article 47 of the Constitution** provides that 'the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health'.
- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act** in the year 1985 was enacted for the control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
  - Under it The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** was constituted as the nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency of India responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has prepared a **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025**.
  - The Plan aims at reduction of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.
- **International collaboration:**
  - **India is a signatory to the three UN Conventions** namely:
    - ✓ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,
    - ✓ Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
    - ✓ Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
  - **India launched BIMSTEC Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking,** an important platform for the Partner Nations to share ideas and exchange best practices required to combat the drug menace in the region.

4.4. EPIDEMIC DISEASES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

Why in news?

Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by parliament which amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. It repeals the **Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance** that was promulgated in April 2020.

Key features of the amendments

- It seeks to provide protections to **healthcare service personnel who are at risk of contracting the epidemic** disease while carrying out duties related to the epidemic.
  - They include doctors, nurses, other persons designated by the state government and any person empowered under the Act to take measures to prevent the outbreak of the disease.
- It **defines 'act of violence' committed against a healthcare** service personnel, which include, harassment, harm, injury, hurt, or danger to life, obstruction in discharge of duties, and **loss or damage to the property** or documents.
- Act of violence or loss to any property are **punishable with imprisonment** between three months and five years, and a fine between Rs 50,000 and two lakh rupees.
- In case, act of violence causes grievous harm, it is punishable with **imprisonment between six months and seven years**, and a fine between one lakh rupees and five lakh rupees.

The Epidemic Diseases Act 1897

- The Act **came into effect amidst the outbreak of the bubonic plague in Bombay** in the 1890s.
- It is India's solitary law that has been historically used as a **framework for containing the spread of various diseases** including cholera and malaria.
- The law **authorises the Central and state governments** to take "exceptional measures and prescribe regulations" to be observed by the citizens to contain the spread of a disease.
  - Section 2 of the Act states that **State Government may take measures and prescribe regulations** for the inspection of persons travelling.
- It also provides **penalties for disobeying** any regulation or order made under the Act.
- However, it **does not define** "dangerous", "infectious", or "contagious diseases", and an "epidemic".
- This Act was **applied by states to impose lockdowns** during COVID-19 pandemic.

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- These **offences are cognizable and non-bailable.**

- Persons convicted of offences will be **liable to pay compensation** to the healthcare service personnel whom they have hurt.
- Expands the **powers of the central government to regulate the inspection** of any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port, port, or aerodrome. Earlier, it was applicable only to inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port.

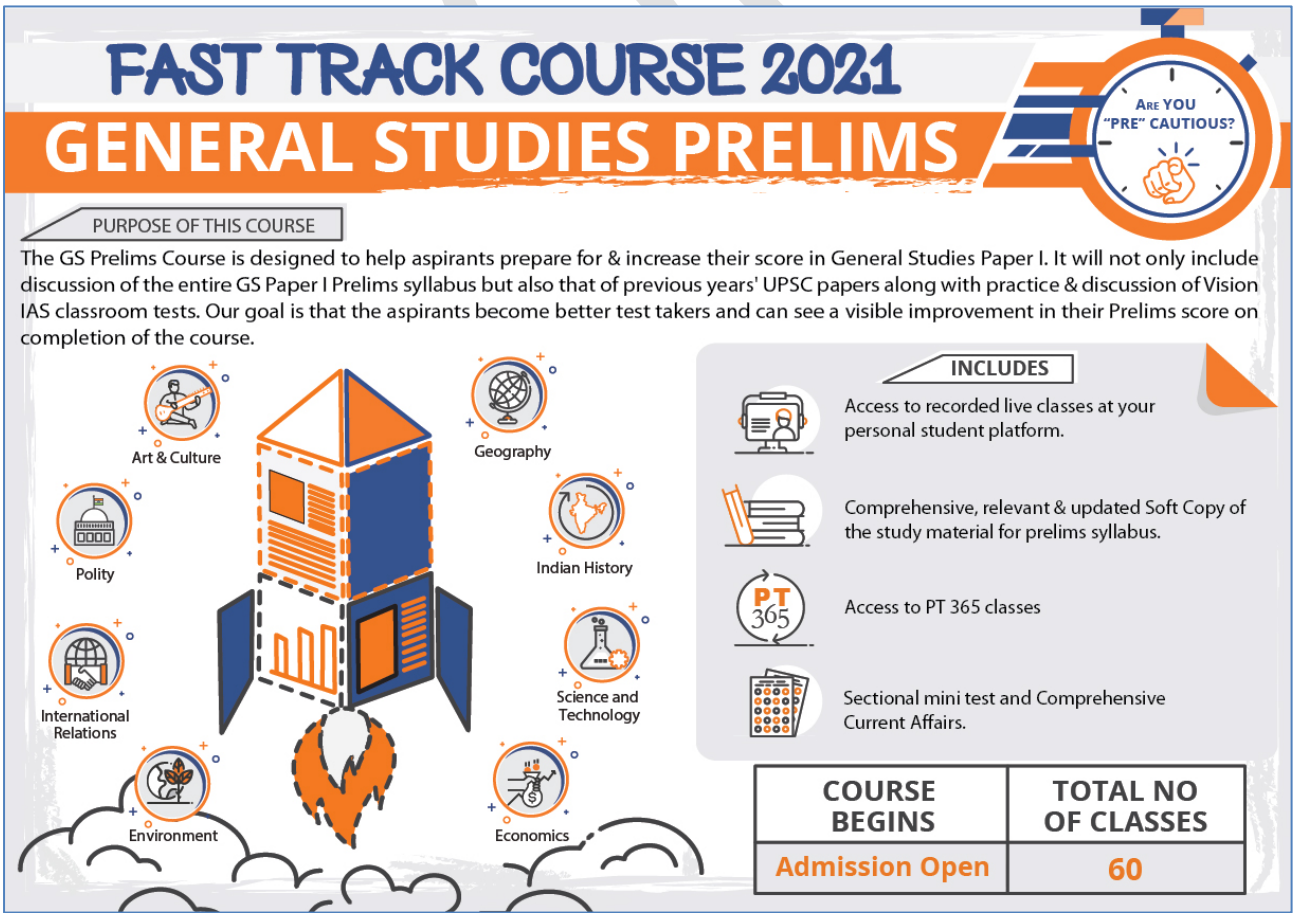
4.5. IMPORTANT REPORTS

Health in India Report	• It was released By **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).** • Report is **based on data collected from July 2017 to June 2018**, as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey. ○ **Total expenditure on health, by Centre and states, for FY20 was 1.29% of GDP.** Of total public expenditure, **Centre's share was 25%.** Centre spends less as **public health and sanitation are State subjects.**
National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)	• Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released data on **5th NFHS containing detailed information on population, health and nutrition** in 17 States and 5 UTs. • NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey **conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.** ○ It is a **collaborative project of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS),** Mumbai, India; ICF, Calverton, Maryland, USA and the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. ○ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare designated IIPS** as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS. ○ NFHS was funded by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with supplementary support from UNICEF**. • **Key Findings (compared to NFHS-4 2015-16):** ○ Substantial **improvement in maternal and child health indicators**. ✓ **Under-five mortality rate and infant mortality rate** (refers to the probability of dying between birth and five years of age expressed per 1,000 live births), decreased in 18 states. ✓ **Neonatal mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) dropped in 15 states and UTs. ○ **Malnutrition indicators have worsened.** ✓ **Share of children who were stunted** (low height for their age) **increased in 13 states,** while the share of children who had low weight for their height increased in 12 states. ✓ Share of **underweight and overweight children also increased** in 16 and 20 states, respectively. ○ **Sex ratio of the total population** (females per 1,000 males) increased in 17 states and UTs. ○ **Fertility rate has further declined, contraceptive use has increased** in most Phase I states. ○ There is considerable **improvement in vaccination coverage among children age 12-23 months** across all states/UTs.
India's Vision 2035 for PHS	• Recently, **NITI Aayog released a white paper: Vision 2035**: Public Health Surveillance (PHS) in India. ○ It lays out **India's vision 2035 for PHS through integration of three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.** ○ It lays the foundation for **integrated surveillance of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.** • **VISION 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India** ○ To make India's **PHS system more responsive and predictive** to enhance preparedness for action at all levels. ○ **Citizen-friendly PHS system** will ensure individual privacy and confidentiality, enabled with a client feedback mechanism. ○ **Improved data-sharing mechanism between Centre and states** for better disease detection, prevention, and control. ○ **Provide regional and global leadership in managing events** that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

4.6. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

WHO designates 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers	• It was designated by 73rd World Health Assembly **recognizing the dedication and sacrifice of the millions of health and care workers at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic.** • World Health Assembly is **the decision-making body of WHO.** Its main functions are to **determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget**

WHO launched Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer	• WHO aims to **reduce more than 40% of new cases and 5 million related deaths by 2050,** with a combination of vaccination, screening and treatment. • For the first time, 194 countries, **including India, committed to eliminate cancer,** following the adoption of a resolution at the World Health Assembly 2020 in Geneva. • **Human papillomavirus (HPV)** is the primary cause of cervical cancer, and the HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect women against infection from HPV.
Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)	• Cabinet has approved **re-establishment of PCIM&H as Subordinate Office** under **Ministry of AYUSH** (MoA) by **merging into it Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine** and **Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory.** o PCIM&H is an autonomous body under aegis of MoA established since 2010. • Merger is aimed at **optimizing use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources** of three organizations for **enhancing standardization outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs** towards their effective regulation and quality control.
AarogyaPath	• It is a web based **National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal** to provide **real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies.** • It would **serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers**.
Janaushadhi Sugam Mobile App	• It was launched in 2019, **to help people to locate nearby Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMJAK),** search Janaushadhi generic medicines, analyze product comparison of Generic and Branded medicine etc. • It is developed by **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** under Department of Pharmaceuticals. • PMJAK are setup **under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana** in order to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. • **Sanitary Napkins are also distributed from Jan Aushadhi Kendras** to underprivileged women at the minimum price of Rs.1 each
Project Ahana	• It is Plan India's (an NGO) **national programme working towards an AIDS free generation.** • Partners: **National AIDS Control Organisation; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).** • Its focus is on **preventing parent-to-child transmission among women** in most vulnerable and marginalised communities.



5. NUTRITION AND SANITATION

5.1. GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2020

Why in news?

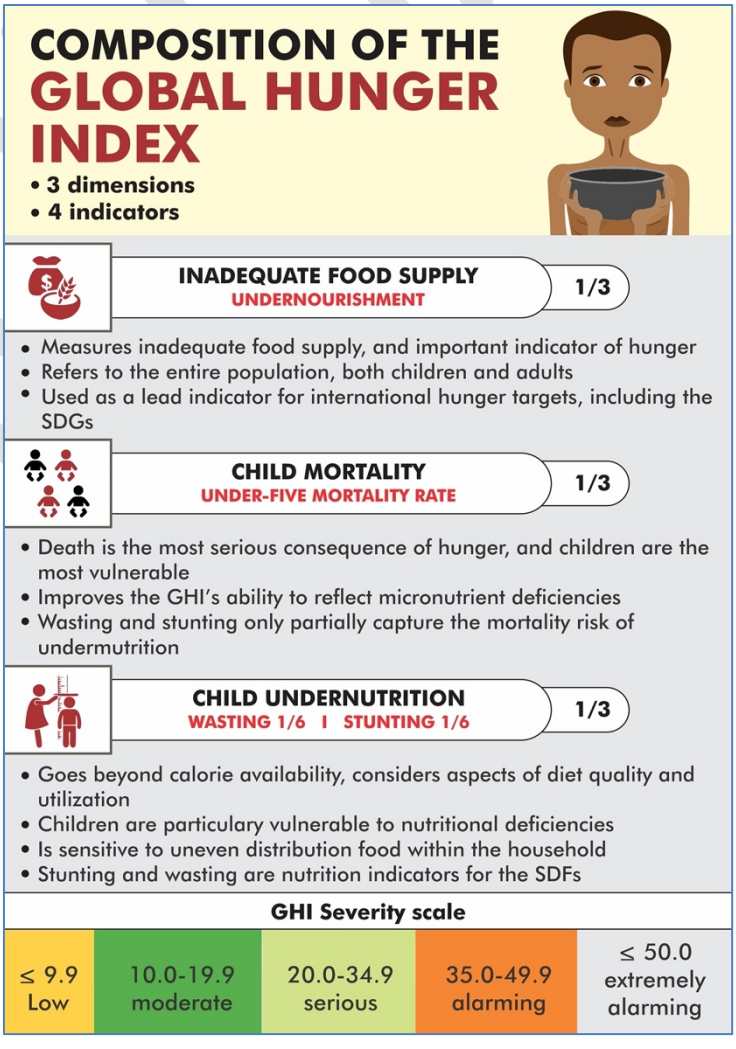
As per Global hunger Index (GHI) report 2020, **India has ranked 94 out of 107 countries.**

About Global Hunger Index

- It is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and **track hunger at global, regional, and national levels**.
- GHI is published by **Concern Worldwide** (international humanitarian organization) and **Welthungerhilfe** (private aid organisations in Germany).
- It is designed to raise awareness and understanding of the struggle against hunger.
- GHI scores are based on the values of 4 component indicators:
  - **Undernourishment** -share of the population with **insufficient caloric intake**.
  - **Child wasting** - share of children under age 5 who have **low weight for their height**.
  - **Child stunting** - share of children under age 5 who have **low height for their age.**
  - **Child mortality** - mortality rate of children under age 5.
- GHI score is determined on a 100-point scale - **0 is best possible score (no hunger)** and **100 is the worst.** Each country's score is classified by severity - from **Low** to **Extremely alarming**.

Global findings of the report

- Nearly **690 million people are undernourished** out of which:
  - 144 million children suffer from stunting,
  - 47 million children suffer from wasting and in 2018,
  - 5.3 million children died before their 5th birthday as a result of undernutrition.
- **Worldwide hunger is at a moderate level** which translates to a score of 10-19.9 out of 100.
- **South Saharan Africa and South Asia have the highest hunger and undernutrition levels** among world regions, with 2020 GHI scores of 27.8 and 26.0, respectively—both considered serious.
- The world is **not on track to achieve the 2nd Sustainable Development Goal - Zero Hunger** - by 2030. At the current pace, approximately 37 countries will fail to even to reach low hunger by 2030.



India's Hunger Dilemma

- GHI 2020 gave **score of 27.2 on a 100 point scale to India** which puts the country in the **"serious" category of hunger.**
- Out of the total 107 countries, **only 13 countries fare worse than India** (Rwanda, Nigeria, Afghanistan etc.). Countries like Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia are ahead of India.
- In terms of overall undernourishment, **14% of India's population does not get enough calories.**
  - Almost 35% of Indian children are stunted.
  - 17.3% of Indian children under five are wasted.
  - Under 5 mortality rate is at 3.7%.
- **Food insecurity, poor sanitation, inadequate housing, limited access to healthcare** — all result in maternal distress, that leads to the kind of slow, chronic wasting seen in Indian children.

Related concepts

- **Hunger:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food deprivation, or undernourishment, as the consumption of too few calories to provide the minimum amount of dietary energy that each individual requires to live a healthy and productive life.
  - Hunger is usually understood to refer to the **distress associated with a lack of sufficient calories**.
- **Undernutrition:** It is the result of inadequate intake of food in terms of either quantity or quality, poor utilization of nutrients due to infections or other illnesses, or a combination of these factors
- **Malnutrition:** It refers more broadly to both **undernutrition** (problems caused by deficiencies) and **overnutrition** (problems caused by unbalanced diets).

5.2. GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT 2020 (GNR)

Why in news?

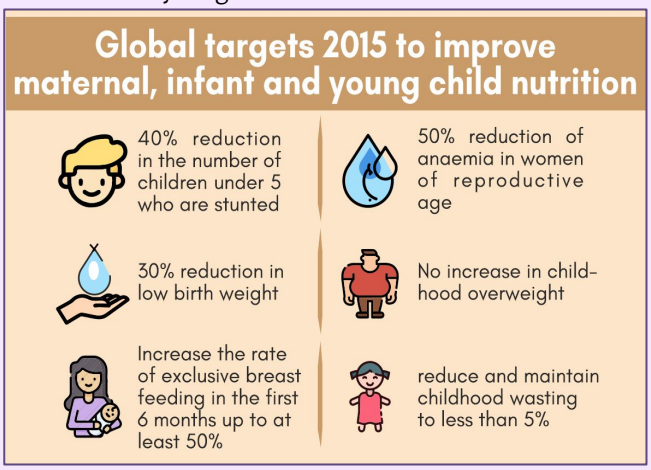
According to the Global Nutrition Report 2020, India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025.

About Global Nutrition Report 2020

- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative that **assesses progress in meeting 2025 Global Nutrition Targets established by World Health Assembly (WHA).**
- It plays **the important role of helping hold stakeholders** to account on the commitments they have made towards tackling malnutrition.

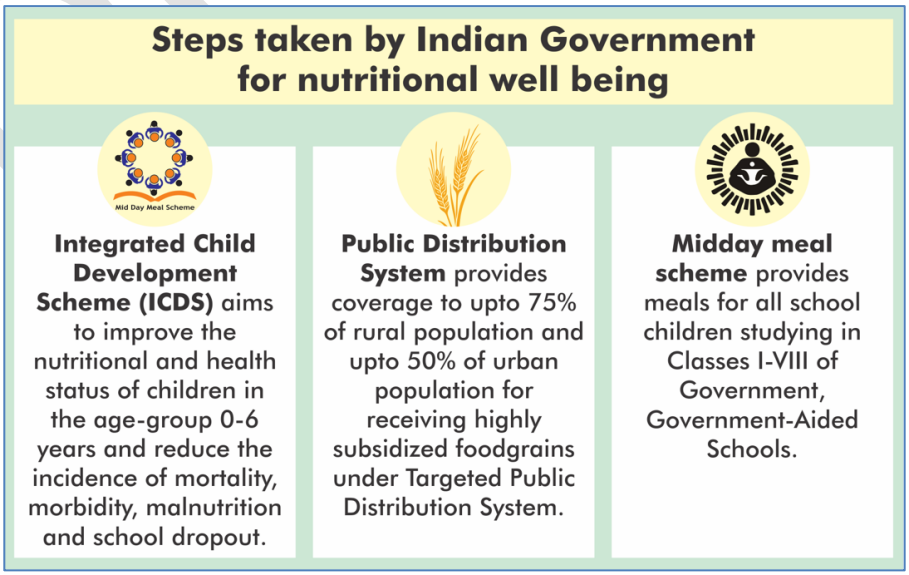
Global Nutrition Targets

- In 2012, the World Health Assembly Resolution endorsed a Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.



India specific findings

- **Global Nutrition Targets:** India will miss targets for all four nutritional indicators i.e. target on **stunting, anaemia, overweight & exclusive breastfeeding.**
- **Stunted and wasted:** In India **37.9% of children under 5 years are stunted and 20.8% are wasted,** compared to the Asia average of 22.7% and 9.4% respectively.
  - Inequalities are evident for stunting, with stunting prevalence being 10.1% higher in rural vs urban areas.
- **Underweight:** Between 2000 and 2016, rates of underweight (low weight for age) have decreased from 66.0% to 58.1% for boys and 54.2% to 50.1% in girls.
  - However, this is still high compared to the average of 35.6% for boys and 31.8% for girls in Asia.
- **Overweight:** As of 2015, the national prevalence of under-five overweight is 2.4%, which has increased slightly from 1.9% in 2006.
- **Adult nutrition:** India's adult population face a malnutrition burden.
  - 51.4% of women of reproductive age have anaemia
  - 9.1% of adult men have diabetes, compared to 8.3% of women.
  - 5.1% of women and 2.7% of men have obesity.



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5.3. IMPORTANT REPORTS

Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2020	• Report is produced by **Global Network against Food Crises,** an international alliance working to address the root causes of extreme hunger. • It was launched by **European Union, FAO and WFP** during 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. • **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC),** a five-phase scale, is a common global scale for **classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity** and malnutrition.
State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020	• The joint report is issued annually by **Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, World Food Programme and WHO.**
State of Food and Agriculture 2020	• It is a **FAO's report** presents new estimates on the pervasiveness of water scarcity in agriculture and on the number of people affected.
Recommended Dietary Allowances and Nutrient Requirements report	• Report is prepared **by ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition.** • Report **redefines reference age for Indian adult man and woman to 19-39 years** instead of 20-39. • **Body weight has been put at 65kg for males and 55kg for females** while earlier, it was 60kg and 50kg respectively. • In Recommended Dietary Allowances, **cereal-legume-milk composition has been modified to 3:1:2.5 from 11:1:3.** • It has also **recommended a minimum of 400 gm/day of fruits and vegetables** to obtain sufficient amounts of antioxidant nutrients

5.4. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative (ISDBI)	• ISDBI is **collaboration between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME),** and experts and stakeholders from about 100 institutions across India.
Food Coalition	• Recently, UN launched the Food Coalition to prevent COVID-19 food crisis • It is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral alliance, **launched by Food and Agriculture Organization, a** specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. • It will support innovative COVID-19 initiatives **to ensure global food access, to increase the resilience and transformation of agri-food systems in a more sustainable manner.**

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2020

Why in News?

The 2020 Human Development Report titled "The next frontier: **Human Development and the Anthropocene**" was released.

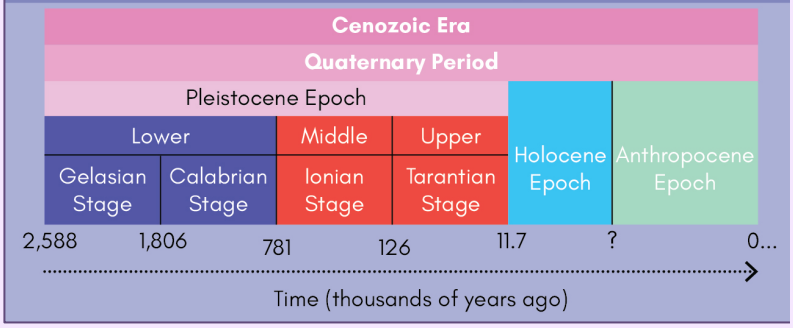
About the Human Development Report (HDR)

- HDR is released by **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and was released for the first time in the year 1990.
- HDR Office releases five composite indices each year:
  - **Human Development Index (HDI),**
  - **Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI),**
  - **Gender Development Index (GDI),**
  - **Gender Inequality Index (GII),**
  - **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).**
- HDI is released as part of first HDR. This measures achievement in the basic dimensions of human development across countries. The **HDI ranks countries on the basis of three parameter:**
  - Life Expectancy
  - Education
  - Gross National Income (GNI) per capita
- HDI was created to **emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country,** not economic growth alone.
  - HDI can also be **used to question national policy choices,** asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes.

About Anthropocene

- **Anthropocene is not yet formally established as a new geological epoch,** but several geologists and Earth system scientists propose its beginning to the mid-20th century.
- **Humans are about to leave the 12,000-year-old Holocene Age** and enter a new age named after us — the Anthropocene.
  - **Holocene has seen major change on our planet,** including the rapid population growth of our species and the development of modern civilisations.

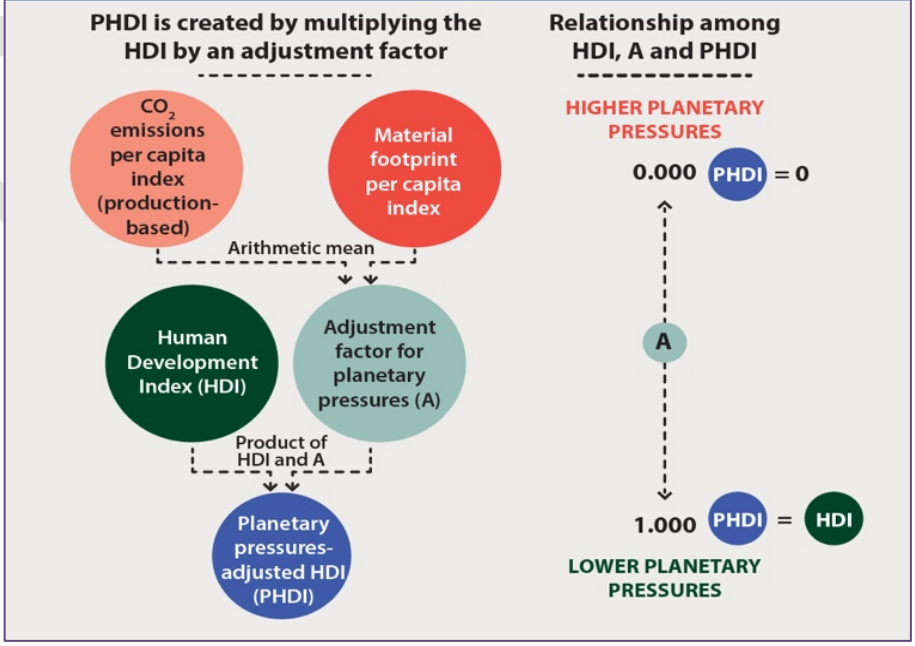
HOW THE ANTHROPOCENE WOULD FIT IN THE GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE CORRESPONDING TO THE QUATERNARY PERIOD



Anthropause

- It is a term coined, by UK researchers, to refer to **coronavirus-induced lockdown period and its impact on other species.**
- Researchers believe studying this period will **provide valuable insights into the relationship between human-wildlife interactions in the 21st century.**

Visual representation of the Planetary pressures- adjusted Human Development Index



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HDR 2020 findings with respect to India

- India dropped two ranks in HDI this year, standing at **131 out of 189 countries**. Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland.
- India's **gross national income per capita fell to $6,681 in 2019** from $6,829 in 2018 on purchasing power parity (PPP) basis.
- **Life expectancy** at birth in 2019 was 69.7 years.
- Indigenous children in Cambodia, India and Thailand **show more malnutrition-related issues such as stunting and wasting.**
- In 2019, India **ranked fifth for installed solar capacity.**
- Evidence from Colombia to India indicates that **financial security and ownership of land improve women's security** and reduce the risk of gender-based violence, clearly indicating that owning land can empower women.
- However, if the **Index were adjusted to assess the planetary pressures** caused by each nation's development, India **would move up eight places in the ranking**.
- HDR 2020 presents an **adjustment to the index for "planetary pressures" called Planetary-Pressures Adjusted HDI.**
  - PHDI adjusts the standard HDI by a country's level of carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint, each on a per capita basis.

6.2. THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX 2020

Why in news?

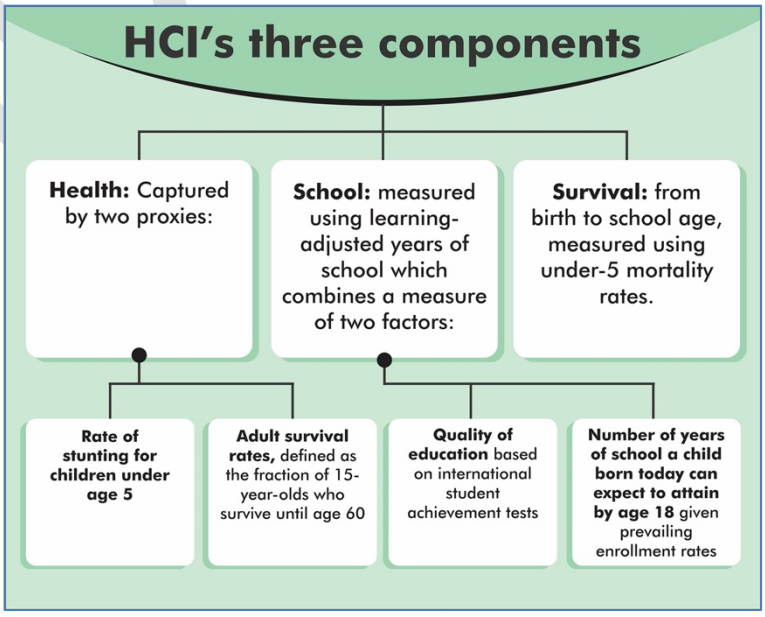
The World Bank has recently released the report titled **'The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19'.**

What is Human Capital?

- Human capital consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society.
- Human capital is **intangible** and is endogenously built in the body and mind of its owner. Only the services of the human capital are sold.
- **Sources of human capital formation include**- Expenditure on education Health, on the job training, study programmes for adults, Migration in search of jobs with better salaries, expenditure on information relating to the labour market and other markets etc.

About the report

- The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for **174 countries** (additional 17 counties relative to the 2018 edition) — covering 98 per cent of the world's population — up to March 2020.
- Since the cutoff date for the 2020 update is March 2020, before the consequences of COVID-19, the HCI 2020 can be a baseline to track some of the **effects of COVID-19 on human capital**.



About Human Capital Index (HCI)

- HCI is an international metric that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
- It was launched in **2018 by the World Bank** as part of the **Human Capital Project (HCP)**.
- The index measures the **human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by her 18th birthday**, highlighting how current health and education outcomes shape the productivity of the next generation of workers.
- HCI ranges from **zero to one**, and an HCI value of, for instance, 0.5 implies that a child born today will only be 50% as productive as a future worker as she would be if she enjoyed complete education and full health.

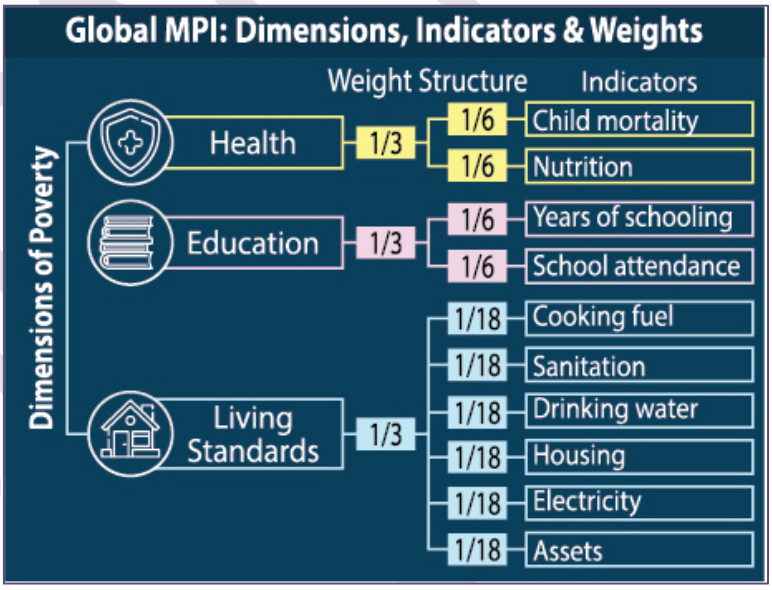
Key findings

- **Global HCI**: Globally, a child could expect to attain an average of **56 percent** of her potential productivity as a future worker.
- **Considerable variation across regions and economies**: For instance, a child born in a low-income country has an HCI of 0.37 as compared to 0.7 in a high-income country.
- **Measuring Learning Poverty:** It is the share of 10-year-olds who cannot read and understand a simple story. Around 53 percent of children in low- and middle-income countries suffer from learning poverty.
- **Disaggregation of the HCI by gender**: Human capital is slightly higher among girls than boys in most countries.
- **Underutilization of Human capital among women**: The gender gap in employment rates (a basic measure of utilization) is 20 percentage points on average worldwide, but exceeds 40 percentage points in South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa.
- **Human capital gains in the previous decade**: On average, the HCI increased by 2.6 points between 2010 and 2020.
- **India Specific findings**
  - India ranked at **116th from among 174** countries as compared to 115 out of 157 countries in 2018.
  - India's **HCI score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018**.
  - India is among the only two countries (other being Tonga), where **child survival rates are higher for girls than for boys**.
  - India experienced a **13-percentage-point decline in stunting rates for children under 5** from 48 percent in 2010 to 35 percent in 2020.

6.3. GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI)

Why in News?

NITI Aayog will leverage Monitoring Mechanism of Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)



More about News

- Government has decided **to monitor the performance of country in 29 select Global Indices** through "GlobalIndices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)" exercise.
  - Global MPI is part of this and NITI Aayog as the nodal agency of MPI has been assigned the responsibility of leveraging monitoring mechanism of MPI to drive reforms.
  - It has also set up **MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC) i**n this regard.
- **Objective of GIRG** exercise is to
  - Measure and monitor **India's performance on various important social and economic parameters.**
  - Use these indices for self-improvement, bring about **reforms in policies, improving last-mile implementation of government schemes** etc.

About Global MPI

- It is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries. It identifies both who is poor and how they are poor.
- It is computed by **scoring each surveyed household on 10 parameters** in three equally weighted dimensions- health, education and standard of living **(see infographic).**
  - It utilises the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).
- According to Global MPI 2020, **India is ranked 62nd** and also accounted for **largest reduction in multidimensional poverty between 2005/2006–2015/2016.**

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6.4. SDG INVESTOR MAP FOR INDIA

Why in News?

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Invest India** has developed the Sustainable Development Group (SDG) Investor Map for India.

More about News

- SDG Investor Map identifies Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs), and White Spaces (Areas of Potential) **aimed at aiding India's journey at fulfilling the SDG.**
- 18 IOAs and 8 White Spaces are identified **across 6 Priority Sectors (refer to infographics)**
- These sectors are identified on basis of **Enhanced productivity, technology adoption and increased inclusion.**
- **8 'white spaces' have seen investor interest and have the potential to grow** into IOAs in 5 to 6 years with policy support and private sector participation.
- The Map will help **public and private sector stake-holders direct capital towards these IOA's and White Spaces** that can contribute to the nationally determined sustainable development needs of the country.
- **The map also highlights SDG financing gap.** With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, SDG financing gap has widened by an estimated $400 billion in developing countries, adding to the pre-COVID shortfall of $2-2.5 trillion per annum.
    - The **financing gap for SDGs in India has widened** further and development progress made under **millennial development goals also are on verge of reversal.**
    - Investing in the SDGs at this point is crucial to 'building back better' and making the economy and our societies more **resilient and sustainable**.

Invest India

- It is the **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India** and acts as the first point of reference for investors in India.
- It is set up as **a nonprofit venture** under **the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industries**.
- It provide **multiple forms of support such as market entry strategies, deep dive industry analysis,** etc.
- It is a **joint venture** company between DIPP (35% equity), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) (51% equity), and State Governments (0.5% each).

UNDP

- It is the UN's global development network **helping countries to achieve the eradication of poverty,** and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion.
- UNDP is **central to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG),** a network that unites the 40 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other bodies working to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

About SDG Financing

- SDG financing means **channelling global financial flows towards Sustainable Development** imperative to achieving the 2030 Agenda.
- **Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2015,** provides a global framework for financing sustainable development that aligns all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.
- **India occupies a key role in determining the success of the SDGs globally** and it needs $2.64 trillion investment to meet SDGs.
    - **India needs to increase its SDG spending by an additional 6.2%** of its GDP until 2030. Hence, it is crucial to make sure that the budget allocations align with SDG priorities.

- **SDG financing Initiatives:**
  - **SDG Financing Lab** is an **OECD-led initiative** that strives to inform decision-makers and policy leaders on how to ensure the resources needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
  - **SDG Fund** is an international multi-donor and multi-agency development mechanism created in 2014 by the **United Nations** to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programmes.

SDGs and India's commitments

- **SDG India Index:** NITI Aayog undertook extensive exercise of measuring India and its States' progress towards the SDGs for 2030, culminating in the development of the first SDG India Index - Baseline Report 2018.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)** is being implemented to provide jobs to unskilled labourers and improve their living standards. (SDG1, SDG 8)
- **National Food Security Act** is being enforced to provide subsidized food grains. (SDG 2).

6.5. INDIA'S SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR)

Why in News?

NITI Aayog presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at UN's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting.

About Report

- India VNR 2020 report titled **Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local** was released.
  - **VNR** presents a review of progress on 17 SDGs, India's approach to **localising SDGs**, and strengthening means of implementation.
  - **HLPF** is UN platform for follow-up and review of progress on 17 SDGs.
  - **NITI Aayog** has the mandate of overseeing the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at national and sub-national level.
- **Key findings**

SDG 1 (No poverty)	Multidimensional poverty **reduced by half** to 27.5% between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
SDG3 (Good Health and Well-being)	Out of pocket expenditure as a percentage of **total health expenditure has declined** from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 58.7% in 2016-17.
SDG 4 (Quality Education)	Gross Enrolment Ratio at elementary and secondary levels was **at 91.64% and 79.6% respectively in 2018-19.**
SDG 5 (Gender Equality)	In 2017, 77% women's access to bank accounts, **14.4% MPs in Lok Sabha is Women.**
SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)	Ease of Doing Business ranking **improved to 63 in 2019**.
Four crucial areas of action identified:	**Improvement of statistical system; monitoring at local level; capacity building of all stakeholders; and SDG financing.**

6.6. IMPORTANT REPORTS

Poverty and shared prosperity 2020 Report	• It is a **biennial report of World Bank.** • **Key highlights of the report:** ○ **Global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years** because of COVID-19. ○ If the pandemic had not come, poverty rate would have dropped by 7.9% in 2020. Now Global poverty rate is projected to increase to 9.2% in 2020. ○ About India, report cites lack of sufficient data for estimation. However, it states that **India holds largest population of extreme poor.**
Sustainable Development Solutions Network	• Annual report **tracks the performance of all UN Member States on the 17 SDGs,** measuring the distance remaining to achieve each target. ○ **2020 report** is focusing on SDG & Covid-19 and includes **SDG Index** that presents progress towards each SDG since 2015.

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released 2020 edition of Sustainable Development Report	• **Key highlights:**
	  ○ World had seen **most rapid progress towards:** SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
	  ○ **COVID-19 had negatively affected several goals**: SDG 1; SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).
	  ○ **Immediate relief to goals due to COVID 19:** SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production); SDG 13 (climate action); SDG 14 (life below water); SDG 15 (life on land).
	  ✓ However, these gains will **be short-term.**
	  ○ **SDG index**
	  ✓ **India ranked at 117 (of 166)** ranking below Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sweden topped the ranking.
	  ✓ India faces **major challenges in 10 of the 17 SDGs** which include — SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5 (gender inequality) etc.

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020 (WESO) report	• Recently, the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released WESO 2020 report
	• This report provides an **overview of global and regional trends in employment, unemployment, labour force participation and productivity**, as well as dimensions of job quality such as employment status, informal employment and working poverty.
	• It also **examines income and social developments a**nd provides an indicator of social unrest.
	• According to the new report, almost, half a billion people are working fewer paid hours than they would like or lack adequate access to paid work.
	• **Other flagship publications of ILO are:**
	  ○ **Global Wage Report** which analyses the latest wage statistics and provides insights on wage policies.
	  ○ **The World Social Protection Report** which takes a comprehensive look at how countries are investing in social security, how they are financing it, and how effective their approaches are.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Global Trends report	• UNHCR works for **rights and future** for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.
	  ○ It was **created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War,** to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.
	• **Key highlights**
	  ○ **Atleast 100 million people were forced to flee their homes** in the past decade.
	  ✓ **40% are Children** among the displaced.
	  ○ **Forced displacement has almost doubled** since 2010 (41 million in 2010 vs 79.5 million in 2019).
	  ○ **80% of world's displaced people** are in countries or territories affected by acute water scarcity, food insecurity and malnutrition.
	  ○ **Five countries account for two-thirds of people displaced across borders**: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.
	  ○ **85% are in developing countries**, generally a country neighbouring the one they fled.
	  ○ There are around **1,95,105 refugees in India at end of 2019.**

NCRB annual report on suicides and accidental deaths	**Key Findings** • Cases of **suicide and accidental deaths registered an increase** in 2019 compared to 2018. • **Suicide rate in cities (13.9%) was higher** compared to all-India average (10.4%). ○ **Leading Causes** - Family Problems, Marriage Related Problems and Illness. • **Suicide rate in farming sector** accounted for 7.4% of total suicides. Suicides among **daily wage earners was highest.** • Among Accidental death,**major causes were traffic accidents (43.9%),**sudden deaths (11.5%) and drowning (7.9%).

State of World Population 2020	• **United Nations' Population Fund (UNFPA)**, United Nation's sexual and reproductive health agency, has released a report titled **State of World Population 2020,** titled '**Against my will: defying the practices that harm women and girls and undermine equality**'
	• Report focuses on **gender bias and violence against girls and women**
	• **Key Highlights**
	  ○ Preference for sons and gender-biased sex selection have led to over **142 million girls missing globally**.
	  ○ **In India, 46 million girls are missing** i.e. they were not born due to sex-selection biases -- each year between 2013 and 2017.
	  ○ **Missing females:** "Missing females" are women missing from the population at given dates due to the cumulative effect of post-natal and pre-natal sex selection in the past.

World Migration Report 2020	• It was recently published by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** • IOM is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established in 1951 and is a related organization to the United Nations. **Highlights from the report:** • A total of approx 3.5 percent of the world population has migrated to date, making a 0.1 percent increase from the last report published in 2017. • The Total Number of Migrants in the year 2019 is estimated to be 270 million. • 52% of international migrants were male; 48 percent were female. • The United States remained as the top destination of the migrants with 51 million out of total estimated 270 million. • Two-thirds (around 164 million people) of the migrants migrated in search of a job. • 141 million, almost half of the international migrants are living in North America and Europe. • India with a strong 17.5 million diaspora across the world, continues to be the largest country of origin of international migrants, followed by Mexico with 11.8 million and China with 10.7 million

6.7. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Learning Poverty	• Recently, World Bank released a report titled "Realizing the Future of Learning: From learning poverty to learning for everyone, everywhere". • Learning Poverty is defined as the **percentage of 10-year-olds who cannot read and understand a simple story.** • As per World Bank estimates, **more than half (53%) of 10-year-old children in low- and middle-income countries either had failed to learn** to read with comprehension or were out of school entirely. ○ To support efforts to improve foundational learning, World Bank has also launched a global target: to **cut the Learning Poverty rate —at least in half by 2030.**

National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)	• It is umbrella **program is pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology (DST)** for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.
	• There are various components of NIDHI that support **each stage of a budding startup from idea to market.**
	• Its objectives include:
	  ○ To **take forward student innovations in** (Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres) IEDC / NewGen IEDC programme to commercialization stage.
	  ○ To **promote student startup.**

National Service Scheme (NSS)	• NSS is a **Centrally Sector Scheme (Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)** which was launched in the year 1969 with the primary objective of developing the **personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.** • NSS volunteers work on **issues of social relevance, which keep evolving in response to the needs of the community**, through regular and special camping activities.

Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Program	• It is an **initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for empowerment of potters community in the remotest of locations in the country.
	• The **program reaches out to the potters** in: U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar.
	• This program **provides the following support to potters.**
	  ○ Training for advanced pottery products
	  ○ Latest, new technology pottery equipments like the electric Chaak
	  ○ Market linkages and visibility through KVIC exhibitions.

Global Social Mobility Index	• Recently, **India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries** on a new Social Mobility Index. • Index is compiled **by the World Economic Forum.** • It benchmarks 82 global economies and is designed to **provide policy-makers with a means to identify areas for improving social mobility** and promoting equally shared opportunities in their economies, regardless of their development. • **Social mobility** can be understood as the movement in personal circumstances either "upwards" or "downwards" of an individual in relation to those of their parents. In absolute terms, it is the ability of a child to experience a better life than their parents.
Academic Freedom Index	• Index try to **quantify the freedom of university scholars** to debate politically and culturally controversial topics without fearing for their safety or studies.

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	• It is the result of a collaborative effort between researchers at **Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and the V-Dem Institute, the Scholars at Risk Network, and the Global Public Policy Institute.** • The index scores countries between **0 (worst) and 1 (best)**. • India has **scored considerably low** in the international **Academic Freedom Index (AFI)** with a score of **0.352** which is closely followed by **Saudi Arabia (0.278)** and **Libya (0.238).**
Human Freedom Index	• The Human Freedom Index **presents the state of human freedom in the world based on a broad measure** that encompasses personal, civil, and economic freedom. • The report is co-published by the **Cato Institute and the Fraser Institute.**
Global Smart City Index (SCI)	• Index is released by **Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology** and Design. • 2020 SCI is topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich in the second and the third place respectively. • **Hyderabad was placed at the 85th position** and New Delhi at 86th position.
Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index	• **IIT-Bombay,** recently released its Urban Quality of Life Index, wherein the institution compared the **life quality in various cities all over India on the basis of some common denominations and ranked them accordingly.** • It has various categories of comparisons including water, power, electricity, literacy rate, gender parity, the employment rate among others.
Partners in Population and Development (PPD)	• Recently, Union Minister of Health addressed the Inter-Ministerial Conference by PPD. • PPD is an **intergovernmental Alliance of 27 developing countries** (including India) created specifically for **expanding and improving South-to-South collaboration in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development.** ○ It was created at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

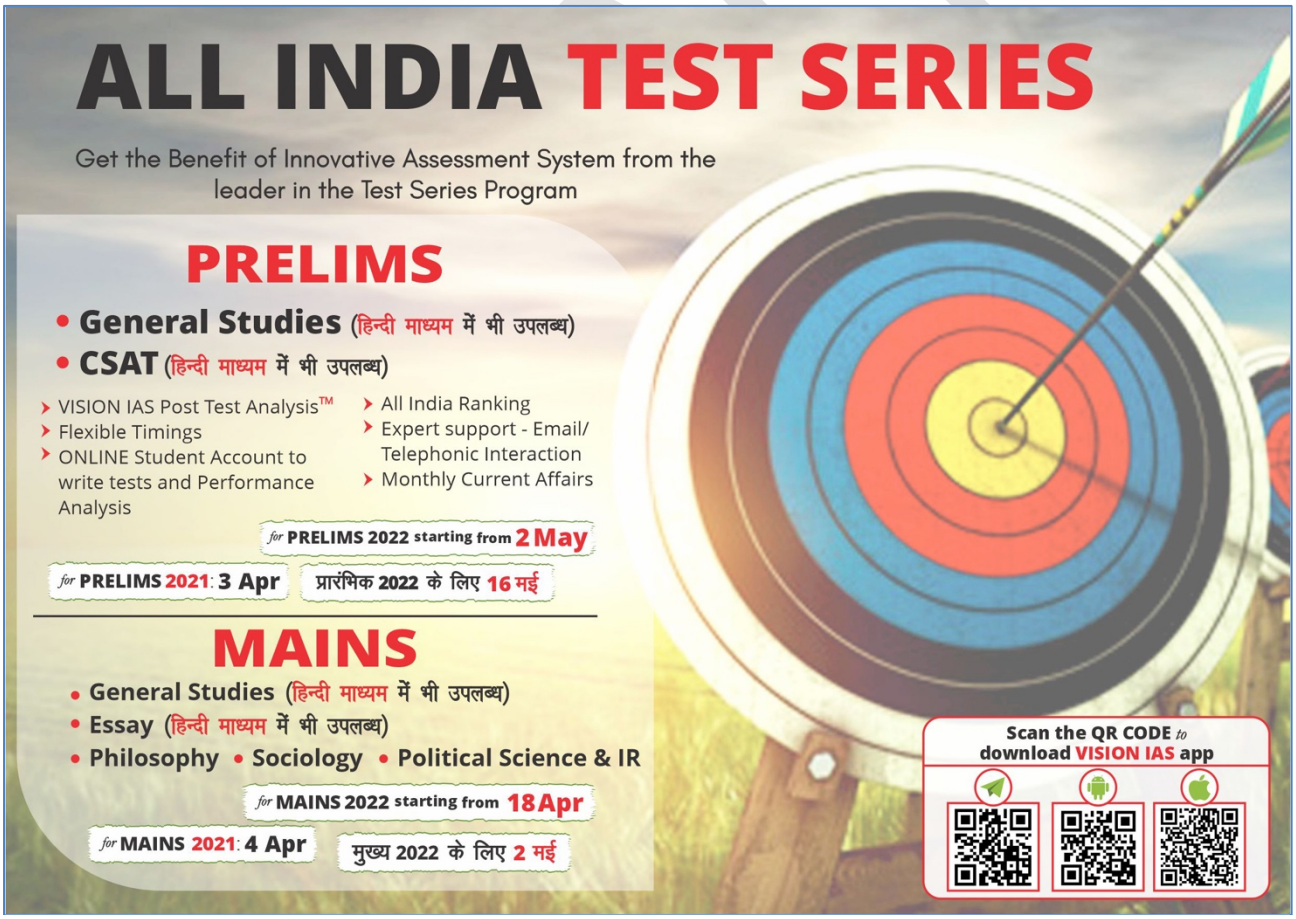
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process	• As part of **third round of UPR process**, National Human Rights Commission has given certain recommendations related to -universal basic income,child rights etc.
	• UPR involves a **review of human rights records of all UN Member States**.
	  ○ UPR process is under auspices of **Human Rights Council (HRC).**
	  ○ HRC is an inter-governmental body within UN system responsible for promotion and protection of all human rights.
	• UPR **aims to improve human rights situation** in all countries and **address human rights violations** wherever they occur.

Suraksha Store Initiative	• It has been launched by **Department of Consumer Affairs** (under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution). • It is a **public private initiative** to create a safe and secure environment for consumers and shop owners at Kirana Stores. • Objective of project is **to educate Kirana store owners** across country **about COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocols** required to be followed **while running their businesses**. • **Protocols** were decided **by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** and **Ministry of Home Affairs.**

"Meri Saheli" initiative	• **Indian Railways has launched "Meri Saheli" initiative** for focused action on the **security of women across all zones.**
	• The objective of this initiative is to **provide safety and security to lady passengers** travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.
	• **Other such initiatives include:**
	  ○ **Ujjawala scheme** aims to prevent the trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, and repatriation of victims.
	  ○ **Swadhar Greh scheme** aims to cater to the primary need for shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment, and care of the women in distress and who are without any social and economic support.
	  ○ **Sakhi One Stop Centres** aims to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence in public and private spaces, within the family, community, and at the workplace.

Global Teacher Prize 2020	• **A primary school teacher from Maharashtra** won $1 million annual Global Teacher Prize 2020. • He was awarded in recognition of his efforts **to promote girls' education and trigger a quick-response (QR) coded textbook revolution in India.** • This annual prize was **founded by the Varkey Foundation (global charitable foundation) in 2014** to recognise an exceptional teacher who has made outstanding contribution to the profession.

Lilavati awards 2020	• The award is an initiative of **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and aims to recognise the efforts of AICTE affiliated institutions in treating women. • Its objective is **to create awareness in the issues** such as sanitation, hygiene, health and nutrition using traditional Indian values. • The award has been named after **the 12th century book called "Lilavati".** The book was written by the **mathematician Bhaskara II.**
Nobel Peace Prize, 2020	• **It awarded to the United Nation's (UN) World Food Programme (WFP)** for o Its efforts to **combat hunger,** o contribution to **bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas** and o preventing the **use of hunger being weaponized** in war and conflict. • **About UN WFP** o Established in 1961 at the **Food and Agriculture Organization held in 1960,** it is **the largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.** o **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy. o It aims to **provide food aid in emergency situations** and also **build resilience for food security** by way of providing food or by providing cash-based transfers. o It **runs entirely on public donations by governments, corporations and individual** and is member of **UNDG (United Nations Development Group).** o WFP is the UN's **primary instrument** in achieving the SDG **of eradication of world hunger.** o WFP has been working in India since 1963 and has come out with the **Country Strategy Plan for India (2019-23) recently.** • Recently, Centre has also given approval to WPF for a pilot of its **'Annapurti programme'**, automatic grain dispensers — ATMs for rice— that are aimed at checking malpractices in the distribution system.



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