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Issues in
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Tamilnadu

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UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

Unemployment is a situation when a person actively searches for a job and is unable to find work. Unemployment indicates the health of the economy.

The unemployment rate is the most frequent measure of unemployment. The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed divided by the working population or people working under labour force.

Unemployment rate = (Unemployed Workers / Total labour force) × 100

National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) defines employment and unemployment on the following activity statuses of an individual. NSSO, an organization under MoSPI – Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation measures India's unemployment on three approaches:

Unemployment Rate Calculator

The percentage of persons without a job is known as the unemployment rate. The percentage used to indicate this rate. The unemployment rate fluctuates according to the state of the economy. The employment rate will rise if the economy is struggling and there are fewer jobs available. Similarly to this, it is predicted that the unemployment rate will decrease when a nation's economy is strong, growing, and offering the general populace a wide variety of job opportunities.

Unemployment Rate = Unemployed / Civilian Labor Force Or

Unemployment Rate = No. of Unemployed Persons / (No. of Employed Persons + No. of Unemployed Persons)

1. **Daily Status Approach**: unemployment status of a person under this approach is measured for each day in a reference week. A person having no gainful work even for one hour in a day is described as unemployed for that day.

2. **Weekly Status Approach:** This approach highlights the record of those persons who did not have gainful work or were unemployed even for an hour on any day of the week preceding the date of the survey.

3. **Usual Status Approach**: This gives the estimates of those persons who were unemployed or had no gainful work for a major time during the 365 days.

Types of Unemployment in India

In India, there are seven types of unemployment. The types of unemployment are discussed below:

1. **Disguised Unemployment**: This is a type of unemployment where people employed are more than actually needed. Disguised unemployment is generally traced in unorganized sectors or the agricultural sectors.

2. **Structural Unemployment:** This unemployment arises when there is a mismatch between the worker's skills and availability of jobs in the market. Many people in India do not get job matching to their skills or due to lack of required skills they do not get jobs and because of poor education level, it becomes important to provide them related training.

3. **Seasonal Unemployment:** That situation of unemployment when people do not have work during certain seasons of the year such as labourers in India rarely have occupation throughout the year.

4. **Vulnerable Unemployment:** People are deemed unemployed under this unemployment. People are employed but informally i.e. without proper job contracts and thus records of their work are never maintained. It is one of the main types of unemployment in India.

5. **Technological Unemployment**: the situation when people lose their jobs due to advancement in technologies. In 2016, the data of the World Bank predicted that the proportion of jobs threatened by automation in India is 69% year-on-year.

6. **Cyclical Unemployment**: unemployment caused due to the business cycle, where the number of unemployed heads rises during recessions and declines with the growth of the economy. Cyclical unemployment figures in India are negligible.

7. **Frictional Unemployment**: this is a situation when people are unemployed for a short span of time while searching for a new job or switching between jobs. Frictional Unemployment also called Search Unemployment, is the time lag between the jobs. Frictional unemployment is considered as voluntary unemployment because the reason for unemployment is not a shortage of jobs, but in fact, the workers themselves quit their jobs in search of better opportunities.

Causes of Unemployment

The major causes of unemployment in India are as mentioned below:

- Large population.
- Lack of vocational skills or low educational levels of the working population.

- Labour-intensive sectors suffering from the slowdown in private investment particularly after demonetisation

- The low productivity in the agriculture sector plus the lack of alternative opportunities for agricultural workers that makes transition among the three sectors difficult.

- Legal complexities, Inadequate state support, low infrastructural, financial and market linkages to small businesses making such enterprises unviable with cost and compliance overruns.

- Inadequate growth of infrastructure and low investments in the manufacturing sector, hence restricting the employment potential of the secondary sector.

- The huge workforce of the country is associated with the informal sector because of a lack of required education or skills, and this data is not captured in employment statistics.

- The main cause of structural unemployment is the education provided in schools and colleges are not as per the current requirements of the industries.

- Regressive social norms that deter women from taking/continuing employment.

Impact Of Unemployment

The unemployment in any nation have the following effects on the economy:

- The problem of unemployment gives rise to the problem of poverty.

- The government suffers extra borrowing burden because unemployment causes a decrease in the production and less consumption of goods and services by the people.

- Unemployed persons can easily be enticed by antisocial elements. This makes them lose faith in the democratic values of the country.
- People unemployed for a long time may indulge in illegal and wrong activities for earning money which increases crime in the country.
- Unemployment affects the economy of the country as the workforce that could have been gainfully employed to generate resources actually gets dependent on the remaining working population, thus escalating socio-economic costs for the state. For instance, a 1 % increase in unemployment reduces the GDP by 2 %.
- It is often seen that unemployed people end up getting addicted to drugs and alcohol or attempts suicide, leading to losses to the human resources of the country.

Government Initiative To Control Unemployment

Several policies have been initiated by the government to reduce the unemployment problem in the economy. The policies to reduce unemployment are highlighted below:

- In 1979 the government launched TRYSEM – Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment The objective of this scheme was to help unemployed youth of rural areas aged between 18 and 35 years to acquire skills for self-employment. The priority under this scheme was given to women and youth belonging to SC/ST category.
- The Government launched the IRDP – Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the year 1980 to create full employment opportunities in rural areas.
- A new initiative was tried namely RSETI/RUDSETI in 1982 jointly by Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Trust, Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank. The aim of RUDSETI, the acronym of Rural Development And Self Employment Training Institute was to mitigate the unemployment problem among the youth. Rural Self Employment Training Institutes/ RSETIs are now managed by Banks with active cooperation from the state and central Government.
- The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was started in April 1989 by merging the two existing wage employment programme i.e. RLEGP – Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and NREP – National Rural Employment Programme on an 80:20 cost-sharing basis between the state and centre.
- MNREGA – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act launched in 2005 providing the right to work to people. An employment scheme of MGNREGA aimed to provide social security by guaranteeing a minimum of 100 days paid work per year to all the families whose adult members opt for unskilled labour-intensive work. For details on MNREGA check the link provided.
- PMKVY – Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana was launched in 2015. The objective of PMKVY was to enable the youth of the country to take up industry-relevant skill training in order to acquire a secured better livelihood. For further details on Pradhan Mantri Kushal Vikas Yojana check the given link.

- The government launched the Start-Up India Scheme in 2016. The aim of Startup India programmes was to develop an ecosystem that nurtures and promotes entrepreneurship across the nation. Check detailed information on Startup India Scheme in the given link.
- Stand Up India Scheme also launched in 2016 aimed to facilitate bank loans to women and SC/ST borrowers between Rs 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore for setting up a greenfield enterprise. Details on Stand-Up India is given in the linked page.
- National Skill Development Mission was set up in November 2014 to drive the 'Skill India' agenda in a 'Mission Mode' in order to converge the existing skill training initiatives and combine scale and quality of skilling efforts, with speed. Check the National Skill Development Mission in detail.

Unemployment Rate of India

Unemployment Rate in India: According to the recent CMIE Report, the urban unemployment rate declined to 7.93% in February from 8.55% in the previous month while the rural unemployment rate rose to 7.23% from 6.48%. India's unemployment rate rises to 7.45% in February from 7.14% in January.

According to separate quarterly figures prepared by the state-run National Statistical Office (NSO) and released in November 2022, the unemployment rate decreased to 7.2% in the July-September quarter from 7.6% in the preceding quarter.

Although India's unemployment rate has historically been high, it is predicted to rise in the next years. In fact, even if the nation's economy continues to expand at a healthy clip, the Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development (OECD) forecast that India's jobless rate will quadruple from 4 per cent to 8 per cent by 2022.

From a 6% unemployment rate in 2017, India's unemployment rate would climb to 8.3% by 2022. According to the estimate, over the next four years, 10 million more people will join the ranks of the unemployed, bringing the total to 220 million by 2022. The government also forecasts that there will be 1 million additional job vacancies over this time period, but it also expects that the number of jobs would not be sufficient to counteract the population expansion in general.

CMIE's Data on Unemployment Rate in India

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, a private organization (CMIE), estimates India's unemployment rate in India is around 7.45% at present. It is 7.93% in urban India whereas only 7.44% in rural India. India's daily and monthly unemployment rates are made public by CMIE on 1st March 2023.

Current Unemployment Rate in India

As per the National Statistical Office's 16th Periodic Labour Force Survey, in the fiscal second quarter that ended on September 30, India's unemployment rate for those who are 15 years of age or older and live in urban areas dropped from 9.8% to 7.2%, indicating a sustained recovery from the coronavirus pandemic that had left millions of people without jobs. From July to September, the unemployment rate for females (aged 15 and older) in urban areas dropped from 11.6% to 9.4% and for males dropped from 9.3% to 6.6% a year ago.

According to recent CMIE statistics released on 1st March 2023, here is a complete list of the Unemployment Rate in India State-wise in December 2022.

Highest Unemployment Rate of India

Since January 2022, the employment rate has grown, reaching a record high of 37.1% in December 2022. With 28.5% in Rajasthan, 20.8% in Delhi, and 37.4% in Haryana, the unemployment rate increased in December 2022, as per the CMIE recent Report.

Tamilnadu:

Unemployment Rate 20 Mar 2023*

India	7.4%
Urban	8.2%
Rural	7.0%

*30 day moving average

Unemployment Rate (%)

States (India)	Feb 2023
Andhra Pradesh	6.6
Assam	8.6
Bihar	12.3
Chhattisgarh	0.8
Delhi	8.6
Goa	11.1
Gujarat	2.5
Haryana	29.4
Himachal Pradesh	13.9
Jammu & Kashmir	17.1
Jharkhand	16.8
Karnataka	2.5
Kerala	5.6
Madhya Pradesh	2.0
Maharashtra	5.6
Meghalaya	4.1
Odisha	2.1
Puducherry	2.2
Punjab	8.2
Rajasthan	28.3
Sikkim	21.0
Tamil Nadu	3.0
Telangana	5.8
Tripura	11.7

Nadu tops the list of urbanized states with 48.45% of its population living in urban areas If more than 75% of the male population employed in non-agricultural occupation is classified as urban areas in the census 2011. Closure of Tamil Nadu's vibrant labour-intensive micro, small and medium enterprises since March 25th left a majority of workers without any employment. Tamil Nadu is among the few states which has more number of non-agricultural workers in their economies. This could be the main reason for the unemployment rate increases in the past month in Tamil Nadu, said Professor Vijayabaskar of Madras Institute of Development Studies

As most of the people were occupied in non-agricultural activity mainly MSMEs, hence Tamil Nadu has no way to escape from being the worst affected state in terms of unemployment. The states in which the unemployment rate is higher than 16 % are shownin the graph below.

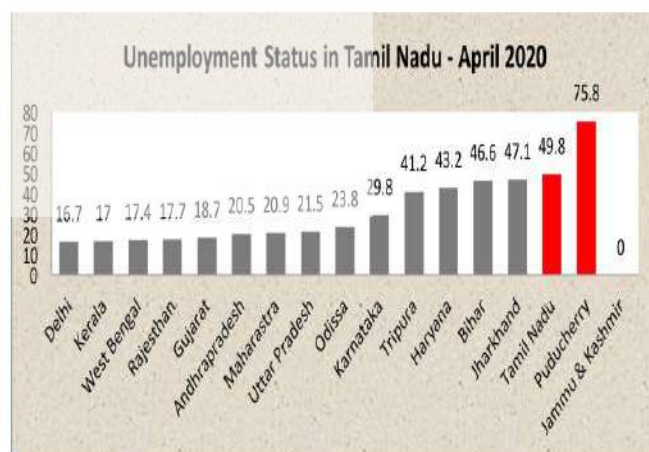Figure 1: Unemployment Status in Tamil Nadu – April 2020

Unemployment in Tamil Nadu

Since Tamil Nadu is the fastest-growing urbanized state, the unemployment rate has been highest in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. According to the 2011 census data, Tamil

Unemployment in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu has a large number of MSMEs which provide employment to lakhs. This section of society has been hit badly due to the lockdown as many industries have been shut down.

- All those who are employed in these factories are without jobs. Similarly in the hospitality sector, many are without employment.
- These are the reasons for increase in unemployment rate in Tamil Nadu and definitely it will come down when the lockdown is lifted.
- Overall, the unemployment rate in the country has increased to double digits, like it was seen last year, after the lockdown in April and May 2021.
- The increase in unemployment rate has come to be seen in the last two weeks of May (2021) as many states went for lockdown.
- As per the CMIE data, the 30-day- moving unemployment average was 11.8 per cent after hitting a high of 14.8 per cent in the middle of May 2021.
- The urban unemployment rate has been on the rise since early April 2021. On April 1, the 30-day moving average urban unemployment rate was 7.2 percent.
- By May 1, it had reached 9.6 percent and then by May 23 it was 12.7 per cent. In contrast, the rise of unemployment in rural India is a more recent phenomenon.
- Clear evidence of loss of employment in the steady fall in the employment rate during May 2021.
- The employment rate was 36.8 per cent in April 2021. The 30-day moving average employment rate on May 23 was 35.8 per cent.
- This 100 basis point fall in the employment rate translates into a fall in employment of the order of 10 million.
- This would be much more than the 7.35 million falls in employment recorded in April 2021.
- Employment has been falling since January 2021. It had fallen by about 10 million between January and April 2021.

Unemployment in urban TN doubled in a year: Report

- The rate at the level of 'graduate and above' was at 16.78 per cent in February 2021, and it continues to remain higher than other education- level bracket.
- A report from the chairman of the Prime Minister Economic Advisory Committee has shown that Tamil Nadu, a State with high incidence of youth unemployment, saw urban unemployment double from 2020 to 2021.
- According to the report, titled 'Post Covid Employment Scenario in India', by Bibek Debroy, the urban unemployment rate in TN, though
- similar to the national average of 7.27 per cent in February 2021, is more than double that of the previous year.
- The rate at the level of 'graduate and above' was at 16.78 per cent in February 2021, and it continues to remain higher than other education- level bracket. This was coupled with a nearly three per cent fall in labour participation rate compared to the previous year.
- The labour force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population of working age.

Informal sector is left unprotected: Rangarajan

- Rangarajan says informal employees in hospitality sector were also affected as there was no mobility, and that social security is linked to the formal sector where various protection is provided to

them.

- The informal sector is left unprotected. Rangarajan rues that though there is an act to register migrant workers, the State has not been doing so.
- To a query on the struggle by MSMEs in the State due to the pandemic, Rangarajan, who chaired the 24-member committee last year to propose measures to bring the Covid-battered economy of Tamil Nadu back to growth, says like the Centre the State should also come out with a Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt, under which personal loans are given to promoters of stressed MSMEs.
- About 80 per cent of the micro and tiny units, run by entrepreneurs, have closed down and skilled workers are finding it difficult to get alternate jobs.
- Meanwhile, the report states that Tamil Nadu's rural unemployment rate peaked at 53.19 per cent in April 2020, more than double the national average at 22.19 per cent during the first wave of pandemic.
- A subsequent drastic increase in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme contributed to the rural unemployment rate decreasing significantly to 4.53 per cent in July 2020, the report states.
- Interestingly, as per an analysis available till March 2021, the rural unemployment rate in Tamil Nadu was at 2.7 per cent in February 2021, marginally higher than 1.17 per cent in February 2020, coupled with a significant decrease in rural labour participation rate by around eight per cent.
- Rural female labour participation rate at 10 per cent is less than a sixth of male labour participation rate in

February 2021, and seven per cent lower than the previous year.

- A similar peak of 45.55 per cent urban unemployment rate was seen in April 2020, significantly higher than national average at the time.
- However, one of the challenges in analysing employment scenarios is the lack of consistent job data especially during the pandemic.
- The report states that initially 'Annual Survey of Employment and Unemployment' was carried out by the Labour Bureau.
- Subsequently, in April 2017, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) was entrusted with the task to conduct Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) to have a reliable high frequency data for urban areas, released quarterly and annual numbers for both rural and urban areas.
- The last PLFS results were published for January to March 2020 for the urban areas. As such, data by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) at the State-level was taken into account, the report states.

POPULATION

Population explosion means a sudden increase in the number of individuals in a particular species. The term is used to refer to the world's human population. In India, Population explosion has become a severe matter of concern because the increase in population leads to poverty and illiteracy. In this situation, it is difficult to cope up with the economy of the country with the rapid growth of the population. The Government of India is now looking into the matter seriously, and many states have framed laws to tackle the problem of population explosion.

India is currently the second-most populous country in the world after China.

According to the UN report, World Population Prospects 2019:

1. Highlights, India is estimated to surpass China as the world's most populous country in the world by 2027.
2. This report was published by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
3. According to this report, there will be an additional 273 million people between now and 2050 in India.
4. India is said to remain the most populous country through the end of the current century
5. This report also stated that the world's population may increase by 2 billion people in the next thirty years i.e., from the current 7.7 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050.
6. The previous UN reports too had predicted that India will surpass China as the world most populous county in the world.

7. As of 2019, China has 1.43 billion people while India houses 1.37 billion individuals.
8. In other words, China and India hold 19 and 18 percent of the world population respectively as of 2019.
9. However, according to the National Family Health Survey, India's population growth is not uniform.
10. In India, the Total Fertility Rate differs across various wealth quintile.
11. The poorest wealth quintile has a total fertility rate of 3.2 children per woman.
12. The second-lowest wealth quintile has a TFR of 2.5 children per woman.
13. The richest quintile has TFR of 1.5 children per woman.
14. This shows that population growth is high only in the economically weaker section of the Indian society.

Major Causes of Population Explosion

1. Increase in Birth Rate

One of the major causes responsible for the growth of the population is the high birth rate. During the 1891-1990 period, the birth rate declined from 45.8 per thousand in India, but it is still considered high. So, unfortunately, in India, the birth rate number has not seen a decrease in spite of the framing laws in terms of family planning, population education, campaigns, etc.

2. Decrease in Death Rate

In recent years, the decrease in the death rate is another factor contributing to the rapid growth of the population. In 2001, the death rate in India was about 8.5 per thousand. The death rate has seen a decrease due to advancements in the medical field. For example, Chronic diseases like typhoid,

chickenpox, etc., are no longer dreaded. Even the infant mortality rate has decreased because of proper sanitation facilities, cleanliness, and better prenatal and postnatal care.

3. Early Marriage

Early marriage is also an essential factor for the rapid increase in population. In India, the marriage age of a girl is 18, which is very low compared to other countries, which is about 23 to 25 years. It leads to a longer span of reproductive activity and increases in children.

4. Religious and Social Reasons

In India, marriage is considered a compulsory social institution, and every person should marry. Every individual in a joint family takes equal responsibility and has access to an equivalent level of consumption. So, people don't hesitate to increase their family size in a joint family. In India, most people think that one male child is necessary, and in the expectation of getting a male child, they increase their family size.

5. Poverty

Another major cause of population explosion is poverty. In most families, children become the source of income. From a very young age, children start working for their families instead of going to school, and they become a precious asset for the family. So, every individual becomes an earning member and additional income for the family.

6. Standard of Living

It is seen that people with a low standard of living wish to have additional children as it will be an asset for them rather than a liability. As we know, most of India's population is uneducated, so they don't understand the importance of family planning.

They are unaware that they can enjoy a better quality of life with a small family.

7. Illiteracy

In India, 60% of the population is either illiterate or has minimum education, which leads to minimal employment opportunities. So, due to the high illiteracy rate and belief in social customs, child marriage and preference for a male child still prevail. As a result, there is a rapid population growth rate in India.

Effects of Population Explosion

1. The problem of Unemployment:

An increase in population leads to a vast army of the labour force. But, it is difficult to employ such an extensive labour working force due to a shortage of capital resources. In rural areas, disguised unemployment and in urban areas, open unemployment are fundamental features of an underdeveloped country like India.

2. More Pressure on Land

Overpopulation creates more pressure on land. It adversely affects the economic development of the country. On the one hand, per capita availability of land goes on diminishing and on the other, the problem of subdivision and fragmentation of holdings increases.

3. Environmental Degradation

Extensive use of natural resources and energy production of oil, natural gas, and coal negatively impacts the planet. An increase in population also leads to deforestation, which directly affects the environment, and it also degrades the soil's nutrition value and causes landslides and global warming.

Is population a boon or a bane to the Indian economy?

1. A population can be an asset if the youth of the country has access to education, skill development, increased employment opportunities, etc.

2. However, currently, India faces a very high unemployment rate.

3. Many in the Indian population are illiterate and don't have access to education.

4. It is estimated that India is currently producing 25 million job seekers but provides jobs to only 7 million.

5. If this is not addressed soon, the Indian population may become a liability.

- The current government is bearing the burden of providing the access to clean drinking water, houses, cooking fuel, electricity, and healthcare to the whole of the Indian population and is aiming to create a $5trillion economy.India's landmass is only 35-40% of China's landmass.

- India cannot sustain the current rate of population growth due to the limited geographical area.If these crises are not addressed soon, India may face various negative repercussions like poverty, pollution, poor standard of living, etc.

Is harsh population control a solution

- Both India and China had experimented with stringent population control measures.

- China's One-Child Policy had increased the proportion of old population while it simultaneously decreased the younger population.

- India, during the Emergency, had undertaken similar measures to reduce India's population.

- This policy faced scathing criticism from the world and has not been tried since by any of the governments since.

The solutions to counter overpopulation?

- Certain measures can be taken to address the overpopulation. They are as follows:

- Encouraging late marriages: Many in Indian society opt for early marriages due to various reasons like social pressures, traditions, etc. If late marriages become the norm, it will considerably reduce the birth rate.

- Spreading awareness: It is essential to spread awareness among the public about the negative consequences of the overpopulation. This can be done through education, public forums, media, etc. It is essential to provide free education to women at least till the college level so that they need not be dependent on their male counterparts for survival and are willing to participate in the workforce.

- Reduction of infant mortality rate: It is essential to bring down the infant mortality rate. This is because, due to high infant mortality rates, many opt for increased birth rate to offset the loss.

Figure 1: Trends in Population Size in India, 1856 to 2050
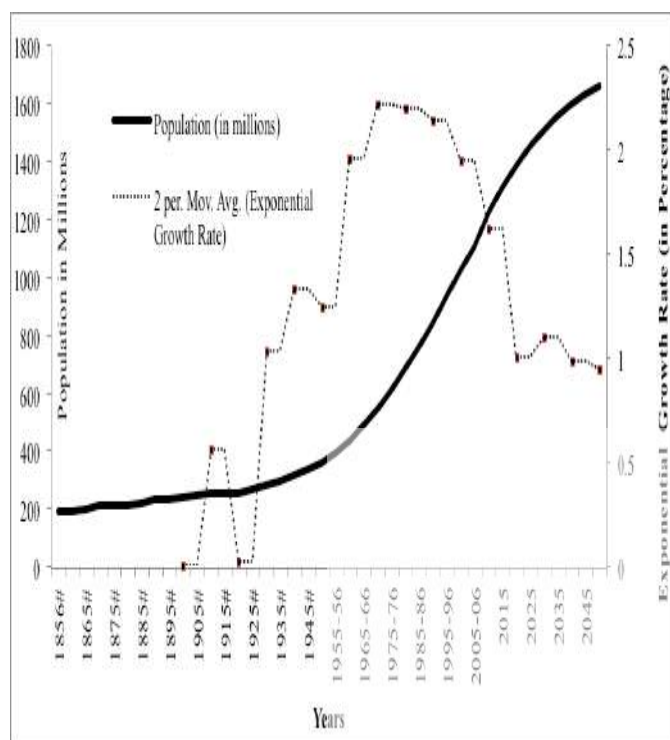
Women empowerment: Women must be empowered through education, skill development, financial inclusion so that they can become independent and free from the shackles of the social norms and constraint.

Government schemes on par with efficient family planning: Many opt for having children for the purpose of security during the later stage of life. If the government provides enough security through increased welfare schemes for the older population, people will opt for far lesser children.

Promotion of the girl child: India is a society where the male child has far more importance than their female counterparts. Therefore many families tend to continue having children until a male child is born. Government policies must focus on the increased promotion of female children to address this problem. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme is a step in the right direction.

Way Forward:

- India has 13% of unwanted fertility – the product of unwanted or unplanned pregnancy, mainly due to the lack of education, awareness, family planning services, etc.
- If this issue is addressed, India will have 30 million lesser people by 2030.
- The government must increase its investment in the health sector. Currently, India invests only 1.3% of its total GDP on the health sector of which only 4% is dedicated to family planning.
- The government must address the issue at the ground level as the population growth rate differs at various parts of the country due to the social, cultural and economic diversity of India.
- Population Growth: According to the UN World Population Prospects (WPP), 2022, India will surpass China as the most populous country by 2023, with a population of 140 crore. India currently accounts for 17.5% of the global population.
- This is four times the population of India when it gained independence in 1947. (34 crore).
- India is expected to reach 150 crore by 2030 and 166 crore by 2050.
- Decline in India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR): In 2021, India's TFR fell below the replacement level fertility (2.1 children per woman) to two. India had a TFR of six in the 1950s, following independence.
- Except for Bihar, UP, Jharkhand, Manipur, and Meghalaya, several states have achieved a TFR of two.
- The main reasons for this are high illiteracy rates, widespread child marriage, high under-five mortality rates, low female labor-force participation, lower contraceptive use,

and a lack of economic and political power among women.

Improvements in Mortality Indicators:

1. Life expectancy at birth increased from 32 years in 1947 to 70 years in 2019.
1. Infant mortality fell from 133 in 1951 (for the big states) to 27 in 2020.
2. The under-five mortality rate fell from 250 in the 1940s to 41 in 2019, while the maternal mortality ratio fell from 2,000 in the 1940s to 103 in 2019.
3. With a population of 1.4 billion, India accounts for about 17.5 per cent of the world's population, 1 of every 6 people on the planet live in India.
4. According to the 2022 edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects (WPP),
5. India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023. India is currently at a stage of demographic transition with a substantial percentage of the youth population.
6. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released 'Youth in India 2022' Report, which shows that the population share of the youth is starting to decline whereas the share of the elderly is expected to increase during 2021-2036.
7. The proportion of elderly population to the total population has increased from 6.8% in 1991 to 9.2% in 2016 and is projected to reach 14.9% in 2036. On the contrary, youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.2% of the population for the year 2021 which is expected to decrease to 22.7 by 2036.
8. The large number of youths in the light of its impact on work participation and dependency ratios, has been called a window of opportunity in terms of growth and development of our country, an opportunity which would need to be seized before the window closes
9. Since its Independence, India has witnessed a huge change in its demographic structure. It has gone through population explosion (Census 1951) and has also witnessed decline in total fertility rate.
10. On the plus side, there have been improvements in various mortality indicators, but there also exist certain impediments to reaping the demographic dividend in terms of improving living standards, providing skill and training and generating employment.
11. India's large population is one of the upper hands that India may have over the rest of the world. What is needed is the steps in the right direction to harness the potential of the demographic dividend to its fullest.

The Significance of Population Growth

A larger population is perceived to mean greater human capital, higher economic growth and improved standards of living.

Better economic growth is brought about by increased economic activities due to higher working age population and lower dependent population.

In the last seven decades, the share of the working age population has grown from 50% to 65%, resulting in a remarkable decline in the dependency ratio (number of children and elderly persons per working age population).

As per the WPP 2022, India will have one of the largest workforces globally.

In the next 25 years, one in five working-age group persons will be living in India.

India's Demographic Dividend

1. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), demographic dividend means the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure.
2. Mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older).

Median Age:

The median age in India is 28 years., compared to 38 in China and the US, 43 in Western Europe, and 48 in Japan.

Diversity in India's States:

1. While India is a young country, the status and pace of population ageing vary among States.Southern States, which are advanced in demographic transition, already have a higher percentage of older people.
2. While Kerala's population is already ageing, in Bihar the working age cohort is predicted to continue increasing till 2051.
3. The differences in age structure reflect differences in economic development and health of the states.

- India take Advantage from the Demographic Dividend
- Increase in Fiscal Space: Fiscal resources can be diverted from spending on children to investing in modern physical and human infrastructure that will increase economic sustainability of India.
- Rise in Workforce: With more than 65% of the working age population, India can rise as an economic superpower, supplying more than half of Asia's potential workforce over the coming decades.

- Increase in the Labour Force that enhances the productivity of the economy.
- Rise in Women's Workforce that naturally accompanies a decline in fertility, and which can be a new source of growth.

The Challenges Associated with Demographic Dividend in India

- Unfulfilled Educational Requirements: While over 95% of India's children attend primary school, the National Family Health Surveys confirms that poor infrastructure in government schools, malnutrition, and scarcity of trained teachers have resulted in poor learning outcomes.
- The gender inequality in education is a concern as in India, boys are more likely to be enrolled in secondary and tertiary school than girls.
- However, in the Philippines, China and Thailand, it is the reverse and in Japan, South Korea, and Indonesia, the gender differences are rather minimal.
- Low Human Development Parameters: India ranked at 131st position by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index 2020, which is alarming.
- Therefore, health and education parameters need to be improved substantially to make the Indian workforce efficient and skilled.

Jobless Growth: There is mounting concern that future growth could turn out to be jobless due to DE-industrialization, DE-globalization, and the industrial revolution 4.0.

As per the NSSO Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18, India's labour force participation rate for the age-group 15-59 years is around 53%, that is, around half of the working age population is jobless.

The informal nature of the economy in India is another hurdle in reaping the benefits of demographic transition in India.

Absence of Proper Policies:
Without proper policies, the increase in the working-age population may lead to rising unemployment, fuelling economic and social risks.

Rise in the Share of Elderly Population:
1. A greater proportion of youth at present will result in a greater proportion of elderly in the population in future.
2. This will create a demand for better healthcare facilities and development of welfare schemes/programmed for elderly people.
3. People, typically in informal employment, don't have social security, it will add burden to the respective state.

- The Bottlenecks in Reaping the Demographic Dividend
- Concerns regarding Labour Force: India's labour force is constrained by the absence of women from the workforce, only a fourth of women are employed.
- The quality of educational attainments is not up to the mark, and the country's workforce lacks the basic skills required for the modernized job market.
- India will be having the largest population but its employment rates are still one of the lowest.

Sex Ratio still Disappointing:
- Another demographic concern of independent India is the male-dominant sex ratio.
- In 1951, the country had a sex ratio of 946 females per 1,000 males.

- In 2011, the sex ratio was 943 females per 1,000 males and by 2022, it is expected to be approximately 950 females per 1,000 males.
- Even now, one in three girls missing globally due to sex selection (both pre-date post-natal), is from India.

Hunger:
- Every other woman in the reproductive age group in India is anaemic, and every third child below five is stunted.
- India stands 101 out of 116 nations in the Global Hunger Index which is pretty daunting for a country which has one of the most extensive welfare programmed for food security through the Public Distribution System and the Midday Meals Scheme.

Health Disease Burden:
1. The disease pattern in the country has also seen a tremendous shift in these 75 years: while
2. India was fighting communicable diseases post-Independence, there has been a transition towards non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the cause of more than 62% of total deaths.
3. India is a global disease burden leader as the share of NCDs has almost doubled since the 1990s.
4. India is home to over eight crore people with diabetes.
5. More than a quarter of global deaths due to air pollution occur in India alone.
6. India's health-care infrastructure is also highly inadequate and inefficient.
7. Additionally, India's public health financing is low, varying between 1% and 1.5% of GDP, which is among the lowest percentages in the world.

Focus on Elderly Population:

1. India is currently a young nation but the share of its elderly population is increasing and is expected to be 12% by 2050.

2. So, advance investments in the development of a robust social, financial and healthcare support system for old people is the need of the hour.

3. The focus of action should be on extensive investment in human capital, on older adults living with dignity, and on healthy population ageing.

4. Steps should be taken to adapt public programmed to the growing proportion of older persons such as by improving the sustainability of social security and pension systems.

Efforts for Better Living Standards:

1. There needs to be preparedness with suitable infrastructure, conducive social welfare schemes and massive investment in quality education and health.

2. To maximize the potential benefits of a favourable age distribution, countries need to invest in the further development of their human capital and promote opportunities for productive employment and decent work.

3. The focus should not be on population control as it is not a severe problem now. Instead, an augmentation of the quality of life should be the priority.

Skilling:

1. For those already in the 25-64 age bracket, there is a need for skilling, which is the only way to ensure they are more productive and have better incomes.

2. Irrespective of rural or urban setting, the public school system must ensure that every child completes high school education, and is pushed into appropriate skilling, training and vocational education in line with market demand.

Bridging Gender Gaps in Workforce:

New skills and opportunities for women and girls befitting their participation in a 3 trillion dollar economy is urgently needed.

This can be done by:

• Legally compulsory gender budgeting to analyse gender dis aggregated data and its Impact on policies

• Increasing childcare benefits

• Boosting tax incentives for part-time work

DEMOGRAPHY OF TAMIL NADU

• TamilNadu is the 11th largest states in India in terms of area. The state is the seventh most populous state in the country and its main language Tamil has origins that date back to 500 BC.

• Chennai is the capital of TamilNadu and lies on the eastern coast line of India. TamilNadu is famous for its wonderful temples and monuments that have been built 1000s of years ago and has places that have been marked as heritage sites by the United Nations.

• In a 180 degree paradigm shift, this state with a rich historical importance is also one of the fastest developing centre for technology and trade.

• TamilNadu's population is set to see a decline during 2031-41, unless offset by inward migration, with its population peaking at 2031, according to the latest economic survey.

• The decline is projected at 0.05 per cent. "Population growth will be close to zero in

Andhra Pradesh and as low as 0.1-0.2 per cent in Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Maharashtra," the survey stated.

- Meanwhile, the percentage of senior citizens in TamilNadu, over the age of 60, is projected to increase 22.6 per cent by 2041 from 10.4 per cent in 2011, second only to Kerala that is set to see a 23.9 per cent increase.

- On the other hand, the population of those between the ages of 0 and 19 is set to see a decrease - from 32.3 per cent in 2011 to 20.6 per cent in 2041. With this, Tamil Nadu must set itself up for a host of other challenges, say experts.

- The decline in population, a result of pioneering family planning, may end up with reduced representation of Southern states in the Lok Sabha, said Congress MP Jairam Ramesh in Parliament on Friday. At present, 543 seats are allocated based on the 1971 census- one seat for 10 lakh voters.

- Last year, TamilNadu had demanded changes to the 15th Finance Commission's terms of reference that mandated the 2011 population for devolution of resources instead of the 1971 population.

- Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had said that the move would severely affect the State, that has made 'great progress' in population control in the last 40 years.

- All major states are projected to witness a decline in the share of young population and an increase in the share of elderly population over the next two decades.

- States ahead in the demographic transition, such as Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab and most of the southern states, would have less than one-fourth of the population

under the age of 20 but about one-fifth or more population over the age of 59 by 2041, the survey stated.

- "It is time for TamilNadu to see how it can truly become a migrant-friendly State," said demographer S Irudaya Rajan, of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram.

- While the State has succeeded in achieving an increase in life expectancy, with the increase in senior citizens set to increase, it should now also look into ensuring their quality of life, he added.

AGEING

22.6 per cent of senior citizens in TamilNadu, over the age of 60, is projected to increase 22.6 per cent by 2041 from 10.4 per cent in 2011, second only to Kerala that is set to see a 23.9 per cent increase

CARING FOR MIGRANTS **KEY FOR FUTURE**

- Demographer S Irudaya Rajan, of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram says: "It is time for Tamil Nadu to see how it can truly become a migrant-friendly State because it would come to be dependent on them for the State's economy to grow, from studying migration patterns to taking care of educational needs for migrant children, who don't always speak Tamil."

- Population growth will be close to zero in Andhra Pradesh and as low as 0.1-0.2 per cent in Karnataka

FINANCE PANEL

- Last year, TamilNadu had demanded changes to the 15th Finance Commission's terms of reference that mandated the 2011 population for devolution of resources. The State had said that the move would severely affect it Drop in population may

lead to reduced representation of Southern states in Lok Sabha

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- The budget had allocated no funds for linking the Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery rivers and had not sanctioned even Rs 1,000 crore, sought by the TamilNadu government for easing the drinking water shortage MK Stalin, DMK president

POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMS IN INDIA:

Early Beginnings: The 1950s and 1960s

First National Population Program (1952):

India was the first country in the world to implement a national family planning program in 1952. The focus was on creating awareness about family planning methods and controlling the birth rate.

Awareness and Contraceptive Distribution: During these decades, the government prioritized educating the public on population issues and made contraceptives available to people in urban and rural areas.

2. Intensive Push: The 1970s

Emergency Period and Forced Sterilization (1975-1977): Under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, during the national Emergency (1975-77), aggressive sterilization campaigns were carried out, especially targeting men. This controversial program led to millions of forced sterilizations and was met with widespread resistance. The failure of this policy created a public backlash against the population control programs of the time.

3. Shift in Approach: 1980s and 1990s

Integrated Approach: After the backlash from the 1970s, the government shifted its focus to a broader health-oriented approach, integrating population control within maternal and child health services.

Target-Free Approach (1996): In 1996, the government introduced a "target-free" approach, moving away from coercive tactics and adopting a voluntary approach to family planning. The program emphasized promoting smaller family sizes through education and accessibility to contraceptive options.

National Population Policy (2000): The NPP 2000 was a landmark policy that aimed at achieving a stable population by 2045. It set specific goals such as reducing the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement levels (2.1 children per woman) by 2010, improving maternal and child health, and increasing access to contraceptives. The policy stressed the importance of voluntary family planning services, empowering women, and improving healthcare infrastructure.

4. Current Initiatives and Focus

Mission Parivar Vikas (2016): Launched in 2016, this program focuses on 146 high fertility districts that account for 44% of India's population. It provides free contraceptives, sterilization services, and counseling, promoting a two-child norm.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (2005) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (2011): These programs aim to reduce maternal and infant mortality by providing free maternal healthcare services and financial incentives for institutional deliveries, indirectly contributing to population control by improving child survival rates.

Awareness Campaigns and Female Empowerment: Today's policies emphasize educating people, particularly women, about reproductive health, family planning methods, and the benefits of smaller families. Government and non-government organizations also promote women's education and employment as means to reduce fertility rates.

CHILD LABOUR

Child ?

Child and Adolescent Labour (prohibition and regulation) Act 1986 defines the child as a person who has not completed the age of 14 years.

Child Labour?

1. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a work that takes away children their childhood,
2. Their potential and their dignity which is harmful to their physical as well as mental development.
3. ILO also explains child labour in its most extreme forms involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities — often at a very early age.
4. Children or adolescents who involve in works that do not impact their health and personal development or affect their schooling is not child labour.
5. For instance, helping their parents at home, helping family or earning pocket money outside school hours and on holidays.

Children are exploited for Labour in India

1. Instead of being in school or at play or other constructive activities.
2. They are put to work on a range of activities that span repetitive low-skill work that doesn't aid development for future employment opportunities,
3. They are forced to be exposed to conditions devastating to health and safety in the agriculture, industry and service sectors.

4. The work involves long hours on a bewildering range of tasks such as transferring pollen in cotton plants, picking the crop with their bare hands, indentured on tea or tobacco plantations and brick making factories and construction sites;
5. Being sent down dangerous mines for extracting gold and diamonds, or confined to cramped workshops for cutting and polishing gemstones;
6. working at slaughterhouses and tanneries with minimal protection or under life-threatening conditions at fireworks factories.
7. Children are very commonly employed in the murky underbelly of the fashion industry in yarn and spinning mills,
8. garment factory sweatshops, put to work from handling silkworms in scalding water to doing painstaking embellishment work.
9. They are on the streets picking rags – carrying an entire recycling industry on their shoulders,
10. In homes doing domestic work either as employees of others or in the case of girls in their own homes .
11. They are treated as free labour and not considered as deserving of education as their brothers.
12. The worst of all is the human trafficking situations of modern-day slavery that children are thrown into,
13. facing horrific abuse and lifelong trauma as bonded labourer or sold into sexual exploitation.
14. Alongside the physical implications of this work, can we even begin to imagine the mental health consequences for these children and adolescents forced into labour.

The statistics of child labour in India?

According to the 2011 census,

1. There were more than 10.2 million children in the age group of 5-14 working as child labourer.
2. Child labour has increased rapidly in urban areas and declined in rural areas.
3. The overall decrease in child labour is only 2.2% per year from 2001-2011.
4. India's biggest child labour employers are – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

The nature of child labour in India

Change in work location: There has been high involvement of children in home-based works and in the informal sector.

Rural-Urban areas:

1. In urban areas, a huge number of children are involved in manual domestic work, rag picking, restaurants, motor repair shops, etc.
2. In rural areas, children are involved in works as follows,
3. Agriculture including cotton growing,
4. Glass,
5. Matchbox industries,
6. Brass, and lock-making factories,
7. Embroidery,
8. Rag-picking,
9. Beedi-rolling,
10. Carpet-making industry,
11. Mining and stone quarrying,
12. Brick kilns,
13. Tea gardens etc.

Gender specific: The division of labour is gender-specific with girls being engaged in more domestic and home-based work, and boys working as wage labourer.

Bonded Child labour: refers to the employment of a person against a loan, debt or social obligation by the family of the child or family as a whole. Bonded child labourer are mostly found in the agriculture sector or helping their families in brick kilns, and stone quarries. There are around 10 million bonded child labourer in India.

Migrant Children: Children who are migrating to other locations with family are often forced to drop-out schools and unavoidably put to work at work-sites.

Status of Child Labour in India

- Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful.
- The Census of India 2011 reports 10.1 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years, out of whom 8.1 million are in rural areas mainly engaged as cultivators (26%) and agricultural labourer (32.9%).

The side-effects of working at a young age are:
Risks of contracting occupational diseases like skin diseases, diseases of the lungs, weak eyesight, TB etc.;

1. Vulnerability to sexual exploitation at the workplace;
2. Deprived of education.
3. They grow up unable to avail development opportunities and end up as unskilled workers for the rest of their lives.

Child Labour: Constitutional And Legal Provisions

1. According to Article 23 of the Indian Constitution any type of forced labour is prohibited.

2. Article 24 states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work.

3. Article 39 states that "the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused".

4. In the same manner, Child Labour Act (Prohibition and Regulation) 1986 prohibits children under the age of 14 years to be working in hazardous industries and processes.

5. Policy interventions such as MGNREGA 2005, the Right to Education Act 2009 and the Mid Day Meal Scheme have paved the way for children to be in schools along with guaranteed wage employment (unskilled) for rural families.

6. Further, with the ratification International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 in 2017, the Indian government have demonstrated its commitment to the elimination of child labour including those engaged in hazardous occupations.

Role of Panchayat: As nearly 80% of child labour in India emanates from rural areas, the Panchayat can play a dominant role in mitigating child labour. In this context, panchayat should:

1. Generate awareness about the ill-effects of child labour,

2. Encourage parents to send their children to school,

3. Create an environment where children stop working and get enrolled in schools instead,

4. Ensure that children have sufficient facilities available in schools,

5. Inform industry owners about the laws prohibiting child labour and the penalties for violating these laws,

6. Activate Balwadis and Aanganwadis in the village so that working mothers do not leave the responsibility of younger children on their older siblings.

7. Motivate Village Education Committees (VECs) to improve the conditions of schools.

Integrated Approach: Child labour and other forms of exploitation are preventable through integrated approaches that strengthen child protection systems as well as simultaneously addressing poverty and inequity, improve access to and quality of education and mobilize public support for respecting children's rights.

Treating Children as Active Stakeholder: Children have the power to play a significant role in preventing and responding to child labour.

They are key actors in child protection and can give valuable insights into how they perceive their involvement and what they expect from the government and other stakeholders

Issues With the Child Labour?

- Cause and Effect Relationship: Child labour and exploitation are the result of many factors, including poverty, social norms condoning them, lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents, migration and emergencies.

- These factors are not only the cause but also a consequence of social inequities reinforced by discrimination.

- Threat to National Economy: The continuing persistence of child labour and exploitation poses a threat to

national economies and has severe negative short and long-term consequences for children such as denial of education and undermining physical and mental health.

- Child Labour in Informal Sector: Though child labour is banned the law, across India child labourer can be found in a variety of informal industries like in brick kilns, carpet weaving, garment making, agriculture, fisheries, etc.

- Disguised Child Labour: Despite rates of child labour declining over the last few years, children are still being used in disguised form of child labour like domestic help.

- Work performed may not appear to be immediately dangerous, but it may produce long-term and devastating consequences for their education, their skills acquisition.

- Hence their future possibilities to overcome the vicious circle of poverty, incomplete education and poor quality jobs.

- Linkage With Child Trafficking: Child trafficking is also linked to child labour and it always results in child abuse.

- Trafficked children are subjected to prostitution, forced into marriage or illegally adopted; they provide cheap or unpaid labour, are forced to work as house servants or beggars and may be recruited into armed groups.

Poverty and Indebtedness:

Poverty is the greatest cause of child labour. For impoverished households, income from a child's work is generally important for his or her own survival or for that of the household.

1. Children are also bonded to labour because of the family indebtedness.

2. Rural poverty and urban migration often expose children to being trafficked for work.

- Adult unemployment and under-employment: high prevalence of adult unemployment and under-employment often force children to work to support the family.

- Illiteracy and Ignorance of parents: Illiteracy of the child's parents further worsens the crisis. Illiteracy and Lack of awareness of the harmful consequences of child labour make them violate the law and put their children under the risk of inhuman exploitation.

- Lack of access to basic and meaningful quality education and skills training:

- The current educational infrastructure is highly unsuitable to children of economically deprived families.

- Furthermore, the deteriorating quality of education has resulted in increasing dropout rates and forced children to engage in work.

- Compulsory education (RTE) does not cover the 15-18 age group (adolescents). However, being illiterate or school dropouts, these children are vulnerable and most exploited for the informal, unskilled and casual workforce.

Demand for child labour:

- Rising demand for child labour particularly in urban areas is an important cause for the prevalence and increase in child labour.

- Children are employed as they are cheap and flexible with respect to the demands of the employer and not aware of their rights.

Cultural factors:

- An expectation that children should contribute to the socio-economic survival of the family and community, as well as the existence of large families, contribute to the prevalence of child labour.

- Children mostly take up family's traditional work from an early age. For instance, a Goldsmith's son takes to gold-smithery, or a carpenter's child takes up carpentry from an early age.

- Social factors: There is a strong correlation between India's differentiated social structure and child labour. The majority of child labourer in India belong to the so called lower castes (SCs), the tribal and Muslim religious minority.

Impacts of child labour?

- Affect childhood: Child labour takes away a child of his/her childhood. It not only denies his/her right to education but also right to leisure.

- Affect adult life: Child labour prevents children from gaining the skills and education they require to have opportunities for decent work when they become an adult.

- Major health and physical risks: as they work long hours and are needed to do tasks for which they are physically and mentally unprepared. Working in hazardous situations adversely impacts a child's physical and mental health and affects intellectual, emotional and psychological development.

- Poverty: Child labour is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Household poverty makes children enter the labour market to earn money = they miss out on an opportunity to get an education = further continuing household poverty across generations in a vicious cycle.

- Affect country as a whole: Existence of a large number of child labourer has long term effect on the economy and it is a serious obstacle to the socio economic welfare of the country.

The International Safeguards against Child Labour?

International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions:

The two Core Conventions directly related to child labour are that of ILO Convention 138 (Minimum age convention) and 182 (Worst forms of Child Labour Convention).

India has ratified both the Core Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions.

Declaration of Rights of Child, 1959:

Universal declaration of human rights 1948 – mentions (under article 25) that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.

The above principles along with other principles of a universal declaration concerning child were incorporated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

It sets out different rights of children- civil, political, economic, cultural, social and health. Article 32 states that the government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.

The measures taken by India?

- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

- Based on the recommendations of the Gurupadaswammy Committee (1979), the Act was passed in 1986. It has the following objectives to prohibit the engagement of children in some

employment and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employment.

Salient features:

1. The Act prohibits children from working in any occupation listed in Part A of the Schedule;

2. For example: Catering at railway establishments, construction work on the railway or anywhere near the tracks, plastics factories, automobile garages, etc.

3. The act also prohibits children from working in places where certain processes are being undertaken, as listed in Part B of the Schedule;

4. For example beedi making, tanning, soap manufacture, brick kilns, and roof tiles units, etc.

5. Part III of the act outlines the conditions in which children may work in occupations/processes not listed in the schedule.

6. Any person who employs any child in contravention of the provisions of section 3 of the Act is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or fine.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016?

1. The Amendment Act completely prohibits the employment of children below 14 years.

2. The amendment also prohibits the employment of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes and regulates their working conditions where they are not prohibited.

3. The amendment also provides stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and making the offence of employing any child or adolescent in contravention of the Act by an employer as cognizable.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017?

1. The rules provide a broad and specific framework for prevention, prohibition, rescue, and rehabilitation of child and adolescent workers.

2. It also clarifies on issues related to helping in family and family enterprises and definition of family with respect to the child.

3. It states that the child shall not perform any tasks during school hours and between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.

4. It also provides for safeguards of artists which have been permitted to work under the Act, in terms of hours of work and working conditions.

5. It states that no child shall be allowed to work for more than 5 times a day, and for not more than 3 hours without rest.

National Policy on Child Labour (1987)?

1. It contains the action plan for tackling the problem of Child Labour.

2. It focuses more on the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes, rather than on prevention.

- The policy consists of three main attributes:
- Legal Action plan–Emphasis will be laid on strict and effective enforcement of legal provisions relating to a child under various Labour laws.
- Focusing on general development program mes-Utilisation of various on-going

development program mes of other Ministries/Departments for the benefit of Child Labour wherever possible.

- Project-based plan of Action– Launching of projects for the welfare of working child in areas of high concentration of child labour.

National Child Labour Project Scheme?

For rehabilitation of child labour, the Government had initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

The NCLP Scheme seeks:

- To eliminate all forms of child labour through identification and withdrawal children from child labour and preparing them for mainstream education along with vocational training
- To contribute to the withdrawal of all adolescent workers from Hazardous Occupations / Processes and their skilling and integration in suitable occupations.Creation of a Child Labour Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting System.

Pencil: The government has launched a dedicated platform viz. pencil.gov.in to ensure effective enforcement of child labour laws and end child labour.

- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 and Amendment of the Act in 2006
- It includes the working child in the category of children in need of care and protection, without any limitation of age or type of occupation.
- Section 23 (cruelty to Juvenile) and Section 26 (exploitation of juvenile employee) specifically deal with child labour under children in need of care and protection.

- The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009): The Act made it mandatory for the state to ensure that all children aged six to 14 years are in school and receive free education.
- Many NGOs like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, ChildFund, CARE India, Talaash Association, Child Rights and You, Global march against child labour, RIDE India, Child line, Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation etc. have been working to eradicate child labour in India.

The Challenges in reducing child labour in India?

Issues with Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016:

- The list of hazardous industries has been drastically decreased, this may allow the employers in industries like chemical mixing units, cotton farms, battery recycling units, and brick kilns, etc. to employ adolescent labour, which they may even get at a much cheaper price.
- Further, the amendment allows a child to be employed in "family or family enterprises".This raises a question over a large number of child labour in agrarian rural India where poor families are trapped in inter generational debt-bondage.
- Definition issue: One of the biggest challenges in eradicating child labour is the confusion around the definition of a child, in terms of age, in various laws dealing with child labour.
- Lack of identification: Age identification of children is a difficult task in India due to the lack of identification documents. Child labourer often lack school registration certificates and birth certificates, creating an easy loophole in

the law to exploit. Most often the children of migrant workers working as labourer and those employed in domestic work go unreported.

Weak enforcement of law and poor governance?

Weak enforcement of the law, lack of adequate deterrence and corruption is a major hurdle in eradicating child labour.

1. Child labour is a vicious circle of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and low wages.
2. There should be a concerted effort towards social protection program mes and cash transfers to improve the economic situation of families and to reduce the "need" to send children to work.
3. There is an urgent need to revamp educational infrastructure- to ensure access to educational institutions, improvement in quality and relevance of education
4. There is a need to bring uniformity in existing Indian laws dealing with child labour.

5. The laws must expand the definition of a child by prohibiting the employment of and ensuring free and compulsory education (RTE, Act, 2009) for children below 18 years.
6. There is a need to launch a national campaign to invoke public interest and large-scale awareness on the exploitation of children and the menace of child labour.
7. The government should take adequate measures to raise awareness among families and communities.
8. Parental literacy can play an important role in ensuring the rights of children are upheld.
9. Elimination of child labour demands commitment from the society e.g. family, state, civil society and those who employ children in any enterprises.
10. Children belong in schools not workplaces. Child labour deprives children of their right to go to school and reinforces inter generational cycles of poverty. Child labour acts as a major barrier to education, affecting both attendance and performance in school.

POVERTY

Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met.

- Poverty is the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.
- Poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs
  - In this context, the identification of poor people first requires a determination of what constitutes basic needs
  - These may be defined as narrowly as "those necessary for survival" or as broadly as "those reflecting the prevailing standard of living in the community."
- On the basis of social, economic and Political aspects, Poverty can be classified as follows:

Absolute poverty
  - Also known as extreme poverty or abject poverty, it involves the **scarcity of basic** food, clean water, health, shelter, education and information.
    - Those who belong to absolute poverty tend to struggle to live and experience a lot of child deaths from preventable diseases
  - Absolute Poverty is usually uncommon in **developed countries**.
  - It was first introduced in 1990, the "dollar a day" poverty line measured absolute poverty by the standards of the world's poorest countries; which in 2015, was changed to $1.90 a day, by the World Bank.
    - This number is controversial; therefore each nation has its own threshold for absolute poverty line.

Relative Poverty
  - It is defined from the social perspective, that is living standard compared to the economic standards of population living in surroundings. Hence it is a measure of **income inequality**
  - Usually, relative poverty is measured as the percentage of the population with income less than some fixed proportion of median income
  - It is a widely used measure to ascertain poverty rates in wealthy developed nations.

Situational Poverty
- It is a temporary type of poverty based on occurrence of an adverse event like environmental disaster, job loss and severe health problem

- People can help themselves even with a small assistance, as the poverty comes because of unfortunate event

Generational Poverty

- It is handed over to individual and families from one generation to the one.
- This is more complicated, as there is no escape because the people are trapped in its cause and are unable to access the tools required to get out of it

Rural Poverty

- This occurs in rural areas, where there are less job opportunities, less access to services, less support for disabilities and quality education opportunities
- People here tend to live mostly on farming and other menial work available in the surroundings.

Urban Poverty

- The major challenges faced by the Urban people, because of Poverty include:
- Limited access to health and education
- Inadequate housing and services
- Violent and unhealthy environment because of overcrowding
- Little or no social protection mechanism.
- The **National Planning Committee of 1936** noted the appalling poverty of undivided India
  - There was lack of food, of clothing, of housing and of every other essential requirement of human existence.
- At the **time of Independence** the incidence of poverty in India was about **80% or about 250 million**
- After Independence, the reports published estimated poverty rates in 1950s as cyclical and a strong function of each year's harvest
- In 1956-57, India's poverty rates was computed to be 65%(215 million people)

Various expert groups constituted by the Planning Commission have estimated the number of people living in poverty in India

Working Group (1962)

- The poverty line in India was quantified for the first time in 1962, by this Group in terms of a minimum requirement (food and non-food) of individuals for healthy living
- The Group formulated separate poverty lines for rural and urban areas (₹20 and ₹25 per capita per month respectively in terms of 1960-61 prices) without any regional variation
- The poverty line excluded expenditure on health and education, both of which, were to be provided by the State

Study by VM Dandekar and N Rath (1971)

- Although this was not a study commissioned by the Planning Commission, the origins of India's poverty line lie in the seminal work of these two economists
- They first established the consumption levels required to meet a minimum calorie norm, of 2,250 calories per capita per day
- Unlike previous scholars who had considered subsistence living or basic minimum needs criteria as the measure of poverty line, they derived poverty line from the expenditure adequate to provide 2250 calories per day in both rural and urban areas
- They found poverty lines to be Rs. 15 per capita per month for rural households and Rs. 22.5 per capita per month for urban households at 1960-61 prices

Task Force on "Projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" headed by Dr. Y. K. Alagh (1979)

- Official poverty counts began for the **first time in India** based on the approach of this Task Force
- **Poverty line** was defined as the per capita consumption expenditure level to meet

average per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 kcal per capita per day in urban areas

- Based on 1973-74 prices, the Task Force set the rural and urban poverty lines at 49.09 and Rs.56.64 per capita per month at 1973-74 prices.

Lakdawala Expert Group (1993)

- It did not redefine the poverty line and retained the separate rural and urban poverty lines recommended by the Alagh Committee at the national level based on minimum nutritional requirements.

- However, it **disaggregated** them into state-specific poverty lines in order to reflect the inter-state price differentials

- Over the years, this method lost credibility. The price data were flawed and successive poverty lines failed to preserve the original calorie norms

Tendulkar Expert Group (2009)

- The Tendulkar Committee suggested several changes to the way poverty was measured

  o It recommended a shift away from basing the poverty lines from calorie norms used in all poverty towards target nutritional outcomes instead

  o Instead of two separate poverty line baskets (PLBs) for rural and urban poverty lines, it recommended a uniform all-India urban PLB across rural and urban India.

  o It recommended using Mixed Reference Period (MRP) based estimates, as opposed to Uniform Reference Period (URP) based estimates used in earlier methods for estimating poverty.

  o It recommended incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty.

o It validated the poverty lines by checking the adequacy of actual private consumption expenditure per capita near the poverty line on food, education and health by comparing them with normative expenditures consistent with nutritional, educational and health outcomes respectively.

o Instead of monthly household consumption, consumption expenditure was broken up into per person per day consumption, resulting in the figure of Rs 32 and Rs 26 a day for urban and rural areas.

o As a result, the national poverty line for 2011-12 was estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 1,000 per capita per month for urban areas

Rangrajan Committee (2014)

- Due to widespread criticism of Tendulkar Committee approach as well as due to changing times and aspirations of people of India, Rangarajan Committee was set up in 2012

- It **reverted** to the practice of having separate all-India rural and urban poverty line baskets and deriving state-level rural and urban estimates from these.

- It recommended **separate consumption baskets** for rural and urban areas which include food items that ensure recommended calorie, protein & fat intake and non-food items like clothing, education, health, housing and transport.

- This committee raised the daily per capita expenditure to Rs 47 for urban and Rs 32 for rural from Rs 32 and Rs 26 respectively at 2011-12 prices

- Monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 972 in rural areas and Rs. 1407 in urban areas is recommended as the poverty line at the all India level
- However, The government did not take a call on the report of the Rangarajan Committee
- Since the early 1950s, the government of India has initiated, sustained, and refined various planning schemes to help the poor attain self-sufficiency in acquisition of food and overcome hunger and poverty
- All the **Five year plans** introduced in India, had elements in them to reduce Poverty; of which the following Five year plans(FYP) had explicit provisions in them aimed at Poverty alleviation:

Fifth Plan (1974–1978)
- It laid stress on employment, **poverty alleviation (Garibi Hatao)**, and justice
- It also assured a minimum income of Rs. 40 per person per month calculated at 1972-73 prices

Seventh Plan (1985–1990)
- The thrust areas of the Seventh Five-Year Plan were: social justice, removal of oppression of the weak, using modern technology, agricultural development, **anti-poverty programmes**, full supply of food, clothing, and shelter, increasing productivity of small- and large-scale farmers, and making India an independent economy
- From perspective of Poverty, it aimed at **improving the living standards of the poor** with a significant reduction in the incidence of poverty.

Eighth Plan (1992–1997)
- The major objectives included, controlling population growth, poverty reduction, employment generation, etc.

Ninth Plan (1997–2002)
- It offered strong support to the social spheres of the country in an effort to **achieve the complete elimination of poverty**

Tenth Plan (2002–2007)
- One of the main objectives of the plan, was Reduction of poverty rate by 5% by 2007

Scheme/Programme	Year	Objective/Provisions
Public Distribution System	Pre-Independence	• This scheme was first started in 1945, during the Second World War, and was launched in the current form after 1947 • After the increase in Agricultural production after Green Revolution, the outreach of PDS has been extended to tribal blocks, and areas of high poverty incidence in the 1970s and 1980s
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	1978	• It was among the world's most ambitious programs to alleviate rural poverty by providing **income-generating assets** to the

		poorest of the poor • Major objective of the scheme was to raise families of identified target group below the poverty line, by creating sustainable opportunities for self-employment in the rural sector
Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme	1983	• This was launched to generate additional employment opportunities for the landless people in the villages.
Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana	1985	• The scheme aimed at creating 20 lakh housing units, by giving out loans to people at subsidised rates to make houses • It improved the standard of living of rural areas: health, primary education, drinking water, housing, and roads; thereby alleviating some aspects of poverty and addressing the issue of development in the rural areas
Jawahar Rozgar Yojna	1989	• This was launched with the objective of providing 90-100 Days Employment per person particularly in backward districts People below Poverty Line were main targets
Revamped Public Distribution System	1992	• The Revamped PDS was launched in 1992, with a view to strengthen and streamline the PDS as well as to improve its reach in far-flung, hilly, remote and inaccessible areas where substantial section of poor live
Targeted Public Dsitribution System(TPDS)	1997	• In 1997 RPDS became TPDS (Targeted PDS) which established **Fair Price Shops** for the distribution of food grains at subsidized rates • The primary goal was to distribute essential food commodities like rice, wheat and kerosene at highly subsidized rates to the people living below the poverty line. This poverty alleviation scheme has helped in addressing the issue of food insecurity in rural areas of India.
National Maternity Benefit Scheme	1999-2000	• It is for families below the poverty line • This scheme provides a sum of ₹6000 to a pregnant mother in three instalments • The scheme was updated in 2005-06 into **Janani Suraksha Yojana**

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)	1999	• The main aim of this program was the development of infrastructure rural areas like roads, schools and hospitals • Its secondary objective was to give out sustained wage employment
Annapurna scheme	1999-2000	• This scheme was started to provide food to senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves and are not under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), and who have no one to take care of them in their village • The scheme mostly targeted groups of 'poorest of the poor and 'indigent senior citizens'
Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	2000	• This scheme provides foodgrains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2.00 per kg for wheat and Rs.3.00 per kg for rice to the poor families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)	2001	• This was a scheme launched by the Government of India to gain the objective of providing gainful employment for the rural poor • It was launched by merging the provisions of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) The programme is self-targeting in nature and aims to provide employment and food to people in rural areas who lived below the poverty line
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	2005	• It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least **100 days** of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work • Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells) • Through the process of providing employment on works that address causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, the Act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of

		rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. Effectively implemented, MGNREGA has the potential to **transform the geography of poverty**
National Rural Livelihood Mission	2011	• Launched with the objective, "To reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self- employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong and sustainable grassroots institutions of the poor."
National Urban Livelihood Mission	2013	• It focuses on organizing urban poor into Self Help Groups, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)	2016	• It was launched to distribute 50 million LPG connections to women of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

Eleventh Plan (2007–2012)

• It aimed at Rapid and Inclusive growth(Poverty reduction)

Twelfth Plan (2012–2017)

• The government intended to reduce poverty by 10% during the tenure of the plan

The major Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India since Independence are as follows:

India embarked on economic reforms 1991 – the **positive impacts** of which, on poverty are as follows:

• A **World Bank study** reveals that poverty declined by 1.36 percentage points per annum after 1991, compared to that of 0.44 percentage points per annum prior to 1991

    o Their study shows that among other things, **urban growth** is the most important contributor to the rapid reduction in poverty even though rural areas showed growth in the post-reform period

• The second conclusion is that in the post-reform period, **poverty declined faster** in the 2000s than in the 1990s

    o The official estimates based on Tendulkar committee's poverty lines shows that poverty declined only 0.74 percentage points per annum during 1993-94 to 2004-05

    o But poverty declined by 2.2 percentage points per annum during 2004-05 to 2011-12. Around 138 million people were lifted above the poverty line during this period

    o This indicates the **success of reforms** in reducing poverty

• The **poverty of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** also declined faster in the 2000s.

    o The Rangarajan committee report also showed faster reduction in poverty during 2009-10 to 2011-12

- Consequentially, Higher economic growth, agriculture growth, rural non-farm employment, increase in real wages for rural labourers, employment in construction and programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) contributed to higher poverty reduction in the 2000s compared to the 1990s.

Other **negative impacts** of LPG relating to poverty, that need to be accounted for, are as follows:

- Poverty declined faster but **inequality increased** in the post-reform period
- India still has 300 million people below the poverty line
- The Gini coefficient measured in terms of consumption for rural India increased marginally from 0.29 in 1993-94 to 0.31 in 2011-12
  - There was a significant rise in the Gini coefficient for urban areas from 0.34 to 0.39 during the same period

Heavy pressure of population
  - India's population was 84.63 crores in 1991 and became 102.87 crores in 2001
  - Rapid population growth causes excessive **sub-division and fragmentation** of holdings. As a result, **per capita availability of land** has greatly declined and households do not have access to sufficient land to produce enough output and income for them.
  - Rapid growth in population in India since 1951 has caused lower growth in per capita income causing lower living standards of the people

Unemployment and under employment
- Due to continuous rise in population, there is chronic unemployment and under employment in India.
- There is **educated unemployment and disguised unemployment**, and Poverty is just a reflection of this aspect

Lack of Inclusive Economic Growth
- The first important reason for mass poverty prevailing in India is lack of adequate economic growth in India
- Despite increase in National Income and Savings rate since independence, poverty in India did not reduce sufficiently as:
  - **industrial growth** did not generate much employment opportunities
  - Growth strategy mainly **benefitted the rich**, than aiding the poor
  - **Capital intensive and labour-displacing technology** was adopted in the growing industries. As a result, unemployment and underemployment increased
  - Besides, due to the increase in income inequalities during this period, rise in average per capita income could not bring about significant rise in per capita income of the weaker sections of the society
  - Further, **trickledown effect** of overall economic growth was operating only to a small extent

Sluggish Agricultural Performance and Poverty
- The experience of Punjab and Haryana shows that, the agricultural growth through use of new high yielding technology (during Green revolution), poverty ratio can be significantly reduced
- However, in various states of the country such as Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, East Uttar Pradesh, where poverty

ratio is still very high; new high-yielding technology has **not been adopted** on a significant scale and as a result agricultural performance has not been good. As a result, poverty prevails to a larger extent in them.

- Further, Indian policy makers have **neglected public sector investment in agriculture**, particularly irrigation
  - As a result, irrigation facilities whose availability ensures adoption of new high-yielding technology and leads to higher productivity, income and employment, are available in not more than 33 per cent of cultivable land
  - As a result, many parts of the country **remain semi-arid and rain-fed** areas, where agricultural productivity, income and employment are not sufficient to ensure significant reduction in poverty

Non-implementation of Land Reforms

- Equitable access to land is an important measure of poverty reduction
  - Access to adequate land, a productive asset, is necessary for fuller employment of members of an agricultural household
- Most of the rural poor are agricultural labourers (who are generally landless) and self-employed small farmers owning less than 2 acres of land
  - They also are unable to find employment throughout the year. As a result, they remain unemployed and under-employed for a large number of days in a year

Inflation and Food Prices

- Inflation, especially rise in food prices, raises the cost of minimum consumption expenditure required to meet the basic needs. Thus, inflation pushes down many households below the poverty line

As **assessment of Poverty Alleviation programmes**, state three major areas of concern which prevent their successful implementation

- Due to unequal distribution of land and other assets, the benefits from direct poverty alleviation programmes have been appropriated by the non-poor
- Compared to the magnitude of poverty, the **amount of resources allocated** for these programmes is not sufficient
- The programmes depend mainly on government and bank officials for their implementation. Since such officials are ill motivated, inadequately trained, **corruption** prone and vulnerable to pressure from a variety of local elites, the resources are **inefficiently used** and wasted
- There is also non-participation of local level institutions in programme implementation
- **Overlapping of similar government schemes** is a major cause of ineffectiveness as it leads to confusion among poor people and authorities and the benefits of the scheme do not reach the poor.
- The poverty alleviation program **may not properly identify and target the exact number of poor families** in rural areas. As a result, some of the families who are not registered under these programs are benefited by the facilities rather than the eligible ones

Shortage of Capital and Able Entrepreneurship

- Capital and able entrepreneurship have important role in accelerating the growth. But these are in short supply making it difficult to increase production significantly, when compared to other developing countries

Social Factors

- The social set up is still backward and is not conducive to faster development.
- Laws of inheritance, caste system, traditions and customs are putting hindrances in the way of faster development and have aggravated the problem of poverty

More Citizen participation

- Without the active participation of the poor, successful implementation of any programme is not possible
- Poverty can effectively be eradicated only when the poor start contributing to growth by their **active involvement** in the growth process.
- This is possible through a process of **social mobilisation**, encouraging poor people to participate to get them empowered

Accelerating Economic Growth

- While efforts should be made to accelerate economic growth, the use of capital-intensive technologies imported from the Western Countries should be avoided
- Instead, we should pursue **labour-intensive path** of economic growth.
- Such **monetary and fiscal policies** should be adopted that provide incentives for using labour-intensive techniques

Agricultural Growth and Poverty Alleviation

- The higher agricultural growth leads to lower poverty ratio. The experience of Punjab and Haryana has confirmed this inverse relation between agriculture growth and poverty.
  - It is also true that, all India level employment generated by new green revolution technology has been **cancelled out** by increasing mechanisation of agricultural operations in various parts of a country

  - Thus, in the light of the finding of **zero employment elasticity** of agricultural output, positive impact of agricultural growth on the incomes of small farmers and, more particularly on the wage income of agricultural labourers, cannot be denied
  - Hence, the **need to balance** between the two aspects
- Also, there is need to increase public investment in infrastructure and ensure adequate **access to credit** to the small farmers

Accelerating Human Resource Development

- Focus on **Education, Health and Skill development**, not only generates a good deal of employment opportunities but also raises productivity and income of the poor
- Hence, the need of efficient implementation of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) etc, going forward

Growth of Non-Farm Employment

- For reduction of poverty, growth of non-farm employment in the rural areas is of special importance.
- Non-farm employment can be created in marketing (i.e., petty trade), transportation, handicrafts, dairying, and forestry, processing of food and other agricultural products, repair workshops, etc.

Providing access to more Assets to vulnerable sections

- Rapid growth of population after independence has led to greater sub-division and fragmentation of agricultural holdings, and this has resulted in lack of employment opportunities for agricultural labourers
- Redistribution of land through effective measures, such as implementation of **tenancy reforms** so as to ensure

security of tenure and fixation of fair rent could be an important measure of reducing rural poverty

- Poverty alleviation has always been accepted as one of India's main challenges by the policy makers
- There is improvement in terms of per capita income and average standard of living; even though some progress towards meeting the basic needs has been made; But when compared to the progress made by many other countries, our performance has not been impressive
- Hence, the need of actions to enable the fruits of development to reach all sections of the population

SANITATION

Introduction:

1. SANITATION POLICY OF INDIA, SCHEMES

- India's first nationwide program for rural sanitation, the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), was launched in 1986 with the objective of improving the quality of life of rural people.

- Later, during the turn of the century in the year 1999, a demand-driven, low-cost sanitation approach with focus on a mass level campaign was launched. This is popularly known as, "Total Sanitation Campaign –TSC'. It promotes the ending of open defecation; safe disposal of human excreta, better hygiene practices, solid and liquid waste management as well as rural environmental sanitation. It aims at achieving TOTAL SANITATION by the year 2012. Sanitation and hygiene education in rural schools is being promoted.

Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP)

Following the success of TSC program, the Government of India (GOI) introduced the Nirmal Gram Puraskar (Clean Village Award) in October 2003. Villages (Gram Panchayats) are eligible to apply for this award on achieving collective outcomes such as universal coverage of toilets and free from open defecation, school sanitation coverage and the maintenance of a 'clean environment'. Reward for a village is based on population size. The numbers of NGP awards have increased dramatically. It was 4 in the year 2005, 770 in the year 2006 and 4,959 in the year 2007.

Goals

An ambitious goal has been set in 1999 by the GOI to increase coverage in all the 578 rural districts of the country. The goals included, catalyzing of the construction of (i) 118 million

toilets at the household level (ii) 11.2 million toilets for schools, (iii) 0.4 million toilets for child care centers, (iv) 28,000 community level sanitary complexes and (v) 4,000 rural sanitary marts/production centers.

These efforts have resulted in significant changes in the status of the sanitation in the country. In 2001, the year of the national census, India had toilet coverage of about 21 percent.

- Safe sanitation is one of the foundations of a healthy, comfortable and dignified life. Yet, the reality for billions of people are living without safe sanitation facilities like toilets, waste treatment, disposal and safe re-use.

- The United Nations adopted water and sanitation as the human rights and started celebrating **World Toilet Day in 2013** focuses on sustainable sanitation and climate change.

- **November 19 is annually celebrated as World Toilet Day** to raise awareness about access to hygienic toilets and the human costs of unsafe sanitation.

- It is about taking action **to tackle the global sanitation crisis** and achieve Sustainable Development **Goal 6:** water and sanitation for all by 2030.

The state of sanitation in India:

- Poor sanitation, unsafe water sources, and no access to hand washing facilities are among the top factors in India.
- The list being topped by high blood pressure, air pollution, high blood sugar and smoking.

- A high proportion of the population does not have access to "improved sanitation".
    - **Improved sanitation** is defined as facilities that "**ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact"**.
    - This includes facilities such as flush/pour flush (to piped sewer system, septic tank, pit latrine), ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine, pit latrine with slab, and a composting toilet.
- **Only 40% of the population had access to improved sanitation**.
    - This is much lower than its neighbours such as Sri Lanka (95%) and Pakistan and Bangladesh (both over 60%).
- At 40% access, India is clubbed with countries such as Zimbabwe and Kenya, and is below countries such as Zambia and Senegal.

Background:

- Sanitation had been a **key priority in India from the ancient times**.
- Focus on sanitation and hygiene were defined as important priorities in Vedic
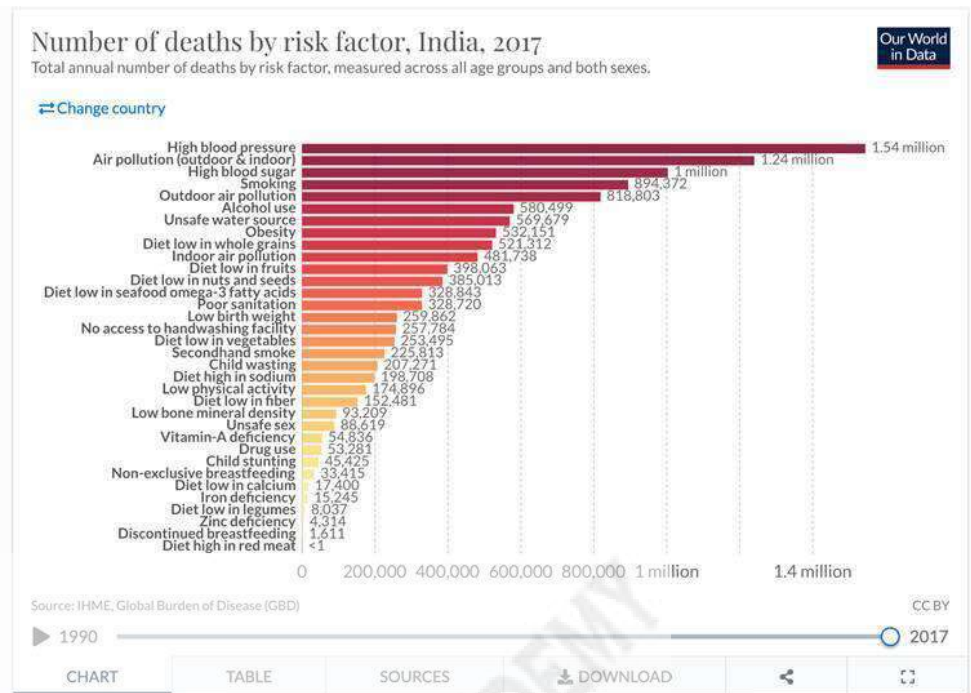
scriptures. Ancient civilisations like the one in Indus Valley were also known **prioritise sanitation by building toilets**.

- The gradual increase in rural poverty under colonial role, rise of urban spaces and population also acted as key factors as to why sanitation lost priority.
- During colonial rule, **sanitation was not seen as a priority by the rulers for their subjects**.
- In 1865, a **sanitation police was established under the Military Cantonments Act** and for the first time, sanitary boards were created in each province to look after civil sanitation conditions.
- Post-independence, the **Five Year Plans focused on public health and sanitation**, with Union budgets allocating significant amounts for the same.

Rural Sanitation in India:

Challenges:

Coverage of toilets does not translate to usage of toilets:

- The programme had **focused on construction of household toilets** and promotion of pour-flush toilets.
- However, there was a lack of focus on behaviour change towards the use of toilets.

Variability of location-specific issues and hence solutions would also be different:

- People living in challenging topography and climate, face technical issues for sanitation options.
- The variability of behaviour with regard to sanitation has been a prevalent issue in India

Lack of water supply for toilets:

- The lack of water supply for toilets can increase the risk of **faeco-oral contamination**.
- The lack of water supply for sanitation is a key issue **leading to non-usage of toilets.**

Improper solid and liquid waste management:

- Management of liquid and solid waste generated from these toilets as well as other pre-existing toilets poses various challenges for rural sanitation.
- Majority of the rural India lacks sewerage systems.
- The septic tanks and soak pits are **often faulty and not maintained properly**; unscientific management and **inadequate frequency of cleaning** causing unhygienic conditions.

Inappropriate toilet technologies:

- The use of inappropriate toilet technologies would result in the sanitation systems failing and hence their usage would further result in

contamination causing serious health hazards.

- Slippage from Open Defecation Free (ODF) status could happen when people stop using the toilets either because the toilet sub-structure is faulty or the super-structure is very claustrophobic or the appropriate technologies for treating toilet waste are not available.

Integrating WASH solution for health: Unhygienic conditions and practices:

- There is an interdependent nature of outcomes of dealing with poverty, nutrition, inequality, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene as failures in either threatens the sustainable well-being of all.

Discrepancies between reported data and ground realities.

Long-term sustainability of interventions through strategies and plans for community ownership (of resources):

- It had been observed that a large proportion of people who have access to toilet can experience major failings in access, sometimes within relatively short periods.
- In some rural areas, the beneficiaries of sanitation interventions lack support and reliable financing, which can easily lead to inadequate maintenance, breakdowns, and result in dysfunctional toilets.

Gender Considerations:

- A lot remains to be done in making rural women and adolescent girls actually use the toilets at home/school and follow hygiene habits in a sustainable manner for better health and quality of life outcomes.

Recommendations:

Regulatory

- The **ODF verification guidelines should be followed** meticulously and

only if all the criteria are met, then the ODF status should be granted.

- On any kind of deviation, the ODF status should be suspended.
- **Regular periodical surveys by trained personnel** needs to be conducted for ODF data credibility.

Institutional

- **Dysfunctional toilets** have been one of the key reasons for slippage from ODF; there is a need to assess for non-usability and appropriate actions should be taken accordingly.
- Efforts **to develop human resources for sanitation** are required through proper training like training masons-cum-plumbers etc.
- From time-to-time, campaigns need to be designed for awareness generation of communities.
- It is also essential for the Panchayat to engage/contract a person for maintenance and repair of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) at the time of construction (rather than look for a person after the toilet becomes dysfunctional).

Management

- **Behavioural change** is a key component towards achieving safe sanitation.
- **Sustained behaviour change campaigns** at the community levels as well as household levels can bring about a change in the mindset of people.
- There is a need **to build capacity for the safe management** of faecal waste generated from onsite containment systems.
- Opportunities for Field service management (FSM) should be identified, with due consideration to the

economy of scale to ensure sustainability of services.

- There is a need to prioritise the repair/retrofit/modify of defective sanitation technology to ensure that there is safe management of generated waste.

Urban Sanitation in India:

Challenges:

- Rapid urbanisation and need for a policy for urbanising areas such as the census towns and Nagar Panchayats.
- Inadequate maintenance
- Ineffective management of faecal waste
- Rising groundwater contamination
- Over-dependence on centralized waste water management
- Maintenance and upgradation of STP/Waste treatment facilities
- Need for capacity building of officials.
- Management and accountability by ULB officials.
- Climate proofing of sanitation infrastructure.
- Non-inclusion of urban poor in decision making.
- Gender considerations.

Recommendations:

Regulatory

- Development of **Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) strategy** in all the ULBs and roll out relevant action plans.
- The current policies **do not emphasize or incorporate efforts to reuse treated waste**, reduce energy in construction and O&M, promote sustainable materials, and processes.
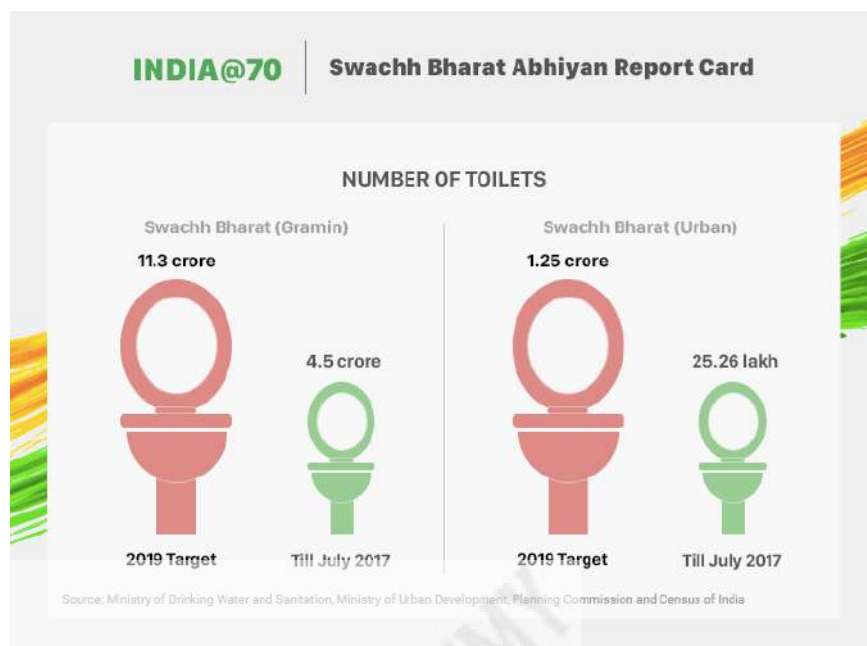
Institutional

- There is a need **to enhance on-site sanitation and support small-scale sanitation** providers including capacity building and assessment of skills of local implementing agencies.

- The WASH ecosystem in each of the ULBs developed under the SBM, AMRUT programmes **should be harmonized with the stakeholders** in each of the ULBs for sustainability of the urban WASH services.
- Upkeep and O&M of sanitation facilities must be sustainably managed through innovative business models.
- Separation of solid and liquid at source (for PT/CTs), local and decentralized treatment of wastewater and reuse are all viable options that can reduce costs and improve the environment.
- The Urban Local Bodies (ULB) should consider **implementing the innovations** identified by ULBs through sustained Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support.
- There must be **systematic documentation and dissemination** of best practices at the State level.
- **Sewage management needs to be improved** through **use of modern technology** and decentralized treatment/management plants.

Management

- **Monitoring and measuring the progress, status**, and use of latrines at the household level.
- **Advanced level of trainings and capacity building programmes** need to be organised, so that they can effectively monitor the WASH-related activities in their domain.
- There is a need for **scaling demonstrative effects of safe, effective, and sustainable FSM solutions** in the country.

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NUMBER OF TOILETS

Swachh Bharat (Gramin)
11.3 crore — 2019 Target
4.5 crore — Till July 2017

Swachh Bharat (Urban)
1.25 crore — 2019 Target
25.26 lakh — Till July 2017

Source: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Urban Development, Planning Commission and Census of India

- Different finance options **to scale up Government of India's public-private-participation (PPP) promotion** as well as **improving activities to manage State assets** more efficiently.

Consequences of poor sanitation:

Health impacts:

- **Diarrhoea,** a major public health concern and a leading cause of disease and death among children under five years of age in low- and middle-income countries. This includes cholera, an acute diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated.
- **Neglected tropical diseases** such as soil-transmitted helminth infections, schistosomiasis and trachoma, which account for a significant burden of disease globally.
- **Vector-borne diseases** such as West Nile virus or lymphatic filariasis (through poor sanitation facilitating the proliferation of Culex mosquitos).
- **Stunting,** which affects almost one quarter of children under five years of age globally through several mechanisms, including repeated diarrhoea, helminth infections and environmental enteric dysfunction

related to unsanitary conditions, and leads to poor physical and cognitive development.

- **Antimicrobial resistance**, by increasing the risk of preventable infections that are treated with antibiotics and by spreading excreted resistant organisms in the environment though untreated wastewater and sludge.
- **Anaemia and spontaneous abortion and pre-term birth** associated with soil-transmitted helminth infections (worms).

Social impacts:

- **Dignity:** The ability to manage bodily functions, including urination, defecation and menstruation, is at the core of dignity.
  o A complete lack of service, forcing people to resort to open defecation, presents the greatest indignity. Similarly, crowded or poorly-managed shared sanitation facilities may increase exposure to health risks and may lead to reduced dignity, privacy and safety, especially for women, girls and those with limited mobility.
- **Poverty:** The poor **are less likely to benefit from public investments** in sanitation, and their health is disproportionately impacted by lack of sanitation.
  o Poor and marginalized groups tend to live 'downstream,' making them disproportionately affected by other people's unmanaged faecal waste.
- **Disability:** People with disabilities and people who experience incontinence suffer additional affronts to their

dignity from a lack of appropriate sanitation services.

- **Safety:** Poor access to sanitation services can expose vulnerable groups – particularly women and girls – to sexual, psychological and physical violence.
- **Gender:** Poor sanitation increases health risks that are specific to women.
  o For instance, women who suffer from worm infections and other diseases may become anaemic and undernourished, increasing the risk of maternal death.
- **Education:** Poor sanitation has been shown to act as a barrier to school attendance and enrolment in many countries.

Economic Impacts:

- Significant financial costs can result from **sickness and death related to poor sanitation**:
  o Out-of-pocket payments and travel costs for households seeking health care.
  o Government subsidies implicit in public health care provision.
  o Income losses associated with sickness.
  o Lost productivity due to time spent seeking a place for open defecation.
- Coping costs resulting from environmental and water resource pollution such as water treatment or switching to a more expensive but cleaner water source.
- It found thateconomic losses from poor sanitation and **inadequate water supply would be equivalent to 0.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** between regions, or 1.3 per cent globally.

ECONOMIC LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH INADEQUATE SANITATION BY REGION, AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP, 2012
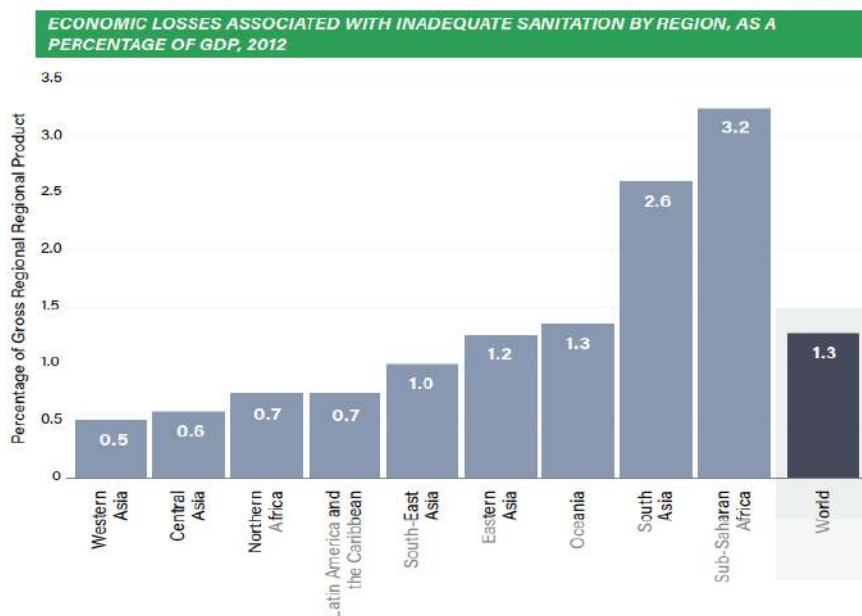
- According to **the World Health Organization**, "every **dollar spent on sanitation yields about \$9** in savings on treatment, health-care costs and gains from more productive days".

Recently, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 10-year Rural Sanitation Strategy starting from 2019 up to 2029.

- The strategy has been **prepared by DDWS,** in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders.
- It lays down a framework to guide local governments, policy-makers, implementers and other relevant stakeholders in their planning for **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus** status, where **everyone uses a toilet,** and every village has **access to solid and liquid waste management.**
- The strategy aims to **sustain the behavioral change** regarding sanitation that has been achieved under the **Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen** (SBM-G) and ensure that the **focus is shifted to**

increasing access to solid and liquid waste management in the rural areas of the country.

- The 10-year strategy also demands focused intervention through capacity strengthening, IEC (Information, Education, and Communication), organic waste management, plastic waste management, and water management.
- **Public financing** has played an important role in the ODF journey but for the maintenance of toilets and infrastructure, the need is there for innovative models for **sanitation financing.**
  - With regard to waste management elements, there will have to be a **convergence of funds from the Centre, states, Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs)** and alternative sources of financing, **including private funds.**
  - Discussions are still underway on the budget requirement and whether funds will be disbursed via a centrally sponsored scheme or through Finance Commission transfers to PRIs.
  - The strategy highlights the potential collaborations with development partners, civil society and intergovernmental partnerships.

Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF+, ODF++ Status

- **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of

the day, not even a single person is found **defecating in the open.**

- **ODF+:** This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found **defecating and/or urinating in the open,** and all community and public **toilets are functional and well maintained.**

- **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is already ODF+ and the **faecal sludge/septage and sewage** are safely **managed and treated,** with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.

Background

- India has seen a sanitation revolution in the form of SBM-G that transformed itself into a **Jan Andolan** (a people's movement).
- Since the launch of the **SBM-G** in 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas.
  - Till now, over 5.9 lakh villages in 699 districts and 37 States/UTs have declared themselves as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

Way Forward

- It is because of the SBM-G that India is now an inspiration, in terms of sanitation for other countries.
- To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2019, the Central government is ready to dedicate a Swachh Bharat to India.
  - o To ensure this, the State Governments have been advised to take a note that no one is left behind, and in case any household does not have access to a toilet, they are

facilitated to build a toilet on priority.

Conclusion:

- It is true that **no sanitation mission in India has been completely successful**, yet each of them has been learning curves for the next mission, which tried to improve upon the flaws of the previous ones.

- It is all about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

2. **ROLE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN SANITATION SCHEMES**

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH SCHEME – 2005

i. The project was started to meet the health needs of people in the village who do not get enough government benefits.

ii. It started by highlighting 18 states with the weakest health index in the country.

iii. It ensured drinking water, sanitation, education, nutrition and gender balance.

Objectives:

1. Setting IMR = 30 / 1000
2. Bringing MMR = 100 / 100000
3. Reducing the number of deaths due to malaria and dengue
4. Eradication of filariasis by 2015
5. Recovery of tuberculosis patients increased to 85 mo
6. To provide uniform medical quality in all community health centres
7. Making medical facilities available to all people through Panchayats
8. A new concept has been introduced in the scheme.
9. According to this the mission of Aksha is to disseminate information about health (m) preventive drugs to women in rural areas.

10. Expenditure on health was urged to be 23% of GDP

Project Successes:

1. Eradication of Polio

2. Vaccination against Japanese N. cephalitis was administered to 9 million children.

3. Eradication of transmitted tetanus in children

4. 2 million deliveries took place in primary health centers or (a) hospitals.

5. Health programs were initiated in schools through 1 mn 'Village Healthand Hygiene Committees'.

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.

It is a restructured version of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2009.

Phase 1 of the Swachh Bharat Mission lasted till October 2019.

Phase 2 is being implemented between 2020–21 and 2024–25.

The mission aimed to achieve an "open-defecation free" (ODF) India by 2 October 2019, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi through construction of toilets.

The objectives of the first phase of the mission:

- Eradication of manual scavenging.
- Generating awareness and bringing about a behaviour change regarding sanitation practices.
- Building capacity at the local level.

The second phase of the mission aims

- to sustain the open defecation free status
- improve the management of solid and liquid waste

- while also working to improve the lives of sanitation workers.

Under the scheme, the Government provides subsidies for constructing toilets, waste management structures, and awareness campaigns to bring behaviour change.

The campaign is financed by the Government of India and state governments.

The mission is split into two: Rural and Urban.

In rural areas "SBM - Gramin" is financed and monitored through the **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

In Urban areas "SBM - urban" is overseen by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

Data:

- According to UNICEF, the number of people without a toilet has been reduced from 550 million to 50 million.
- The World Bank reports that 96% of Indians who have a toilet use it.
- The top five performing states are Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh where maximum number of villages have been declared as ODF Plus.

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)

About:

It was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation.

The mission was implemented as nation-wide campaign/Janandolan which aimed at eliminating open defecation in rural areas.

Swachh Bharat Mission (G) Phase-I:

The rural sanitation coverage in the country at the time of launch of SBM (G) on 2nd October, 2014 was reported as 38.7%.

More than 10 crore individual toilets have been constructed since the launch of the mission, as a result, rural areas in all the States have declared themselves ODF as on 2nd October, 2019.

SBM(G) Phase-II:

It emphasizes the sustainability of achievements under phase I and to provide adequate facilities for Solid/Liquid & plastic Waste Management (SLWM) in rural India.

It will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 in a mission mode with a total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores.

The SLWM component of ODF Plus will be monitored on the basis of output-outcome indicators for 4 key areas:

Plastic waste management,

Biodegradable solid waste management (including animal waste management),

Greywater (Household Wastewater) management

Fecal sludge management.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban

About:

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched on October 2, 2014, by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as a national campaign to promote cleanliness, sanitation, and proper waste management in urban areas.

It aimed to make cities and towns across India clean and free from open defecation.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 1.0:

The first phase of SBM-U focused on achieving the target of making urban India ODF by providing access to toilets and promoting behavioral change.

SBM-U 1.0 was successful in achieving the target and 100% of urban India was declared ODF.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (2021-2026):

SBM-U 2.0, announced in Budget 2021-22, is the continuation of SBM-U first phase.

The second phase of SBM-U aimed to go beyond ODF to ODF+, and ODF++, and focus on making urban India garbage-free.

It emphasized sustainable sanitation practices, waste management, and the promotion of a circular economy.

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

Solid Waste Management Rules 2016:

These rules replaced the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 and focus on segregation of waste at source, responsibility on the manufacturer to dispose of sanitary and packaging wastes, user fees for collection, disposal and processing from the bulk generator.

Waste to Wealth Portal:

It aims to identify, develop, and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials, and extract resources of value.

Waste to Energy:

A waste-to-energy or energy-from-waste plant converts municipal and industrial solid waste into electricity and/or heat for industrial processing.

Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016:

It mandates the generators of plastic waste to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, prevent littering of plastic waste, and ensure segregated storage of waste at source among other measures.

In Feb 2022, Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022 were notified.

Project REPLAN:

It aims to make carry bags by mixing processed and treated plastic waste with cotton fibre rags in the ratio 20:80.

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022:

The rules specify the responsibilities of various stakeholders such as manufacturers, importers, retailers, and consumers. All these stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring that plastic waste is managed properly and does not end up polluting the environment.

ILLITERACY

Introduction

- The **Population Commission of United Nations** considers the ability, to both read and write a simple message with understanding in any language, a sufficient basis for classifying a person as Literate
- According to **Census of India**," person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as **literate"**
  - o It was decided at the 1991 Census that all Children in the age group 0-6, would be treated as illiterate by definition and the population aged seven years and above only would be classified as literate or illiterate
  - o It should be noted clearly that, it is not necessary that to be treated as literate, a person should have received any formal education or acquired any minimum educational standard

Generally, two types of it are calculated as below:

  - o **Crude Literacy rate** = ((No of literate persons)/Total population) *100
  - o **Effective literacy rate** = ((Number of Literate persons aged 7 and above)/Population aged 7 and above) *100
  - o Here, Effective literacy rate and literacy rate will be used interchangeably
  - o **Article 21-A** of the Constitution of India to provide **free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years** as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Literacy rate-Trends

- The effective literacy rate for India in Census 2011, works out to 74.04%
  - o The corresponding figures for male and female are 82.14% and 65.46% respectively
- Improvement in Literacy rates when compared with 2001
  - o Overall improvement – 9.21%
  - o Improvement of literacy rate in male – 6.88%
  - o Improvement of literacy rate in female – 11.79%
- Literacy rate in urban areas was higher 87.7% than rural areas with 73.5%, according to 2011 Census
- The report on **'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey - from July 2017 to June 2018'** has been released.
- It is based on the National Statistical Office **(NSO) survey** and provides for state-wise **detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above.**
- The report comes before the **International Literacy Day** which is celebrated on **8th September** every year.

Data Analysis: India's Overall Literacy Rate is 77.7%.

  - o Urban Areas: 87.7%.
  - o Rural areas: 73.5%.
  - o Male Literacy Rate: 84.7%.
  - o Female Literacy Rate: 70.3%.

- The **male literacy rate is higher than the female literacy** rate among all states with a considerable gap in the worst-performing states.
- **Best Performers:** Kerala > Delhi > Uttarakhand > Himachal Pradesh > Assam.
- **Worst Performers:** Andhra Pradesh < Rajasthan < Bihar < Telangana < Uttar Pradesh.

Digital Literacy:

- 23% of urban households and 4% of rural households possess computers.
- Among persons of age 15-29 years, nearly 56% in urban areas and 24% in rural areas were able to operate a computer.
- In the same age group, nearly 25% in rural areas and 58% in urban areas reported the use of the internet.

Literates and Illiterates by Gender

- One of the interesting feature of Census 2011 is that out of total literates added during the decade, females out number males
- The decadal (from 2001-2011) increase in number of literates among males is 31.98%; while the corresponding increase in case of females is of 49.1%
- The above two changes are a clear indication of the fact that **gender gap in literacy is shrinking** in the country
- **Lakshadweep**(96.11%) hold the first position in the country with respect to male literacy rate; while Kerala(96.02%) ranks second
  - Bihar(73.39%) state has recorded the lowest male literacy rate
- **Kerala** state holds the first rank, in female literacy with **91.98%**
  - Rajasthan(52.66%) state has recorded the lowest female literacy rate

Figure 5: Literacy Rate in India by Gender (%)
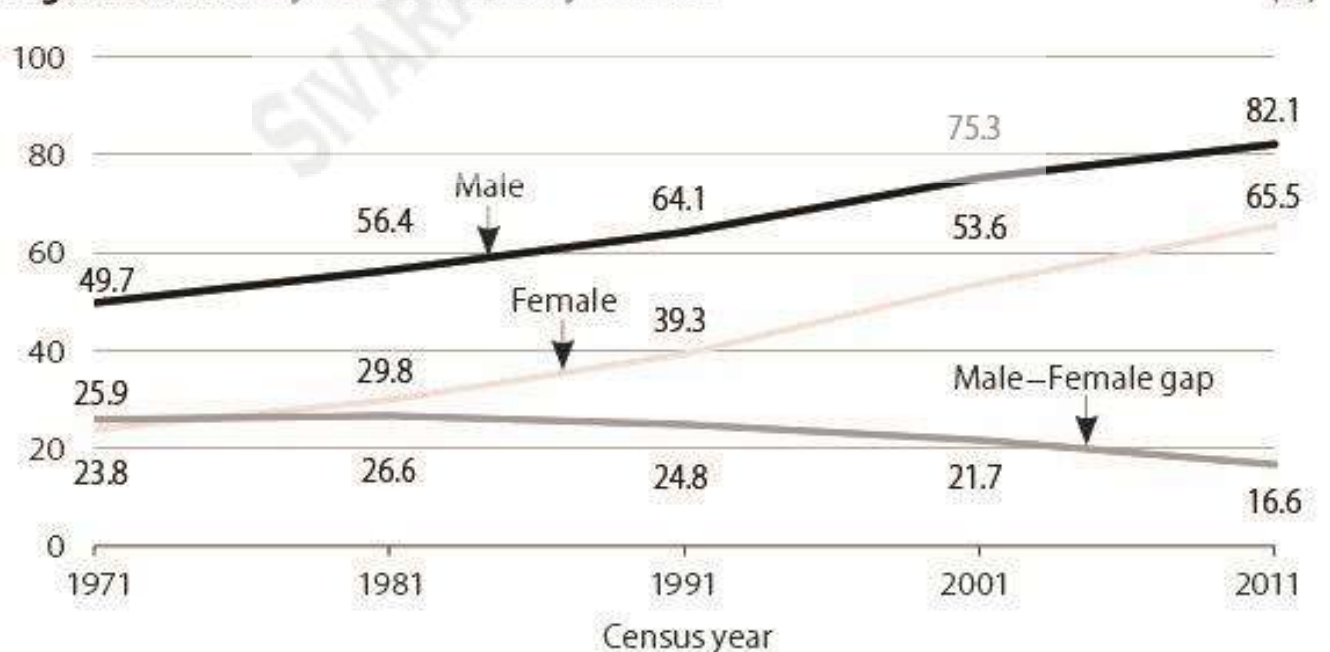
Source: Rural–urban distribution of literacy, provisional population of India, Census of India, 2011.

Regional Variations in Literacy Rates

- **Kerala** ranks first in the country with a literacy rate of 93.91%, closely followed by Lakshadweep (92.28%) and Mizoram(91.58%)
- Bihar with a literacy rate of 63.82% ranks last in the country, preceded by Arunachal Pradesh (66.95%) and Rajasthan(67.06%)
- The **gap in literacy rates** of males and females is **lowest** in Meghalaya (3.1 percentage points) and less than 5 percentage points in the States of Kerala and Mizoram and between 5 to 10 percentage points in A&N Island, Chandigarh, Goa, Lakshadweep Nagaland, Punjab and Tripura
- The **gap in literacy rates** of males and females is **highest** in the State of Rajasthan (27.1 percentage points) and much more in the States of Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh

New India Literacy Programmed

- The objective of the scheme is to **impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy** but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century. It includes critical life skills including **financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare, vocational skills** development with a view towards obtaining local employment, basic education including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency and continuing education including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such

as more advanced material on critical life skills.

- The scheme will be implemented **through volunteerism through online mode.** The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, may be organized through face-to-face mode. All material and resources shall be provided digitally for easy access to registered volunteers through easily accessible digital modes like **TV, radio, cell phone-based free or open-source Apps or portals etc.**
- The scheme will cover **non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states and UTs** in the country. The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for Financial Years 2022 to 2027 is five crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System OTLAS in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS in which a learner may register him or herself with essential information like name, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, mobile number etc.
- School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme. Schools to be used for conducting surveys of **beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers**. Different strategies are to be adopted for different age cohorts. Flexibility for States and UTs will be provided to undertake innovative activities. **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy** will be imparted through **Critical Life Skills to all non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.**
- There will be use of technologies to **impart Adult Education for wider coverage of the scheme.** Performance Grading Index for State and UT and district level will show the performance

of States and UTs to implement the scheme and achievements on yearly basis by weighing both the physical and financial progress through the **UDISE portal.**

- CSR or Philanthropic Support may be received by hosting **ICT support, providing volunteer support, opening facilitation centers** for learners and for providing IT access to economically weak learners in the form of cell phones, etc.
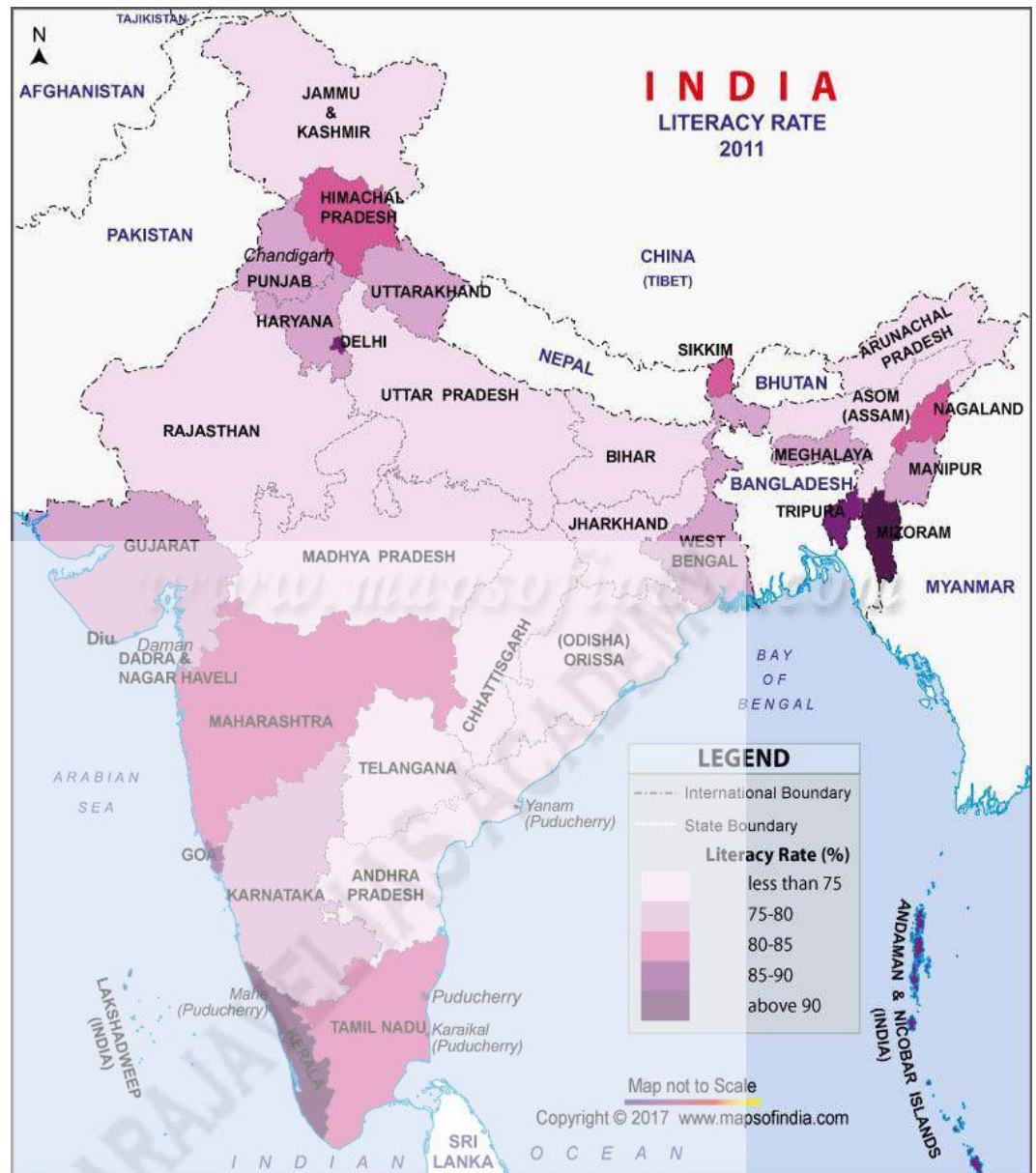
Measures taken in India towards increasing Literacy rate

- The Constitution of India recognizes the importance of education for all. Therefore, it lays down several provisions to ensure proper and effective implementation of educational rights in the country, which include:
  - o **Education of Minorities:** Article 30 of the Indian Constitution gives all minorities the right to establish and administer institutions of their own choice

  - o **Free and Compulsory Education:** The Constitution of India (u/a 41, 45 and 46 of the Directive Principles of State Policy) instructs the state to ensure that all citizens receive free education

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**
  - o The program was launched in 2001, and it aims to universalise education and improves its quality by time-bound implementation strategy and context-specific planning. It includes children from all social classes

- **Midday Meal Scheme**
  o This plan was launched in 1995 to provide mid-day meals to children studying in primary class. The main objective of creating this scheme was to eliminate classroom hunger of children and to increase attendance and enrolment of children at schools
- **The Right to Education (RTE) Act** was enacted in 2009, and this Act made education for every child between 6 and 14 years a fundamental right
- **The National Education Policy 2020,** aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.

For Digital Literacy:
  o Digital India Programme: It pulls together many existing schemes by restructuring and re-focusing them and then implementing them in a synchronized manner.
  o Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan: It is one of the largest initiatives of the country with the target of making citizens digitally literate.
  o National Digital Literacy Mission: It aims to empower at least one person per household with crucial digital literacy skills by 2020.
  o Bharat Net Programme: It aims to have an optical fibre network in all gram panchayats.

Efforts needed to take India's Literacy rate to greater heights
- **Revamping the teacher education (TE) system**
  o We should focus on revamping curriculum and pedagogy to bring modern and innovative elements within it and making it a lot more rigorous.

- Create a national discourse and imperative around the importance of good quality school leadership. This will help in improving and maintaining **school quality**, nurturing a learning culture within schools, maintaining teacher motivation, ensuring respect for and involvement of all stakeholders
- Work on expanding the idea of good education. There is need to extend it beyond rote learning of concepts. It should largely focus on cognitive development to a belief that values the uniqueness of a child and the celebration of different definitions of 'intelligence'.
- Extend the scope. With the Right to Education (RTE) Act now making primary education compulsory, there is need look at extending its scope to include pre-primary education (which is not there in all states).

International Literacy Day 2020
- The importance of literacy was **first observed at the** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's **(UNESCO) General conference in 1966** and following this, the **first International Literacy Day** was celebrated on **8th September 1967** and the tradition has been held annually since then.
- **Objective:** To raise awareness and remind people of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.
- **Literacy Day 2020:** It will focus on the changes and challenges **in learning during the** Covid-19 pandemic.
  o It will reflect on the innovative and effective pedagogies that can be used in youth and adult literacy programmes to face the pandemic and beyond.

- The international community is **focusing on 2030** with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has aimed to "ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning" within its goals of **SDG 4.**
- The **50-year review of South Asia** (which includes Bangladesh, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal and Pakistan) states that the **large scale illiteracy is ever-present among adults.**
- As per UNESCO, **India will achieve universal literacy by 2060.**

Way Forward

There is a need for real emancipation of the people. Education systems across the world should provide the training required for children and working adults so that they can learn to read and write. National educational plans should include schooling for children and literacy training for adults as parallel elements.

SKILL BASED EDUCATION:

Skill-based education in India is becoming increasingly important as the country focuses on improving employability and addressing the skill gap in the workforce. Traditional education systems have long prioritized theoretical knowledge over practical skills, resulting in a mismatch between graduates' abilities and the needs of the industry.

Government Initiatives

National Skill Development Mission (2015): Launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), this mission aims to train over 400 million people in different skills by 2022. It focuses on short-term and long-term skill development programs across various industries.

Skill India Mission (2015): The government's flagship initiative to create a skilled workforce, Skill India emphasizes vocational training programs, apprenticeships, and upskilling initiatives. It includes schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which offers short-term courses and certifications in various sectors.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC): The NSDC, established in 2009, is a public-private partnership model that helps to fund skill development programs across sectors. It works with industry bodies, educational institutions, and training centers to offer skill-based training.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: The NEP 2020 emphasizes skill development, vocational training, and experiential learning starting from the school level. It aims to integrate vocational education into the school and higher education system by making it part of the curriculum, with a target to expose at least 50% of learners to vocational training by 2025.

Apprenticeship Training: Through initiatives like the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the government encourages industries to engage students in hands-on training, making them industry-ready.

Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India): This initiative highlights the importance of skill development for self-reliance and entrepreneurship, encouraging skill-based programs that support small businesses and self-employment.

3. Skill-Based Education in Schools and Higher Education

Vocational Training in Schools: The NEP 2020 includes vocational education in schools from the 6th grade onward. Students are encouraged to learn skills such as coding, carpentry, electric work, and digital literacy alongside academics.

Higher Education: Universities and colleges are increasingly offering skill-based programs in partnership with industries. Institutes like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and polytechnics offer technical and practical

training in engineering and technology. Many colleges are introducing courses in artificial intelligence, data science, robotics, and other high-demand fields.

Community Colleges: These colleges focus on imparting vocational skills to individuals from underserved communities. They offer short-term diploma and certificate courses aimed at improving employability.

4. Sector-Specific Skill Development Programs

Manufacturing and Industry 4.0: India's manufacturing sector is seeing a shift towards Industry 4.0, requiring skills in robotics, automation, and the Internet of Things (IoT). The government is encouraging programs in these fields to prepare the workforce for modern industrial challenges.

Information Technology (IT): With India's growing IT sector, there's a huge demand for skills in software development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. Companies like Infosys, TCS, and Wipro are investing in skill development programs for students and employees.

Agriculture: The Indian agriculture sector, which employs a large part of the population, is moving towards modern methods. The government is promoting skill-based training in sustainable farming, precision agriculture, and agritech.

Healthcare: India is working to improve skill-based training in healthcare by providing specialized training for nurses, healthcare assistants, and technicians, especially with the increasing need for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Digital Platforms and E-Learning

Online Learning Platforms: The government and private organizations have launched digital platforms to offer skill-based courses. Platforms like the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), e-Skill India, and partnerships with private e-learning providers such as Coursera and Udemy offer courses in digital literacy, coding, and more.

E-Skill India Portal: This online portal provides learners access to courses in various domains, enabling them to upskill in their chosen fields.

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA): DIKSHA is a national platform for school education that provides resources for students and teachers, including skill development content.

6. Challenges to Skill-Based Education

Quality of Training: The quality of vocational training and skill development programs varies greatly. Many institutes lack the infrastructure, equipment, and qualified trainers to provide industry-relevant skills.

Outreach in Rural Areas: Rural India faces challenges in accessing quality skill-based education due to poor infrastructure, lack of awareness, and cultural barriers that prioritize traditional education over vocational training.

Industry Linkage: There is still a gap between educational institutions and industries in terms of collaboration and curriculum design. Courses offered may not always match the skills required by employers.

Social Stigma: Vocational training and skill-based education are sometimes viewed as less prestigious than traditional academic qualifications. Overcoming this stigma is a challenge in encouraging more students to opt for skill-based careers.

Gender Disparities: Women in India face challenges in accessing skill development opportunities due to societal norms, safety concerns, and gender biases in industries. Special programs aimed at promoting skill development for women are crucial.

CHILD ABUSE IN INDIA

1) **Introduction**

- Child Abuse is defined as "injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child".
- This abuse can be of several kinds according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) – physical, mental, emotional, psychological or in the form of neglect or exploitation.
- Child abuse, in its various forms can be found everywhere in India - in cities and rural homes, in the homes of the rich and the poor, and in the streets and schools.

2) **Constitutional Provisions**

- The Constitution of India contains a number of provisions for the protection and welfare of the children.
- It has empowered the legislature to make special laws and policies to safeguard the rights of the children.
- Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 19(1) (a), 21, 21(A), 23, 24, 39(e) 39(f) of the Constitution of India contain provisions for the protection, safety, security and well-being of all it's people, including children.

3) **Child Abuse**

- Child abuse in India is often a hidden phenomenon especially when it happens in the home or by family members.
- Focus with regards to abuse has generally been in the more public domain such as child labour, prostitution, marriage, etc.
- In 80-85 per cent cases of child rapes in our country, the offender is a known person.
- They can be a neighbour, someone from the local community, a relative or even a family member.

- A sexual offence by a known person is one of the worst things that can happen to a child.
- Many a time, when the offender is a family member, the victims don't report due to fear of social stigma.
- Sometimes minors do not even understand that they are being wronged.
- This data from the National Crime Records Bureau shows even the best of police systems and toughest of laws cannot ensure prevention of sexual violence against children.
- Police can punish the perpetrator after the crime is committed. However, by then the damage is already done.
- A jail sentence to the accused comes after years of legal battle, and hardly helps the victim in dealing with lifelong trauma.
- In many such incidents, victims are forced to change their statements in court just because the matter has been 'amicably settled' among the elders.
- Many rapes take place in urban slums, because children are left alone or with some person known to the parents.

4) **Impact**

- It brings about circumstances causing harm to a child's health, welfare, and safety. It can also result in lasting lifelong physical and psychological trauma.
- Families and society also experience this trauma.
- As adults, victims of childhood abuse are more vulnerable to mental health trauma.

5) Concerns / Challenges

* Due to societal norms, there is hardly any discussion on sex—including safety—in the household.
* The perceived stigma attached to a victim has functioned as an escape tool for offenders. Poorer kids are more at risk than rich kids.
* In India a rising concern is the pressure children feel to perform well in school and college examinations, which can be seen as a form of emotional stress and abuse.
* Manufacturers exploit children as inexpensive labour.
* High incidence of malnourishment, child stunting and wasting.

6) NGOs Working

* NGOs like Save the Children have dedicated services fighting child sex abuse, and providing rehabilitation to victims of abuse.
* "Child Rights and You (CRY)" works to ensure that the fundamental rights of children are protected.
* "Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA)" started by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi is working for the protection of children and ensuring their quality education.

7) Government Initiatives

* POCSO Act a. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 address the crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through stringent legal provisions.
* POCSO e-Box a. Online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against offenders.
* NCPCR a. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) ensure that all Laws, Policies and Programmes are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
* Integrated Child Protection Scheme a. Aimed at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances through Government-Civil Society Partnership.
* Operation Smile a. Operation Smile also called as Operation MUSKAAN is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to rescue/rehabilitate missing children.
* Right to Education (RTE) Act. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme.
* The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after receiving inputs from interpol, conducted raids across the nation as part of "Operation Megh Chakra" against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). The agency carried out a similar operation known as "Operation Carbon" in November 2021.

Issues related to Child sexual abuse:

* According to the World Health Organization, Child Sexual Abuse is "the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society".
* Child sexual abuse affects children's physical health, mental health and behavioural elements negatively.
* The exploitation and abuse of children has amplified due to increase in digital technologies.

- The POCSO Act passed in 2012 has not been effective in preventing sexual abuse of children.
- Low rate of conviction under POCSO Act.
- The provisions of the act are unfriendly to children.

Government's initiatives:
- The Department of Telecommunication has blocked a number of websites that include child pornography.
- Child grooming, child exploitation, and child pornography are all prohibited by Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Amendment Act of 2008.
- Penalties under the 2019 Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO).
- Storing pornographic content for profit carries a five-year prison sentence, a fine, or both.
- Failure to remove, delete or report child-related pornographic content, transmitting, exhibiting, or disseminating such content for any reason other than reporting is also prohibited.
- **Child pornography** is a social threat that hurts defenseless youngsters, influences adolescent attitudes and behavior, and has the potential to cause psychological illnesses in adults. Hence, strict actions should be taken against the offenders.
- The Ad-hoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha was instituted recently by the Chairman of the House to examine and report on the **issue of child pornography** and the prevalence of its horrific consequences. The Committee was chaired by Jai Ram Ramesh and has made 40 recommendations to prevent sexual abuse of children and contain access to & transmission of child pornography content on social media.

- The Committee has also recommended important amendments to the Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and the Information Technology Act, 2000 besides initiating changes at technological, institutional, social, educational and state-level initiatives.
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019
- **Definition of Child Pornography:** Any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which includes a photograph, video, digital or computer-generated image indistinguishable from an actual child.
- **Storage of Pornographic Material:** The Act penalized storage of pornographic material for commercial purposes with a punishment of up to three years, or a fine, or both. However, the bill increases it to 3-5 years. In addition, the Bill adds two other offences for storage of pornographic material involving children:
  o Failing to destroy, or delete, or report pornographic material involving a child, and
  o Transmitting, displaying, distributing such material except for the purpose of reporting it.

Laws for Pornography in India
- There is no law banning watching pornography in personal space.
- After the Supreme Court's order, the Department of Telecommunication banned several websites containing child pornographic material.
- As per the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2002, it is punishable to show children any pornographic content.

Impact of Pornography on Children and Society

- **Psychological impact:** Porn creates a psychological impact on children. It is associated with depression, anger and anxiety. It can lead to mental distress. It also impacts day to day functioning of children, their biological clock, their work, and their social relationship.
- **Impact on sexuality:** When seen regularly, it gives a sense of sexual gratification and sexual obsession, which leads to a willingness to do the same things in real life.
- **Sexual addiction:** According to some experts, pornography is like an addiction. It produces a similar effect on the brain as produced by consumption of drug or alcohol on a regular basis.
- **Behavioural impact:** Adolescent pornography use is associated with stronger beliefs in gender stereotypes, particularly for males. Male adolescents who view pornography frequently are more likely to view women as sex objects.
  - o Pornography may strengthen attitudes supportive of sexual violence and violence against women.

Other Impacts

- Pornography can influence a young person's expectations about sex. There is some evidence that exposure to pornography can increase the likelihood of an earlier first-time sexual experience.
- Pornography is also associated with unsafe sexual health practices such as not using condoms and unsafe anal and vaginal sex.
- Both male and female consumers of pornography had increased levels of self-objectification and body surveillance.
- The content of pornography may reinforce double standards of active male sexuality and passive female receptacle.

Challenges

- The effect of pornography is different in children belonging to the lower class compared to children belonging to the high

class. A single approach won't be able to handle the issue effectively.
- Lack of sex education courses and workshops in the school curriculum.
  - o In India, sex is seen as negative (something which should be hidden). There is no healthy family dialogue regarding sex. It leads the child to learn this from outside which led to an addiction to pornography.
- It's very difficult for agencies to detect the activities of child pornography and monitor them effectively.
- Availability of obscene content on regular websites and OTT (over the top) services like Amazon Prime, Netflix, Hotstar, etc, make it difficult to differentiate between the non-vulgar content and vulgar content.

Efforts Undertaken

- Agencies across the world are sharing information to combat child pornography. New technologies and methods are being adopted.
- Coordination between police and ordinary people to identify the hotspots of child pornography.
- The Uttarakhand High Court asked the Centre to strictly implement the ban on pornographic websites, after the reports that a girl was gang-raped in a Dehradun school by her fellow students after they watched porn clips.
- **Recommendations by the Rajya Sabha Committee**
- **Legislative Measures**
- **Changes in the** POCSO Act, 2012**:**
  - o Advocating sexual activities with a person under the age of 18 years through any written material, visual representation or audio recording or any characterization -should be made an offence under the Act.
  - o Prescribing a Code of Conduct for online platforms for maintaining child safety online, ensuring age-appropriate content and curbing the

use of children for pornographic purposes.

o School management should be held responsible for the safety of children within schools, transportation services and any other programs with which the school is associated.

o To report offences dealing with **electronic material,** the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** shall be designated as the national portal.

- **Changes in the IT Act, 2000:**
  o A new **Section 67B** should be added to the Act to deal with punitive measures for those providing pornographic access to children and also those who access, produce or transmit **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).**
  o Section 69A of the Act should provide for powers to the Union Government shall be empowered through its designated authority to block and/or prohibit all websites/intermediaries that carry CSAM.
  o Section 69C must be inserted in the Act to authorise law enforcement authorities to use cyber-generated and existing pornography for the purpose of investigations.
  o Making intermediaries responsible for all measures to proactively identify and remove CSAM as well as report it to Indian authorities under the National Cybercrime Portal.
  o Gateway Internet Service Providers (ISP's) must bear a significant liability to detect and block CSAM websites.

Technology Measures

- Law enforcement agencies should be allowed to break end-to-end encryption so as to trace distributors of child pornography.

- Applications that help in monitoring children's access to pornographic content shall be made mandatory on all devices sold in India.
- Coordination with **blockchain analysis companies** must be enhanced in order to trace identities of users engaging in cryptocurrency transactions to purchase child pornography online.
- All social media platforms should be mandated with minimum essential technologies to detect Child Sexual Abuse Materials. Also, social media shall have a mechanism for age verification and restricting access to objectionable/obscene material.
- On-streaming platforms like Netflix and social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, etc. should have a separate adult section where under-aged children could be disallowed access.

Institutional Reforms

- The Committee recommended an upgraded and technologically empowered National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to be designated as the **nodal agency** to deal with the issue of child pornography.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shall mandatorily record and report annually cases of child pornography of all kinds.
- A **national Tipline Number** should be created where child sexual abuse, as well as the distribution of child pornographic material, can be reported.
- **Social and Educational Reforms**
- Campaigns should be launched for **greater awareness among parents** to recognize early signs of child abuse, online risks and improving online safety for their child.
- Schools shall undertake **training programmes** for parents at least twice a year, making them aware of hazards for children of free access to smartphones, internet at an early age.

State-level Implementation

- The Committee recommended that each State and Union Territory shall have empowered State Commission for the Protection for Child Rights mirroring capabilities and capacities of the NCPCR.
- E-safety Commissioners be appointed at the state level to ensure implementation of social media and website guidelines.

Way Forward

- A distinction needs to be made between child porn and pornography among children. While child porn and porn showing sexual violence should be banned immediately, other pornography needs regulation.
- Most of the time, the first exposure of porn to a child is accidental for eg. in the form of advertisement while browsing for other things on the internet. The government should try to find technological solutions to stop accidental exposure.
- Awareness and sex education is a must and should be made compulsory in schools. Parents and teachers must be skilled to deal with children in the modern era and technology. It is important for parents and teachers to be able to initiate open conversations about their child's online experiences.
  - Parents and caregivers are encouraged to educate themselves about the internet and social media, in order to be aware of the current online dangers and opportunities facing their children.
    - Other than giving punishment, reformation should be done too. Support for children and young people who have been exposed to online pornography is extremely important.

- Educating kids about 'good touch' and 'bad touch' can immensely help in preventing sexual abuse.
- Families need to be educated that kids may need protection from people around them.
- Continuous community awareness programmes are highly essential in dealing with the problem of sexual violence.
- Such programmes can educate the possible victims, the affected families and even the likely offenders.
- Community based programs like Anganwadi and Women Self Help Groups need to be recalibrated so that they can function as creches.
- A regular discussion in the community on the issue of child sexual abuse can help change the mindset.
- Only when children are empowered to speak, when families are supportive and when the community is aware and joins hands with the police and other agencies, will we be able to keep our children safe.
- Imparting life skills training to make children street-smart.
- Facilitate out-of-school children, street children and those who are involved in child labor into schools by the means of enrolment drives.
- India should priorities spending on children: Kailash Satyarthi
- The Ministry of Health needs to forge stronger partnerships with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Labour, Education, and other agents involved with children.
- Along with stricter laws and effective policing, support from the family and society is needed to control the menace of child sexual abuse

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women Empowerment

It means that women should be treated equally to men in social, economic, and political fields. It is essential for the overall development of a country. Empowering women also helps them to feel more confident, as it enhances their decision-making power.

The Constitution Say About Women Empowerment

- The **principle of** gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution.
  - o The Constitution not only guarantees **equality** to women, but also provides the **State with the power to take measures of** positive discrimination in favor of women to mitigate their cumulative socio-economic and political disadvantages.
- **Women have fundamental rights to not be discriminated on the grounds of sex (**Article 15**) and get equal protection under the law. (**Article 14**)**
- It also imposes a fundamental duty **on every citizen to renounce the practices derogatory to the dignity of women.**

Women Empowerment Schemes in India		
Name of the Scheme	**Launch Year**	**Objectives**
SWADHAR Greh	2018	– Provide legal aid and guidance to women. – Cater to the primary need for food, shelter, clothing, and health of women.
Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)	2017	– Create a positive environment for women with access to basic healthcare, education, employment, etc. – Provide these opportunities at the block and district level in the country.
Women Helpline Scheme	2016	– Provide 24-hour telecom service to women suffering from violence and assault. – Facilitate appropriate and required intervention from agencies such as Hospitals/police/District Legal Service Authority (DLSA)/Protection Officer (PO)/OSC. – Spread information about the necessary support services, government schemes, and programs available for women affected by violence.
Ujjawala Scheme	2016	– Prevent women and children trafficking. – Rescue victims and put them in safe custody. – Provide rehabilitation services to the victims
Mahila Police Volunteers	2016	– To fight crime against women. – Report incidents of violence against women, such as child marriage, dowry harassment, and domestic violence, faced by women in public spaces.

Nari Shakti Puraskar	2016	– Strengthen the place of women in society. – Create and assist institutions that work toward women empowerment in society.
Mahila E-Haat	2016	– Providing online entrepreneurship opportunities for women. – Educate women on various aspects of online business
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	2015	– Ensure survival and protection of the girl child – Ensure quality education for the girl child
One-Stop Centre Scheme	2015	– Aid women affected by violence. – To facilitate them in filing FIR against crime – Provide psycho-social support and counselling to them
NIRBHAYA	2012	– Ensure safety and security for women. – Ensure confidentiality of women's identity.

Women Empowerment Issues in India
Demographic Imbalance

- Female Foeticide – Though abortion is legal still, this legality is widely used for sex-selective abortions.
- Female Infanticide.
- Maternal Mortality Rate – This is the result of absolute neglect on our part with reference to health and lack of health education.
- Infant Mortality Rate – This is due to neglect of girl children from every 15 infant deaths, 14 are girls.
- Death because of Dowry issues and domestic violence.
- Teenage pregnancy.
- Skewed sex ratio.

Health Problems

India has issues related to basic health amenities because the resources and infrastructure are limited, and within that, the situation is worse for marginalized people, including women. Health problems remain a very important issue for India as a whole, and when it comes to women the situation is even more difficult. For example, even if a woman is killed, it is not taken seriously. Because of a certain kind of conditioning, the culture of silence predominates among women, which serves as an obstacle to promoting women empowerment.

Neglect of Female Education

It is not only related to enrollment but also to the way female education is perceived. Women are not enrolled equally as men. Even when they are enrolled, there is a very high dropout rate because even if there is a certain kind of problem at home, it is a girl child that must stay back. There is also a lack of infrastructure supporting girls' needs in schools, causing dropout rates, like no separate toilets for girls.

Insufficient economic and political partnership

While there is a lot of emphasis on education these days, it is still a matter of concern due to the lower participation of women in the workforce. For example, if one must quit the job in a couple, it is invariably the woman who must quit because it is considered unmanly for a man to stay at home. In any case, if the man stays back, it is considered as going against Indian culture. The same is the case with political participation, where we see very few women. People are still not willing to concede to the reservation that has taken place at the panchayat level.

Violence

It includes not only physical violence but also emotional and psychological violence. The understanding of violence is changing, and it is now more comprehensive. Example: At present, verbal abuse is also violence. Various acts of violence include harassment, dowry death, rape, murder, wife battering, infanticide, eve teasing, forced prostitution, trafficking, stalking, acid attacks, etc. Reducing the rate of crime against women also comes under Women empowerment in India.

Role of Government in Women Empowerment UPSC

a) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao – A campaign to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in India. It aims to address the issues of decline in child sex ratio image.

b) Janani Suraksha Yojana – It was launched to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.

c) Anemia Mukt Bharat – It aims to make an anaemia-free India.

d) Poshan Abhiyan – It is a Government of India flagship program to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

e) Mahila E Haat – It is a direct online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs, self-help groups (SHG), and non-government organizations (NGO) to showcase products made and services rendered by them.

f) The Swadhar scheme- Was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2002 to rehabilitate women in difficult circumstances.

Women Empowerment in Panchayati Raj Institutions

With the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992, there were steps taken for women empowerment to strengthen their position in local governance. Women will be given one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in each panchayat. In addition, one-third of the number of chairperson seats must be reserved for women. The economic survey for 2017-18 states that there is 13.72 lakh elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions. This constitutes about 44.2% of the total number of elected representatives.

Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

Due to gender inequality, reverse migration, and job loss for men, rural jobs have shifted from women to men, as men are given higher priority for work in our society. Gender roles dictate a position of submission to women. Hence, power gaps still exist between men and women in our economic, political, and corporate systems.

The SDG gender index says that despite the higher number of women in Parliament, their influence is limited.

Types of Women Empowerments

Women Empowerment can be understood in different spheres, such as social, economic, and political. The types of women empowerments in India are as follows:

There is social inequality in which the resources in each society are distributed unevenly, typically through the norms of allocation. It is needed to remove the social inequality as it is against the idea of meritocracy to empower women.

It is seen that some jobs, like the beauty industry, air hostesses, nursing, teaching, etc., have been meant for women. As they are female dominated, they are paid less as they

have less bargaining power. To change this mindset in society, women must be empowered economically.

Although there are provisions for women empowerment in the political sphere, they are unable to achieve the purpose.

Steps to be taken for women empowerment:

- **Social:**
  - **Health:** Improvement in the health indicators of women can significantly contribute to overall health of family and the new borns. Since the significant amount of earnings of underprivileged are spent on medical treatment, improved women's health and their newborns can drastically reduce household expenditure.
  - **Education** is a major tool for eliminating poverty. Educated women are more sensitive toward their children's education and contribute more to their development.
- **Economic**
  - **Equal Wages:** Wage disparity between men and women has serious implications on poverty. Equal wages for females would ensure increased household income and productive expenditure on health and nutrition of the whole family.
  - **Skill Development:** Women are significantly involved in collecting minor forest produce and household-based industries. Enhancing their skills can directly reduce their economic dependence on their husbands, which in turn will increase their decision-making

power in productive expenditure and family matters.

- **Political:**
  - A society where the **female voice is sought and heard,** where the principles of equity (fairness) and equality (opportunity) co-exist, is a more powerful and effective society.
  - Increasing due **representation of women** in decision making at grassroot level can effectively help better targeting government poverty alleviation programs.

Self-Help Groups and Women Empowerment

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small groups of people facing similar problems, and the members of a group help each other to solve their problems. Self Help groups play a major role in empowering women as these are important for the following reasons:

- To promote income-generating activities.
- For removal of poverty.
- To generate employment.
- To raise the status of women in society.

The Women Helpline Scheme was launched in the year 2016. It provides 24-hour toll-free telecom service to females who face sexual assault and violence. It facilitates quick intervention of various services such as ambulances, police, and hospitals for the victims. Also, read about National Commission for Women here.

Women have Done Exceptionally Well in India

- For years, women have suffered the injustice and prejudice of society. But today, with the changing times, **they have made a name for themselves.** They have **broken the shackles of gender stereotypes** and stood to

achieve their dreams and goals. For instance:

- o **Social Activist:**
  - ▪ **Sindhutai Sapkal** (Padma Shri 2021) - Raising Orphaned Children
- o **Environmentalist:**
  - ▪ **Tulsi Godwa** (Padma Shri 2021) - Encyclopaedia of Forest
- o **Defence:**
  - ▪ **Avani Chaturvedi** - First Indian Woman to fly a solo fighter aircraft **(MiG-21 Bison)**
- o **Sports:**
  - ▪ **Mary Kom** - First woman from the country to win a medal in boxing at the Olympics.
  - ▪ **PV Sindhu** - First Indian woman to claim two Olympic medals (Bronze- Tokyo 2020) and (Silver- Rio 2016).
  - ▪ **Indian Women's Cricket Team** - Finalist, Commonwealth Games 2022
- o **International Organisations:**
  - ▪ **Gita Gopinath** - First Woman Chief Economist at the **IMF** (International Monetary Fund).
- o **Space Technology:**
  - ▪ **Tessy Thomas** - Missile Woman of India (Agni-V missile project)
- o **Education:**
  - ▪ **Shakuntala Devi** - Guinness World Record for Fastest Human Computation.
- ▪ **Shanan Dhaka - AIR 1** National Defence Academy Entrance Examination **(1st Women's Batch of NDA)**
- ▪ **Top 3 All India Ranks** were achieved by female candidates in **UPSC Civil Services Examination 2021.**

- • **Gap in Male Female Literacy Rate:** Despite the government's effort to ensure equality of opportunity for education for both men and women in our society, the literacy rate of women in India, **especially in rural areas**, remains very poor.
  - o **Schools in rural India are at considerable distances** and in absence of strong local law and order, women find it unsafe to travel long distances for schooling.
  - o Traditional practices like female infanticide, dowry, **and early marriage** have also contributed to the problem as many families find it economically unviable to educate the girl child.
- • **Role Stereotyping**: Still a large section of our Indian Society considered the **roles of men as taking all the financial responsibilities and work outside.**
  - o **Gender role stereotyping** attributed to women have generally led to prejudice and **discrimination against women.**
    - ▪ For example, women may be less reliable as workers because of their **child-rearing functions.**
- • **Differentiation in the Socialization Process:** In many parts of India, especially in rural regions, there are still different **socialization norms** for men and women.
  - o Women are expected to be soft-spoken, calm, and quiet. They should walk, talk, sit and behave in a certain manner. Whereas men ought to be confident, loud, and could display any behavior as per their wish.

- **Representation of Women in Legislature:** The representation of women in different legislative bodies remains low across India.
  o According to the report of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women, India ranks **148 out of 193 countries** in the number of elected female representatives in parliament.
- **Safety Concern**: In India, despite of continuous efforts in the field of Safety, women are threatened by various acts via **feticides,** domestic violence, rape, trafficking, **forced prostitution, honor killings,** sexual harassment at workplace **etc.**
- **Period Poverty:** a lack of access to **sanitary products, menstrual education** and hygiene and sanitation facilities necessary to properly manage menstruation.
  o According to a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) study conducted in 2011 only **13% of girls in India are aware of menstruation before menarche.**
- **Glass Ceiling**: Women not only in India but across the globe face a social barrier preventing women from being promoted to top jobs in management.

Way Forward

- **Better Education Opportunities: Giving education to women means giving education to the whole family.** Education plays an important role in building self-confidence among women.
  o It also enables people to change her status in society. **Education enables and builds confidence to make decisions in a better way.**

  o The Education policy **needs to be more inclusive** to ensure girls right to education and their right to be free from discrimination within educational institutions.
    ▪ Also, **education policy should target young men and boys to positively change their attitudes towards girls and women.**
- **Skilling and Micro Financing:** Skilling and micro financing can get women financially stable and therefore she is no longer dependent upon others in the society.
  o Training women in non-traditional skills with market demand, creating more public and private sector jobs for women is important for financial empowerment.
- **Women's Safety:** A multi-sectoral strategy to **raise awareness among women** about the current government initiatives and mechanisms should be devised to ensure the safety of women throughout the country.
  o Panic Button**, Nirbhaya Police Squad** are some good steps in the direction of women's safety.
  o **The** Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 was enacted to ensure safe working spaces for women and to build an enabling environment that respects women's right of equality of status and opportunity.
- **Specified Actions at the Lowest Level of Governance:** There is a need to **devise, support and promote projects at the lowest level of governance**, to

bring more inclusivity in governance and improve the status of women in India. For instance:

- o **Swagatam Nandini (Katni, Madhya Pradesh):** This initiative was launched with an objective of celebrating the birth of girls.
  - ▪ With a small procession to celebrate the arrival of the daughter, parents of new-born baby girls are felicitated with baby kits under the Ladli Lakshmi Scheme.
- o **Nanhe Chinh (Panchkula, Haryana):** Encouraged by **Anganwadi Workers** (AWWs), baby girls are brought to local AWCs by their families.
  - ▪ Their **footprints are outlined on a chart** paper and are put up **on the wall of the AWC** with the mother's and baby girls' names.

- **Incentives in Education:** To curb **higher dropout rate among girls**, there is a **need for providing relatively higher financial incentives for higher education.**
  - o **Reward should be given to villages/districts that are able to attain equal child sex ratio** through education, information, and communication campaigns.
  - o Additional emphasis should be laid on e-governance so that there is a timely check on the expenditure released by the center and various state governments for scholarships for girl students.
- **Improvement in Basic Amenities at Rural Level:** Improvement in basic infrastructure can reduce domestic work burdens.
  - o For instance, domestic work for rural women often includes arduous tasks such as fetching water and fuelwood. **Piped drinking water and clean** natural gas **(already improving) will reduce this load.**

- **From Women Development to Women Led Development:** Women should be **reimagined as architects of India's progress and development,** rather than being passive recipients of the fruits of development.
  - o The ripple effects of Women Led Development are undeniable as an educated and empowered woman will ensure education and empowerment for future generations.
  - o **Women Empowerment – Latest Updates**
- The world is not on track to achieving gender equality by 2030. The Human Development Reports Gender Inequality Index shows that overall progress in gender inequality has declined in recent years. For instance, it would take about 250 years to close the gender gap in economic opportunity based on current trends.
- India has fallen to 28th position in the World Economic Forum's global gender gap report 2021 and is now one of the worst performers in South Asia, trailing behind Neighbours Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar; it is now ranked 140th among 156 countries.
- The report estimates it will take South Asia 195.4 years to close the gender gap, while Western Europe will take 52.1 years.
- Poverty and empowerment issues cannot be adequately addressed where only half of the population is positively and actively engaged, therefore actively

engaging women as the driver for bringing positive change and eliminating poverty from the country is the key to focus on.

- However, the government in its recent social sector program has effectively engaged women centric efforts like rural sanitation through Swachh Bharat, improving health outcomes through **POSHAN Abhiyan** and **UJJWALA Scheme** etc.

Government Of India Initiatives for Women Empowerment

Article 14-16 (under Right to Equality – Article 14-18) of the Indian Constitution lays down equal rights for men and women. Any form of discrimination based on gender is strictly prohibited. Women in India got suffrage rights during India's independence in 1947, much earlier than most of the Western countries granted to their women citizens the right to vote.

Gender equality is much talked about in contemporary discourse and women empowerment is one of the most critical aspects to achieving it. Men, women, transgender deserve equal opportunities in the field of education, health, economic participation, and personal development. Countries, mostly in northern Europe like Finland, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden have made progress in minimising the gender gap but most of the countries in West Asia, South Asia and Africa (mostly the developing and underdeveloped) still face socio-economic disparity and gender gap looms large.

India has been making efforts to end gender gaps and has launched various schemes and projects that work towards empowering women. Some of the efforts by the Indian government are briefed as under.

1) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961: "It intended to receive or give a dowry by either party to the marriage either by parents or anyone else associated with marriage". It applies to people belonging to all religion in India. "The Indian Penal Code was modified in 1983 to establish specific crimes of dowry-related cruelty, dowry death, and abetment of suicide". It punished violence against women by their husbands or their relatives when they could show the proof of dowry demands or dowry harassment. The legislation underwent an amendment in 1984 which specified the presents given to either bride or groom at the time of marriage that are allowed.

2) National Plan of Action for the Girl Child (1991-2000): This is a specially formulated action plan by the Government of India to protect and promote the Girl Child. It was introduced to prevent female foeticide and infanticide, eliminate gender discrimination, provide safe drinking water and fodder near homes, rehabilitate, and protect girls from exploitation, assault, and abuse.

3) National Commission for Women (1992): It was established as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Govt. of India. The Central government held consultations with NGOs, social workers and experts related to the structure, powers and functions of the Commission proposed to be set up. In 1990, the Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha and in August 1990, the government made several amendments and introduced new provisions to vest the commission with the power of a civil court. Finally, on August 30, 1990, the Bill received the President's assent. Therefore, on January 31st, 1992, the First Commission was constituted with Mrs. Jayanti Patna as the Chairperson. Presently, the Chairperson of the

NCW is Rekha Sharma who assumed office on 7th August 2018. The Commission was established "to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures; facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women. It took up the issue of child marriage, sponsored legal awareness programmes, Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats and reviewed laws such as Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, PNDT (Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique) Act 1994, Indian Penal Code 1860 and the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to make them more stringent and effective".

4) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:

It has been enacted to criminalize instances of dowry and domestic violence. This Act gives the legal definition of 'domestic violence' under Section 3. It is a civil law that focuses on the "reliefs given to the aggrieved women such as compensation, protection, right to residence in the shared household". Domestic violence covers mental as well as physical abuse, and threats to do the same. Any form of harassment, coercion, harm to health, safety or well-being is covered under this Act.

5) The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act 2017 for the private sector:
This Act came into force from 1st April 2017. It is an Amendment to the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961. Under this Act, the government increased paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. It extended certain benefits to mothers who adopt a child as well and provides that "every woman who adopts a child shall be entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave, from the date of adoption". "It introduced a provision relating to 'work from home for women, which may be exercised after the expiry of the 26 weeks' leave period".

"The Act makes mandatory creche facility for every establishment employing 50 or more employees". The Act also makes it mandatory for employers to educate women about the maternity benefits available to them at the time of their appointment.

6) The Women's Reservation Bill:
It proposes to amend the Constitution of India to gives 33% reservation for women seats in the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Parliament) and all state legislative assemblies. This is an attempt to increase women's political participation. The bill was first introduced on 12 September 1996 by the United Front government of Deve Gowda. Successive governments tried to push for the bill, but it took 14 years to get it passed in the Rajya Sabha on 9 March 2010. The bill has yet to be passed in the Lok Sabha.

7) National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (NPEW):
It was adopted in 2001 which states that any forms of violence against women, physical and mental, at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt effectively with a view to eliminate them. It aimed at creating and strengthening institutions and mechanisms/schemes for assistance and prevention of such violence which also includes sexual harassment at the workplace and customs like dowry; for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence and for taking effective action against the perpetrators of such violence. Emphasis has also been laid on setting up various programmes to deal with trafficking in women and girls.

Under the above policy i.e., NPEW several Women Empowerment Schemes have been formulated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, India. Some of the schemes are as follows:

a) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme: It was launched on January 22, 2015, by the P.M of India "to ensure survival, protection, and education of the girl child. BBBP is a combination of three ministries- Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development". The major objectives are to help remove gender-based discrimination, to protect the girl child and to provide them with education and enabling her participation.

b) One Stop Centre Scheme: Launched on April 1, 2015, it intends to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by the violence, both in private and public spaces. Women Helpline (WHL) has been established in every State and Union Territory to provide integrated support and assistance to women across the country through a single uniform number. These centres will be integrated with 181 along with other existing helplines.

c) Women Helpline Scheme: It came into effect on April 1, 2015. It intends to give 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by the violence, both in private and public spaces. Women Helpline (WHL) has been established in every State and Union Territory to provide integrated support and assistance to women across the country through a single uniform number. Tollfree Women helpline no. 181 has been defined as Unrestricted (shall be accessible from anywhere national and international.

d) UJJAWALA (1st April 2016): It is a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: The scheme is implemented by agencies like the Social Welfare/Women and Child Welfare Department of State Government, Women‟s Development Corporations, Women‟s Development Centres, Urban Local Bodies, reputed Public/Private Trust, or Voluntary Organizations. The agency should be registered under the law and must have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in its Constitution.

e) Working Women Hostel Scheme: The Government of India had introduced a scheme in 1972-73 of grant-in-aid for construction of new/expansion of existing buildings for providing hostel facilities to working women in cities, smaller towns and in rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. This scheme has been revised to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women who need to live away from their families due to professional commitments. The new scheme was launched on April 6th, 2017.

f) SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances): A scheme which targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who need institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. The Scheme aims to provide shelter, food, clothing, and health as well as economic and social security for the aggrieved women.

g) Nari Shakti Puraskar: It is the "annual award given by Ministry of Women and Child Development (Government of India) to individual women or to institutions that work towards the cause of women empowerment". It is represented by the President of India on International Women's Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

h) Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014: The government of India instituted 5 national awards which are called 'Stree Shakti Puraskar" — a measure to recognise the achievements of individual women in the field of social development. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a citation. The awards are un the names of eminent women personalities in India history, viz. Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Kannagi, Mata Jijabai, Rani Gaidenlou Zeliang and Rani Laxmibai awards.

i) Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman: Conferred from 2015 onwards. These awards would recognize, and reward selfless work done by exceptional and committed women at the community and grassroots level. One award one every district and one in each State/UT.

j) Mahila Police Volunteers: "They would act as a link between police and the community and facilitate women in distress. The MPVs will be chosen by the Home Department of the concerned State/UT through the Superintendent of Police of the district. The MPV will directly report to the Circle Inspector in the Police Thana".

k) Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK): "For empowering rural women through community participation and to create an environment in which they realize their full potential. It will provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements also empowering them through training and capacity building".

l) NIRBHAYA Fund: "For projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance."

Apart from the above schemes, the government of India have set various other plans like Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) which aims to address the situation of poor women in remote areas who are not able to move out of their native for skill training. This would help women to be self-employed. The Government of India has planned to train 500 million individuals by 2020.

On the other, the Government of India has tried to collaborate with various international organizations and NGOs. It is the founding member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and has also ratified approximately 47 protocols and conventions. It has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and ratified it in 1993. It has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol of the CEDAW and National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security.

Despite such efforts, its ranking on global surveys of gender equality has not improved over the years. According to Global Gender Gap Report 2021 by World Economic Forum, India ranks 140th among 156 countries (World Economic Forum, 2021). Given the low ranking on the gender gap, India must work towards political empowerment which is relatively low as well as economic empowerment which has widened since 2006 (Kapur and Narayan 2020). The Indian legal system has also been seen faltering in terms of protecting women and girls because of corruption and poor enforcement of the law among others. Hence, an extensive and more collaborative approach is required to ensure women empowerment through proper and equitable access to education, employment, health care, and representation — political as well as economic.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2001)

Introduction

1.1 The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in Favour of women.

Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, Plans and programmers have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993.

The Mexico Plan of Action (1975), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), the Beijing Declaration as well as the Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome Document adopted by the UNGA Session on Gender Equality and Development & Peace for the 21st century, titled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action" have been unreservedly endorsed by India for appropriate follow up.

The Policy also takes note of the commitments of the Ninth Five Year Plan and the other Sectoral Policies relating to empowerment of Women.

1.6 The women's movement and a wide-spread network of non-Government Organizations which have strong grass-roots presence and deep insight into women's concerns have contributed in inspiring initiatives for the empowerment of women.

However, there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of the status of women in India, on the other. This has been analyzed extensively in the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, "Towards Equality", 1974 and highlighted in the National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988-2000, the Shramshakti Report, 1988 and the Platform for Action, Five Years After- An assessment."

Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades. Social stereotyping and violence at the domestic and societal levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women persists in parts of the country.

The underlying causes of gender inequality are related to social and economic structure, which is based on informal and formal norms, and practices.

Consequently, the access of women particularly those belonging to weaker

sections including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ Other backward Classes and minorities, majority of whom are in the rural areas and in the informal, unorganized sector – to education, health, and productive resources, among others, is inadequate. Therefore, they remain largely marginalized, poor and socially excluded.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development, and empowerment of women. The Policy will be widely disseminated to encourage active participation of all stakeholders in achieving its goals. Specifically, the objectives of this Policy include.

i. Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential

ii. The de-jure and de-facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres – political, economic, social, cultural, and civil

iii. Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political, and economic life of the nation

iv. Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security, and public office etc.

v. Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

vi. Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.

vii. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.

viii. Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and

ix. Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

Policy Prescriptions Judicial Legal Systems

Legal-judicial system will be made more responsive and gender sensitive to women's needs, especially in cases of domestic violence and personal assault. New laws will be enacted, and existing laws reviewed to ensure that justice is quick and the punishment meted out to the culprits is commensurate with the severity of the offence.

At the initiative of and with the full participation of all stakeholders including community and religious leaders, the Policy would aim to encourage changes in personal laws such as those related to marriage, divorce, maintenance, and guardianship so as to eliminate discrimination against women.

2.3 The evolution of property rights in a patriarchal system has contributed to the subordinate status of women. The Policy would aim to encourage changes in laws relating to ownership of property and inheritance by evolving consensus to make them gender just.

Decision Making

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels will be ensured for the achievement of the goals of empowerment. All measures will be taken to guarantee women equal access to and full participation in decision making bodies at every level, including the legislative, executive, judicial, corporate, statutory bodies, as also the advisory Commissions, Committees, Boards, Trusts etc. Affirmative action such as reservations/quotas, including

in higher legislative bodies, will be considered whenever necessary on a time bound basis. Women–friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process.

Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in the Development Process

Policies, programmes and systems will be established to ensure mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental processes, as catalysts, participants, and recipients. Wherever there are gaps in policies and programmes, women specific interventions would be undertaken to bridge these. Coordinating and monitoring mechanisms will also be devised to assess from time to time the progress of such mainstreaming mechanisms. Women's issues and concerns as a result will be addressed and reflected in all concerned laws, sectoral policies, plans and programmes of action.

Economic Empowerment of women Poverty Eradication

Since women comprise most of the population below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty, given the harsh realities of intra-household and social discrimination, macro economic policies and poverty eradication programmes will specifically address the needs and problems of such women. There will be improved implementation of programmes which are already women oriented with special targets for women. Steps will be taken for mobilization of poor women and convergence of services, by offering them a range of economic and social options, along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities.

Micro Credit

In order to enhance women's access to credit for consumption and production, the establishment of new, and strengthening of existing micro-credit mechanisms and micro-finance institution will be undertaken so that the outreach of credit is enhanced. Other supportive measures would be taken to ensure adequate flow of credit through extant financial institutions and banks, so that all women below poverty line have easy access to credit.

Women and Economy

Women's perspectives will be included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. Their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers will be recognized in the formal and informal sectors (including home based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and to her working conditions will be drawn up. Such measures could include:

Reinterpretation and redefinition of conventional concepts of work wherever necessary e.g., in the Census records, to reflect women's contribution as producers and workers.

Preparation of satellite and national accounts. Development of appropriate methodologies for undertaking (i) and (ii) above.

Globalization

Globalization has presented new challenges for the realization of the goal of women's equality, the gender impact of which has not been systematically evaluated fully. However, from the micro-level studies that were commissioned by the Department of Women & Child Development, it is evident that there is a need for re-framing policies for access to employment and quality of employment.

Benefits of the growing global economy have been unevenly distributed leading to wider economic disparities, the feminization of poverty, increased gender inequality through often deteriorating working conditions and unsafe working environment especially in the informal economy and rural areas. Strategies will be designed to enhance the capacity of women and empower them to meet the negative social and economic impacts, which may flow from the globalization process.

Women and Agriculture

In view of the critical role of women in the agriculture and allied sectors, as producers, concentrated efforts will be made to ensure that benefits of training, extension and various programmes will reach them in proportion to their numbers. The programmes for training women in soil conservation, social forestry, dairy development, and other occupations allied to agriculture like horticulture, livestock including small animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries etc. will be expanded to benefit women workers in the agriculture sector.

Women and Industry

The important role played by women in electronics, information technology and food processing and agro industry and textiles has been crucial to the development of these sectors. They would be given comprehensive support in terms of labour legislation, social security, and other support services to participate in various industrial sectors.

Women at present cannot work in night shift in factories even if they wish to. Suitable measures will be taken to enable women to work on the night shift in factories. This will be accompanied by support services for security, transportation etc.

Support Services

The provision of support services for women, like childcare facilities, including crèches at work places and educational institutions, homes for the aged and the disabled will be expanded and improved to create an enabling environment and to ensure their full cooperation in social, political and economic life. Women-friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process.

Social Empowerment of Women Education

Equal access to education for women and girls will be ensured. Special measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination, universalize education, eradicate illiteracy, create a gender-sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate life-long learning as well as development of occupation/vocation/technical skills by women. Reducing the gender gap in secondary and higher education would be a focus area. Sectoral time targets in existing policies will be achieved, with a special focus on girls and women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections including the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes/Minorities. Gender sensitive curricula would be developed at all levels of educational system to address sex stereotyping as one of the causes of gender discrimination.

Health

A holistic approach to women's health which includes both nutrition and health services will be adopted, and special attention will be given to the needs of women and the girl at all stages of the life cycle. The reduction of infant mortality and maternal mortality, which are sensitive indicators of human development, is

a priority concern. This policy reiterates the national demographic goals for Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) set out in the National Population Policy 2000. Women should have access to comprehensive, affordable, and quality health care. Measures will be adopted that consider the reproductive rights of women to enable them to exercise informed choices, their vulnerability to sexual and health problems together with endemic, infectious and communicable diseases such as malaria, TB, and water borne diseases as well as hypertension and cardio-pulmonary diseases. The social, developmental and health consequences of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases will be tackled from a gender perspective.

To effectively meet problems of infant and maternal mortality, and early marriage the availability of good and accurate data at micro level on deaths, birth and marriages is required. Strict implementation of registration of births and deaths would be ensured, and registration of marriages would be made compulsory.

In accordance with the commitment of the National Population Policy (2000) to population stabilization, this Policy recognizes the critical need of men and women to have access to safe, effective, and affordable methods of family planning of their choice and the need to suitably address the issues of early marriages and spacing of children. Interventions such as spread of education, compulsory registration of marriage and special programmes like BSY should impact on delaying the age of marriage so that by 2010 child marriages are eliminated.

Women's traditional knowledge about health care and nutrition will be recognized through proper documentation and its use will be encouraged. The use of Indian and alternative systems of medicine will be enhanced within the framework of overall health infrastructure available for women.

Nutrition

In view of the high risk of malnutrition and disease that women face at all the three critical stages viz., infancy and childhood, adolescent, and reproductive phase, focussed attention would be paid to meeting the nutritional needs of women at all stages of the life cycle. This is also important in view of the critical link between the health of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women with the health of infant and young children. Special efforts will be made to tackle the problem of macro and micronutrient deficiencies especially amongst pregnant and lactating women as it leads to various diseases and disabilities.

Intra-household discrimination in nutritional matters vis-à-vis girls and women will be sought to be ended through appropriate strategies. Widespread use of nutrition education would be made to address the issues of intra-household imbalances in nutrition and the special needs of pregnant and lactating women. Women's participation will also be ensured in the planning, superintendence, and delivery of the system.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

Special attention will be given to the needs of women in the provision of safe drinking water, sewage disposal, toilet facilities and sanitation within accessible reach of households, especially in rural areas and urban slums. Women's participation will be ensured in the planning, delivery, and maintenance of such services.

Housing and Shelter

Women's perspectives will be included in housing policies, planning of housing colonies and provision of shelter both in rural and

urban areas. Special attention will be given for providing adequate and safe housing and accommodation for women including single women, heads of households, working women, students, apprentices, and trainees.

Environment

Women will be involved, and their perspectives reflected in the policies and programmes for environment, conservation, and restoration. Considering the impact of environmental factors on their livelihoods, women's participation will be ensured in the conservation of the environment and control of environmental degradation. Most rural women still depend on the locally available non-commercial sources of energy such as animal dung, crop waste and fuel wood. In order to ensure the efficient use of these energy resources in an environmentally friendly manner, the Policy will aim at promoting the programmes of non-conventional energy resources. Women will be involved in spreading the use of solar energy, biogas, smokeless chulahs and other rural application so as to have a visible impact of these measures in influencing eco system and in changing the lifestyles of rural women.

Science and Technology

Programmes will be strengthened to bring about a greater involvement of women in science and technology. These will include measures to motivate girls to take up science and technology for higher education and also ensure that development projects with scientific and technical inputs involve women fully. Efforts to develop a scientific temper and awareness will also be stepped up. Special measures would be taken for their training in areas where they have special skills like communication and information technology. Efforts to develop appropriate technologies suited to women's needs as well as to reduce

their drudgery will be given a special focus too.

Women in Difficult Circumstances

In recognition of the diversity of women's situations and in acknowledgement of the needs of specially disadvantaged groups, measures and programmes will be undertaken to provide them with special assistance. These groups include women in extreme poverty, destitute women, women in conflict situations, women affected by natural calamities, women in less developed regions, the disabled widows, elderly women, single women in difficult circumstances, women heading households, those displaced from employment, migrants, women who are victims of marital violence, deserted women and prostitutes etc.

Violence against women

All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eliminate its incidence. Institutions and mechanisms /schemes for assistance will be created and strengthened for prevention of such violence, including sexual harassment at work place and customs like dowry; for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence and for taking effective action against the perpetrators of such violence. A special emphasis will also be laid on programmes and measures to deal with trafficking in women and girls.

Rights of the Girl Child

All forms of discrimination against the girl child and violation of her rights shall be eliminated by undertaking strong measures both preventive and punitive within and outside the family. These would relate specifically to strict enforcement of laws

against prenatal sex selection and the practices of female foeticide, female infanticide, child marriage, child abuse and child prostitution etc. Removal of discrimination in the treatment of the girl child within the family and outside and projection of a positive image of the girl child will be actively fostered. There will be special emphasis on the needs of the girl child and earmarking of substantial investments in the areas relating to food and nutrition, health, and education, and in vocational education. In implementing programmes for eliminating child labour, there will be a special focus on girl children.

Mass Media

Media will be used to portray images consistent with human dignity of girls and women. The Policy will specifically strive to remove demeaning, degrading and negative conventional stereotypical images of women and violence against women. Private sector partners and media networks will be involved at all levels to ensure equal access for women particularly around information and communication technologies. The media would be encouraged to develop codes of conduct, professional guidelines, and other self regulatory mechanisms to remove gender stereotypes and promote balanced portrayals of women and men.

Operational Strategies Action Plans

10.1 All Central and State Ministries will draw up time bound Action Plans for translating the Policy into a set of concrete actions, through a participatory process of consultation with Centre/State Departments of Women and Child Development and National /State Commissions for Women.

The Plans will specifically be including the following: -

i. Measurable goals to be achieved by 2010.
ii. Identification and commitment of resources.
iii. Responsibilities for implementation of action points.
iv. Structures and mechanisms to ensure efficient monitoring, review and gender impact assessment of action points and policies.
v. Introduction of a gender perspective in the budgeting process.

In order to support better planning and programme formulation and adequate allocation of resources, Gender Development Indices (GDI) will be developed by networking with specialized agencies. These could be analyzed and studied. Gender auditing and development of evaluation mechanisms will also be undertaken along side.

Collection of gender disaggregated data by all primary data collecting agencies of the Central and State Governments as well as Research and Academic Institutions in the Public and Private Sectors will be undertaken. Data and information gaps in vital areas reflecting the status of women will be sought to be filled in by these immediately. All Ministries / Corporations /Banks and financial institutions etc will be advised to collect, collate, disseminate and maintain/publish data related to programmes and benefits on a gender disaggregated basis. This will help in meaningful planning and evaluation of policies.

Institutional Mechanisms

Institutional mechanisms, to promote the advancement of women, which exist at the Central and State levels, will be strengthened. These will be through interventions as may be appropriate and will relate to, among others,

provision of adequate resources, training, and advocacy skills to effectively influence macro-policies, legislation, programmes etc. to achieve the empowerment of women.

National and State Councils will be formed to oversee the operationalisation of the Policy on a regular basis. The National Council will be headed by the Prime Minister and the State Councils by the Chief Ministers and be broad in composition having representatives from the concerned Departments/Ministries, National and State Commissions for Women, Social Welfare Boards, representatives of Non-Government Organizations, Women's Organisations, Corporate Sector, Trade Unions, financing institutions, academics, experts, and social activists etc. These bodies will review the progress made in implementing the Policy twice a year. The National Development Council will also be informed of the progress of the programme undertaken under the policy from time to time for advice and comments.

National and State Resource Centres on women will be established with mandates for collection and dissemination of information, undertaking research work, conducting surveys, implementing training and awareness generation programmes, etc. These Centers will link up with Women's Studies Centres and other research and academic institutions through suitable information networking systems.

While institutions at the district level will be strengthened, at the grassroots, women will be helped by Government through its programmes to organize and strengthen into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at the Anganwadi/Village/Town level. The women's groups will be helped to institutionalize themselves into registered societies and to federate at the Panchyat/Municipal level. These societies will bring about synergistic implementation of all the social and economic development programmes by drawing resources made available through Government and Non-Government channels, including banks and financial institutions and by establishing a close Interface with the Panchayats/ Municipalities.

Resource Management

Availability of adequate financial, human and market resources to implement the Policy will be managed by concerned Departments, financial credit institutions and banks, private sector, civil society, and other connected institutions. This process will include:

a) Assessment of benefits flowing to women and resource allocation to the programmes relating to them through an exercise of gender budgeting. Appropriate changes in policies will be made to optimize benefits to women under these schemes.

b) Adequate resource allocation to develop and promote the policy outlined earlier based on (a) above by concerned Departments.

c) Developing synergy between personnel of Health, Rural Development, Education and Women & Child Development Department at field level and other village level functionaries'

d) Meeting credit needs by banks and financial credit institutions through suitable policy initiatives and development of new institutions in coordination with the Department of Women & Child Development.

The strategy of Women's Component Plan adopted in the Ninth Plan of ensuring that not less than 30% of benefits/funds flow to women from all Ministries and Departments will be implemented effectively so that the needs and interests of women and girls are addressed by all concerned sectors. The Department of Women and Child Development

being the nodal Ministry will monitor and review the progress of the implementation of the Component Plan from time to time, in terms of both quality and quantity in collaboration with the Planning Commission. Efforts will be made to channelize private sector investments too, to support programmes and projects for advancement of women.

Legislation

The existing legislative structure will be reviewed, and additional legislative measures taken by identified departments to implement the Policy. This will also involve a review of all existing laws including personal, customary, and tribal laws, subordinate legislation, related rules as well as executive and administrative regulations to eliminate all gender discriminatory references. The process will be planned over the time 2000-2003. The specific measures required would be evolved through a consultation process involving civil society, National Commission for Women and Department of Women and Child Development. In appropriate cases the consultation process would be widened to include other stakeholders too.

Effective implementation of legislation would be promoted by involving civil society and community. Appropriate changes in legislation will be undertaken, if necessary.

In addition the following other specific measures will be taken to implement the legislation effectively.

a) Strict enforcement of all relevant legal provisions and speedy redressal of grievances will be ensured, with a special focus on violence and gender related atrocities.

b) Measures to prevent and punish sexual harassment at the place of work, protection for women workers in the organized/ unorganized sector and strict enforcement of relevant laws such as Equal Remuneration Act and Minimum Wages Act will be undertaken,

c) Crimes against women, their incidence, prevention, investigation, detection, and prosecution will be regularly reviewed at all Crime Review fora and Conferences at the Central, State and District levels. Recognised, local, voluntary organizations will be authorized to lodge Complaints and facilitate registration, investigations and legal proceedings related to violence and atrocities against girls and women.

d) Women's Cells in Police Stations, Encourage Women Police Stations Family Courts, Mahila Courts, Counselling Centers, Legal Aid Centers and Nyaya Panchayats will be strengthened and expanded to eliminate violence and atrocities against women.

e) Widespread dissemination of information on all aspects of legal rights, human rights and other entitlements of women, through specially designed legal literacy programmes and rights information programmes will be done.

Gender Sensitization

Training of personnel of executive, legislative and judicial wings of the State, with a special focus on policy and programme framers, implementation and development agencies, law enforcement machinery and the judiciary, as well as non-governmental organizations will be undertaken. Other measures will include:

a) Promoting societal awareness of gender issues and women's human rights.

b) Review of curriculum and educational materials to include gender education and human rights issues

c) Removal of all references derogatory to the dignity of women from all public documents and legal instruments.

d) Use of different forms of mass media to communicate social messages relating to women's equality and empowerment.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Indian Constitution have served as a breakthrough towards ensuring equal access and increased participation in political power structure for women. The PRIs will play a central role in the process of enhancing women's participation in public life. The PRIs and the local self Governments will be actively involved in the implementation and execution of the National Policy for Women at the grassroots level.

Partnership with the voluntary sector organizations

The involvement of voluntary organizations, associations, federations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, as well as institutions dealing with education, training and research will be ensured in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and review of all policies and programmes affecting women. Towards this end, they will be provided with appropriate support related to resources and capacity building and facilitated to participate actively in the process of the empowerment of women.

International Cooperation

17.1 The Policy will aim at implementation of international obligations/commitments in all sectors on empowerment of women such as the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5) and other such instruments. International, regional, and sub-regional cooperation towards the empowerment of women will continue to be encouraged through sharing of experiences, exchange of ideas and technology, networking with institutions and organizations and through bilateral and multi-lateral partnerships.

Women Empowerment and Issues related to Women.

Over the years, it has been proved beyond any doubt that Economies tend to grow faster when women enter the workforce. Studies conducted in various nations have proven that there is a direct correlation between greater gender diversity and higher GDPs. The situation can even be applied to India as well to gain the most out of women empowerment.

Why should Indian women be Empowered?

- By empowering women, we increase their right to economic resources, as well as their decision-making powers. This, in turn, benefits their households and their communities.

- Women begin investing more in their children's education, the quality of human capital improves, and we as a nation reap the benefits of economic prosperity.

What if the Women are not empowered

If women are not empowered, the nation's economy loses. A recent study by the World Bank found that countries lose $160 trillion in wealth due to the differences in lifetime earnings between men and women.

Women participation in the workforce of India stands at an abysmal 19.9% (as per WB's data of 2020) while 3.7% of them tend to occupy leadership positions in the corporate

companies of India. India is striving hard to ensure a balance in gender diversity.

Progresses made for Women Empowerment
In India, women have made it to the top as ministers and chief ministers, administrators in the government system and financial sector CEOs. Progresses in other sectors can be listed as follows:

a) **Entrepreneurship –** According to a report by Bain & Company, female entrepreneurs can generate 150-170 million job opportunities in India by 2030. The current Union Govt. has placed high priority on empowerment of women starting from their education, health, quality of life and providing them with loans to set up businesses.

b) **Mining Industry –** more and more women are these days taking up unconventional roles, ranging from working at mining sites to manufacturing or security outfits. Recently, Sandhya Rasakatla from Hindustan Zinc became the country's first ever women underground mine-manager. Mining Industry, earlier perceived as male-dominated owing to the physical nature of the work, women are breaking all the stereotypes and entering all the sectors in good numbers.

c) **Armed Forces –** The Supreme Court of India on February 17 2020, upheld the right of serving Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers to be granted Permanent Commissions (PC) just like their male colleagues. Till now, women officers were assigned only ground duties in the Army Aviation Corps. But now, two women officers have been selected to undergo helicopter pilot training for the first time in the Army Aviation Corps. They

will join front-line flying duties on completion of their training in July 2022.

d) A plethora of women empowerment schemes are making it possible to realize the concept of women-led development in the country. The government of India has taken the safety and empowerment of women and children into serious consideration. The growing injustice towards women had to be minimized, and these schemes are the solutions to the major problems related to women in India.

Way Forward
India is transitioning from women's development to 'women-led development'.
In this vision, the women have been reimagined as architects of India's progress and development, rather than being passive recipients of the fruits of development.
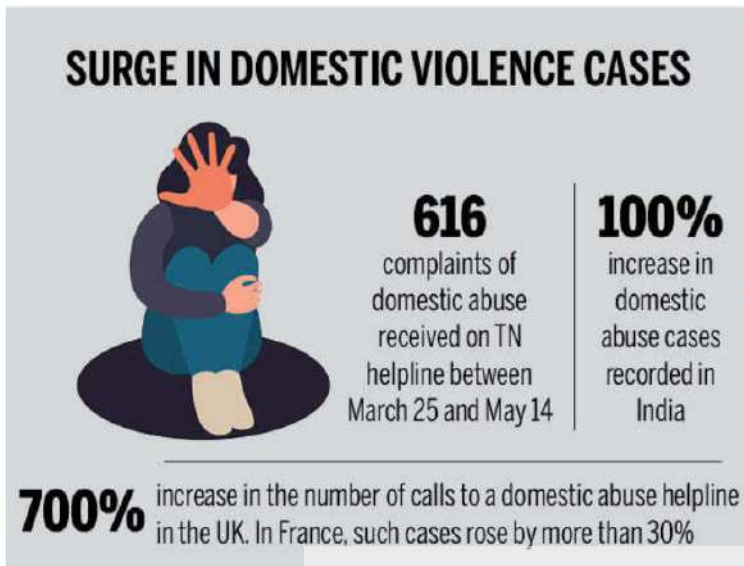As a nation, we need to continue empowering our women to achieve our full potential as a superpower.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
National Crime Record Bureau report shows stark increase in violence against women in India in the forms of dowry deaths, acts of sexual harassment, torture, rapes, and domestic violence.

Violence against Women
- **The United Nations** defines **violence against women** as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."
- Violence against women is a social, economic, developmental, legal,

SURGE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

616 complaints of domestic abuse received on TN helpline between March 25 and May 14

100% increase in domestic abuse cases recorded in India

700% increase in the number of calls to a domestic abuse helpline in the UK. In France, such cases rose by more than 30%

educational, human right, and health (physical and mental) issue.

- It is a preventable cause of **morbidity and mortality in women**.

Violence against women occurs throughout the life cycle from prebirth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood to old age.

Facts and Findings

- As per **World Health Organization (WHO)** findings about **1 in 3 (35%) women** worldwide have experienced either **physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence** in their lifetime.

- Violence against women – particularly **intimate partner violence and sexual violence** – is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights.

- Globally, **38% of murders of women** are committed by a **male intimate partner**.

- Violence can negatively affect women's **physical, mental, sexual,** and **reproductive health**, and may increase the risk of acquiring HIV in some settings.

Predisposing Factors

- Men are more likely to perpetrate violence if they have **low education, a history of child maltreatment,**

exposure to domestic violence against their mothers, harmful use of alcohol, unequal gender norms including attitudes accepting of violence, and a sense of entitlement over women.

- Women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence if they have **low education, exposure to mothers being abused by a partner, abuse during childhood, and attitudes accepting violence, male privilege, and women's subordinate status**.

- There is evidence that **advocacy and empowerment counselling interventions,** as well as home visitation are promising in preventing or reducing intimate partner violence against women.

- **Situations of conflict, post conflict and displacement may exacerbate existing violence,** such as by intimate partners, as well as non-partner sexual violence, and may also lead to new forms of violence against women.

Causes

- **Gender Disparity:** is one of the **deep-rooted causes** of violence against women that put women at risk of several forms of violence.

  o **Discriminatory gender norms and gender stereotypes** results in structural inequality.

- **Psychiatric Morbidity:** Generally, refers to the incidence of both **physical and psychological deterioration** as a result of a mental or psychological condition, generally caused due to the consumption of alcohol.

  o **Regular consumption of alcohol** by the husband has been strongly associated with poor mental health of women.

- o **Alcohol operates as a situational factor,** increasing the likelihood of violence by reducing inhibitions, clouding judgment, and impairing an individual's ability to interpret cues.
- **Sociodemographic factors: Patriarchy** has been cited as the main cause of violence against women. Where women have a higher economic status than their husbands and are seen as having sufficient power to change traditional gender roles, risk for violence is high.
- **Family factors:** Exposure to harsh physical discipline during childhood and witnessing the father beating the mother during childhood is a predictor of victimization and perpetration of violence against the wife in adulthood.
- **Traditional and cultural practices:**
  - o **Female genital mutilation:** Can lead to death, infertility, and long-term psychological trauma combined with increased physical suffering.
  - o **Acid attacks:** Acid attacks have emerged as a cheap and readily accessible weapon to disfigure and sometimes kill women and girls for reasons as varied as family feuds, inability to meet dowry demands, and rejection of marriage proposals.
  - o **Killing in the name of family honour:** In several countries of the world including Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey, and India, women are killed to uphold the honour of the family due to varied reasons such as-alleged adultery, premarital relationship (with or without sexual relations), rape, falling in love with a person the family disapproves, which justify a

male member of the family to kill the woman concerned.
  - o **Early marriages:** Early marriage with or without the consent of the girl, constitutes a form of violence as it undermines the health and autonomy of millions of girls.
- **Judiciary and law enforcement machinery:** An insensitive, inefficient, corrupt, and unaccountable judicial system and law enforcement machinery fails to deter various forms of crimes.
- **Sociocultural factors disfavouring women: Stereotypes of gender roles** have continued over the ages.
  - o The primary roles for women have been **marriage and motherhood**.
  - o Women must marry because an unmarried, separated, or divorced status is a stigma.
  - o The **custom of dowry** is still prevalent in Indian marriages.

Consequences

- **Health Issue:** Violence in any form affects not only physical mental sexual and reproductive health of women but also adversely affects their **self esteem, ability to work and make decisions about fertility**.
- **Economic Issue:** violence against women can have serious impact on economy of the household as well as of the nation.
  - o **Direct cost:** loss of income, productivity, healthcare, and cost of social services.
  - o **Indirect cost:** Impact on child well being, female and child mortality, intergenerational social and psychological cost.
- **Development Issue:** Violence obstructs participation of women in development and planning programs both at micro and macro level.

- o Violence prevents women from experiencing or accessing the benefits of development by restricting their ability to act or move freely.
- o Violence against women is an obstruction to poverty alleviation programs as it impedes equitable distribution of resources.
- **Rights Issue:** Any form of Violence against women hinders their realization of fundamental rights under article 14, 21, 19 and 32 of the Indian constitution.

Concerns

- **Underreporting:** According to WHO estimates less than 40 percent of the women who experience violence seek help of any sort.
  - o Among women who seek help, tend to approach family and friends and very few look to formal institutions and mechanisms, such as police and health services.
  - o Less than 10 percent of those women seeking help for experience of violence sought help by appealing to the police.
- **Erring Laws:** Most of the times laws and legislations for women safety are either not in compliance with the international standards or not implemented properly.
  - o Laws relating to violence themselves constitute greater barrier against justice for women.
- **Dearth of Data and Statistics:** on crime against women.
  - o There is a need of a **comprehensive and systematic research and analysis on crime against women** at Central, State, district, and block level.

- **Accused are known people:** From the family or neighbourhood. Women are not safe among the people they know well and may be unsafe with dear and near ones.
- **Improper implementation:** Although many laws and legislation exist, their full implementation in terms of legal literacy, training officials responsible for administering legislation, legal support services is not upto the mark.

Way Forward

- **Gender based legislation:** It is important to enact and enforce legislation and develop and implement policies that promote gender equality by ending discrimination against women in marriage, divorce and custody laws, inheritance laws and ownership of assets.
- **Financial Independence:** Improving women's access to paid employment.
- **Developing and resourcing national plans and policies** to address violence against women.
- Improve system of collecting crime surveillance data on violence against women.
- **Capacity building and training** to service providers and law enforcement officers to handle cases of violence against women.
- **Male Mediated Initiatives:** Ensure **male involvement** in devising program for abusers.
- **Prevent recurrence of violence:** Through early identification of women and children who are experiencing violence and providing appropriate referral and support.
- **Promote egalitarian gender norms** as part of life skills and comprehensive sexuality education curricula taught to young people.

- **Gender based surveys:** Generate evidence on what works and on the magnitude of the problem by carrying out **population-based surveys or including violence against women in population-based demographic and health surveys,** as well as in surveillance and health information systems.

Current Status in India

- Nearly one-third of women in India have experienced physical or sexual violence.
- The most common type of spousal violence is physical violence (28%), followed by emotional violence and sexual violence.
- While domestic violence against women has declined from 31.2% to 29.3% in the country, 30% women between the age of 18 and 49 have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 years, while 6% have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime,
- Only 14% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by anyone have brought the issue up.
- 32% of married women (18-49 years) have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional spousal violence.
  - **Recent findings from National Family health Survey Report-5**
- **Status**: Domestic violence against women is highest in Karnataka at 48%, followed by Bihar, Telangana, Manipur, and Tamil Nadu. Lakshawdeep has the least domestic violence at 2.1%.
- **Rural–urban difference**: Physical violence is more common among women in rural areas (32%) as compared to their urban areas (24%).
- **Impact of schooling and education:** 40% women with no schooling are

subject to physical violence compared to 18% who completed their schooling.

- **Impact of employment and wealth:** The experience of physical violence ranges between 39% among women in the lowest wealth quintile and 17% in the highest wealth quintile.
  - **Why women left behind as compared to men in India?**
- **Patriarchal structure:** Patriarchal structures and ideologies and the mindset led to women subordination and gender inequalities
- **Low sex ratio:** Sex ratios for women in India Is not good comparatively. It was even bad at the time of independence.
- **Life expectancy**: Women's life expectancy, health, nutritional levels are significantly lower than that of men.
- **Education:** low investment on girl education, Girl children are kept out of schools, or made drop out of school at early age, girl is considered as burden on family in many societies.
- **Employment**: even if they are educated, they are not allowed to work by their families Discrimination at the workplaces, lower wages for the work of equal value.
- **Decision making:** The have little say in the families, socio economic, legal, and political rules, and policy formulations. Very limited or no decision-making power.
- **Political participation:** The participation of women in political and social decision-making power is abysmally low. Their number in parliament has never exceeded more than 10%.

Dowry System in India

Dowry is a social evil in society that has caused unimaginable tortures and crimes

towards women and polluted the Indian marital system. A dowry is payment made in cash or kind to a bride's in-laws at the time of her marriage.

Today the government has come up with many laws (The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961) and reforms, not only to eradicate the dowry system, but also to uplift the status of the girl child by bringing in many schemes.

However, owing to the social nature of this problem, the legislation has failed to produce the desired results in our society.

To get rid of this problem, appealing to the social and moral consciousness of the people, providing education and economic independence for women, and effective enforcement of legislation against the dowry system, can help.

Impact of Dowry System

- **Gender Discrimnation:** Due to the dowry system, many a times it has been seen that women are seen as a liability and are often subjected to subjugation and are given secondhand treatment may it be in education or other amenities.
- **Affecting Career of Women:** The larger context for the practice of dowry is the poor presence of women in the workforce, and their consequent lack of financial independence.
  - The Poorer sections of society who send their daughters out to work and earn some money, to help them save up for her dowry.
  - The regular middle- and upper-class backgrounds do send their daughters to school, but don't emphasize career options.
- **Many Women End Up Being Unmarried:** An uncountable number of girls in the country, despite being educated and professionally competent, remain endlessly unmarried because

their parents cannot fulfil the demand for pre-marriage dowry.

- **Objectification of Women:** Contemporary dowry is more like an investment by the bride's family for plugging into powerful connections and money-making opportunities.
  - This renders women as merely articles of commerce.
- **Crime Against Women:** In some cases, the dowry system leads to crime against women, ranging from emotional abuse and injury to even deaths.

Way Forward

- **Recognizing Limitations of Political Solution to Social Problem:** No law can be enforced without the wholehearted cooperation of the people.
  - Enacting a law no doubt sets a pattern of behaviour, activates social conscience, and renders some assistance towards the efforts of social reformers in getting it abolished.
  - However, social evil like dowry cannot eradicate itself unless the people carry the philosophy behind the law much further.
- **Educating Girls:** Education and independence is one powerful and valuable gift that parents can give to their daughter.
  - This will in turn help her to be financially sound and be a contributing member of the family, giving her respect and the right status in the family.
  - So, providing the daughters with a solid education, and encouraging her to pursue a career of her choice is the best

dowry any parent can ever give their daughter.

- **Creating Social Stigma Around Dowry:** Accepting dowry should be made a social stigma, and all generations should be addressed. For this, social consciousness about the ill effects of the dowry system needs to be aroused. In this context:
  - The Union and State governments must take effective steps for stepping up 'anti-dowry literacy' among people through Lok Adalats, radio broadcasts, television, and newspapers on a 'continuing' basis.
  - Youths are the only ray of hope to effectively combat the menace of the dowry system. They must be given moral value-based education to broaden their minds and widen their outlook.
- **Multi Stakeholder Approach:** Dowry is not a standalone problem; thus society should take every step to bring gender parity. In this context,
  - States should look at gender-disaggregated data across the life cycle – birth, early childhood, education, nutrition, livelihood, access to healthcare, etc – to address gender inequality.
  - There is a need to expand childcare and safe public transport, reduce discrimination in hiring, and create affirming workplace environments.
  - At home, men should share domestic work and care responsibilities.

Conclusion

The practice of dowry is not only illegal but also unethical. Therefore, the conscience of society needs to be fully awakened to the evils of the dowry system so that the demand for dowry itself should lead to 'loss of face' in society for those who demand it

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexually defined behavior which can range from misbehavior of an irritating nature to the most serious forms such as sexual abuse and assault, including rape.
- The Sexual Harassment of Women (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 defines sexual harassment to include any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) namely:
  o Physical contact and advances
  o A demand or request for sexual Favours
  o Making sexually colored remarks
  o Showing pornography
  o Any other unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

What is sexual harassment at workplace?
Sexual harassment at the workplace is any unwelcome sexually defined behavior which has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, abusive, or offensive working environment.

The Sexual Harassment of Women (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 states that if the following circumstances occur or are present in relation to, or connected with any act or behavior of sexual harassment, it may amount to sexual harassment at the workplace:

a) Implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in her employment in her employment; or

b) Implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in her employment; or

c) Implied or explicit threat about her present or future employment status; or

d) Interference with her work or creating an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment for her; or

e) Humiliating treatment is likely to affect her health or safety.

Can an aggrieved file a court a case of sexual harassment in the work place?
Yes, a court case suit can be filed for damages under the laws. The basis for filing the case would be mental anguish, physical harassment, loss of income and employment caused by sexual harassment.

Under what circumstances can complaints be filed?
Complaints may be filed under the following circumstances:

- Cases involving individuals from the same organization.
- Cases that concern third-party harassment, which implies harassment from an outsider.

A complaint can can be filed:

- Internal Complaints Committee – within that organization
- Local Complaints Committee – if you are an employee of an establishment where the Internal Complaints Committee has not been constituted due to having less than 10 workers. In the case that the complaint is against the employer himself/herself and the individual feels that the case may be compromised, he/she can also lodge a complaint in the LCC.
- For instances where the LCC may not be immediately accessible, the Act instructs the district officer to designate one nodal officer in every block, taluka and tehsil in rural or tribal areas and ward or municipality in the urban area, who will receive the complaint and

forward it to the concerned LCC within 7 days. Local police station in case provisions under the **Indian Penal Code**, are applicable.

An Indian Context:

- India has signed and ratified the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women).
- In 1997 as part of the Vishaka judgment, the Supreme Court drew upon the CEDAW and laid down specific guidelines on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.
- The Vishaka guidelines defined sexual harassment and codified preventive measures and redressal mechanisms to be undertaken by employers.

Candidates must read about **Supreme Court Judgement on Vishakha Case 1997** in the linked article.

Currently in the News:

- Many Allegations were raised by female actors against fellow actors and directors.
- Even a former Minister of State for External Affairs has been accused of sexual harassment by no less than ten women journalists.
- In the immediate aftermath of this development, women have been venting out their experiences and the trauma, mostly on social media like Twitter and Facebook.
- The testimonies mostly come from the film industry and the mainstream media and include both work and private spaces.
- These testimonies range from stories of assault to propositioning, suggestiveness to stalking.
- Currently, in India, many questions arise. What is perhaps of even greater

disquiet is that for so long an official silence was kept around what were, in many instances, open secrets.

ROLE OF WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

- Though mother nature made women an equal half of human society, men made them as subordinates in many ways.
- Within the historical context, the status of women differs significantly with respect to civilization, religion, caste, and culture, etc.
- The only commonality is that they are generally housewives looking after their family.

Position of Women in Historical times

- The role of Indian women has evolved over different periods of time in the following ways:
- **IVC:**
  - The very urban nature of Indus Valley civilization (2500 BC–1500 BC) itself revealed that women might have enjoyed some sort of rights.
  - The statue of a dancing girl tells the women to hold in the art.
- **Early Vedic Period (1500 BC–1000 BC)**
  - **Social-Economic status:**
    - Women were accorded high respect and dignity.
    - Women never observed purdah in this period.
    - In the economic field also, women enjoyed freedom.
    - In the religious field, the wife enjoyed- full rights and regularly participated in religious ceremonies with her husband. In fact, the performance of religious

ceremonies was considered invalid without the wife joining her husband as his full partner.

- Women even participated actively in religious discourses.
- Women participated in popular political assemblies.

o **Education:**

- In education, women enjoyed equality with men. They were even allowed to spend life in 'Gurukul'.
- There were women poets like Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa, and Lopamudra during this era which is also called Rig Vedic period.

o **Marriage rights:**

- Women usually get marriage lately.
- They have considerable freedom in choosing their life partner, particularly in a higher caste. For instance, Kshatriya society brides had the excessive right of selecting their own consorts, which was known as 'Swayamvara'.
- A dowry system is not established; but, in rich and royal families, some kind of gift is given to the royal family.
- Widow remarriages were permitted.
- Sati Pratha was absent.
- Divorce, however, was not permissible to them. But then it was not permissible to men either.
- Monogamy is a general norm, but bigamy is also found in higher castes.

o **Property rights:**

- Property inheritance is very limited, but unmarried girls get some share of their father's property.
- In the household, women enjoyed complete freedom and were treated as Ardhangins (better halves).

- **Later Vedic Period (1000 BC–500 BC)**
  o In this period, larger kingdoms were formed.
  o It means more need for having a large army which in turn gave more role and prestige for men.
  o On the other side, Brahmanism is above the state.
  o Most of the religious rituals and rites not only deprived women but also made it an exclusive privilege of Brahmins.
  o Women were denied reading Vedic texts.
  o Virtually, the position of women is opposite to the early Vedic life.
  o Education opportunities were denied.
  o Child marriages had become common.
  o Marriages were arranged even before puberty.
  o They were considered inferior and subordinate to men.
  o Women also lost their political rights of attending assemblies.
  o However, the women in the royal and rich household enjoyed certain privileges and reached the pinnacle of fame (e.g., Gargi and Maitreyi).

- **Women during the Buddhist period**
  o Buddha preached equality and he tried to improve the cultural, educational, and religious statuses of women.

o The status of women improved a little during the Buddhist period though there was no tremendous change.

o Some of the rigidities and restrictions imposed by the caste system were relaxed.

o During the benevolent rule of the famous Buddhist kings such as Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka, Sri Harsha, and others, women regained a part of their lost freedom and status due to the relatively broadminded Buddhist philosophy.

o Women were not only confined to domestic work but also, they could resort to an educational career if they so desired.

o In the religious field, women came to occupy a distinctly superior place.

o Women were permitted to become "Sanyasis".

o Many women took a leading role in Buddhist monastic-life, women had their sangha called the Bhikshuni Sangha, which was guided by the same rules and regulations as these of the monks.

o Their political and economic status, however, remained unchanged.

- **Women in the Medieval Period**
  o Medieval India was a rule by Muslim kings and religious Ulmas.

  o The existing social evils became more prominent and a new kind of restrictions imposed on women in the name of religion.

  o The old norms of female infanticide, no education to girls, child marriage, and dowry became more prominent.

  o The condition of Hindu widows is inhuman, they were taken away all

kinds of worldly pleasure. For instance, their heads were shaved.

o In this context, Muslim widow status is not bad because remarriage is permitted for them.

o However, the institution of marriage is not sacrosanct in Islam, men have full freedom to divorce their wife at any time. This forced Muslim women to remain subordinate and submissive to their husbands.

o Purdha or purdah system (covering the female body by big clad similarly to modern Muslim women) was widely followed.

o Other than Sati, a menace called Jauhar came into existence. Under this, wives and daughters of defeated warriors self-immolate themselves to avoid strain on their modesty and at the hands of the enemy.

o Bhakti movement started by Tamil Saiva Nayanars and the Vaisnava Alvars in the 12th century reformed Hinduism which in turn had a positive effect on women status transcending caste lines.

- **Condition of Women during the 18th Century**
  o Despite the progressive impact of the Bhakti Movement, Indian women continued to be oppressed across the religion and caste, from the womb to tomb in the following ways in the 18th century:

  o **Female Infanticide:**
    ▪ The practise of killing female children after birth was widely prevailed at the time, particularly among upper-caste Bengalis and Rajputs. For

them, a girl child was an economic burden.

- o **Child Marriage:**
  - ▪ Marriages were done at a very early age, even before puberty. This puts unbearable physical pain and mental agony to girls.
- o **Denial of Education:**
  - ▪ Education was denied to girls falsely believing that learning makes them disobedient to men and lead to loss of culture.
- o **Menace Dowry:**
  - ▪ Evolved as a symbolic gesture it later became mandatory for marriages. This menace not only denied marriage for many but also made to be women even after marriage due to low dowry.
- o **Prevalence of Sati:**
  - ▪ Under this practice, wives are forced to burn themselves after the death of their husband.
  - ▪ Raja Ram Mohan Roy called it 'Murder according to every Shastra'.
- o **The humiliation of Widows:**
  - ▪ Widows are considered inauspicious. They lived secluded.
  - ▪ life not only from society but also from their own family. Unlike Muslim women, the condition
  - ▪ of Hindu Widows is pathetic as they are not allowed to remarry.
- o **Containment of Women in House:**
  - ▪ Women were usually contained in the house, not allowed.
  - ▪ to go out for employment opportunities. This made them

perpetual dependent of male in economic sphere.

- o **No Property Rights:**
  - ▪ Women denied their due share in parents and husband properties. But they (widows/divorced women) are burdened with growing children without financial assistance.
- o **Practise of Purdah System:**
  - ▪ It is a socio and religious practice for the seclusion of women. It takes two forms: physical segregation of the sexes and the requirement that women cover their bodies so as to cover their skin and conceal their form.
- o **Domestic Violence:**
  - ▪ Women are often subject to harassment and physical torture at the hands of husbands.
- o **Little Religious Freedom:**
  - ▪ Women were not allowed to perform certain religious rites. Their entry was denied in many of the temples.
- o **No to Politics:**
  - ▪ The patriarchal society of India denied women participation in the politics and administration of the country. They are deliberately kept out of corridors of power and governance structures.

- **Women under British Rule**
  - o Though the English regime undermined Indian sovereignty, they supported new emerged educated class to liberate women from clutches of religious orthodox and male chauvinists in the following ways:

- **Ending Infanticide:**
  - Infanticides are declared illegal and equivalent to murder by the Bengal regulations of 1795 and 1804.
  - The registration of the birth of all babies was made compulsory for parents in the 1870 act.
  - It further provided for verification of female children for some years after birth.
- **Abolition of Sati:**
  - At the initiative of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Government declared the practice of Sati (burning alive of widows) illegal and punishable by criminal courts as culpable homicide in 1829.
  - Though this regulation was originally implemented in Bengal alone, the next year it extended to the other two major provinces, like Madras and Bombay.
- **Widow Remarriage:**
  - At the instance of Brahmo Samaj and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar Government enacted the Hindu Remarriage Act, 1856. Vidyasagar cited Vedic texts to prove that the Hindu religion sanctioned widow remarriage.
  - Vishnu Shastri Pandit founded the Widow Remarriage Association in the 1850s.
  - Karsondas Mulji through his Gujarati weekly paper Satya Prakash advocated widow remarriage.
- **Annihilation of Child Marriage:**
  - Due to the efforts of Parsi reformer B.M. Malabari, the Age of Consent Act (1891) was enacted which forbade the marriage of girls below 12 years old.
  - The Sarda Act (1930) further pushed the marriage age to 18 and 14 for boys and girls, respectively.
- **Education to Women:**
  - The Christian missionaries were the first to set up the Calcutta Female Juvenile Society in 1819.
  - Bethune School was founded by J.E.D. Bethune in Calcutta in 1849 as a culmination of power women education movement started in the 1840s and 1850s.
  - Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar started about 35 girls' schools in West Bengal.
  - Charles Wood's Despatch on Education (1854) and Hunter Commission laid great stress on the need for female education.
  - Jagannath Shankar Seth and Bhau Daji actively promoted the girls' schools in Maharashtra.
- **Role of Women in Freedom Struggle**
  - During the national struggle, Indian women showed their patriotism, nationalism,

leadership, service mind, sacrifice attitude and vigour, and valour in the following ways:

- Jhansi Rani and Begham Hazratmahal provided inspiring leadership for the 1857 revolt.
- Kadambari Ganguly, the first woman graduates of the British Empire, went to attend the first meeting of the Indian National Congress meeting as a delegate.
- Bhikaiji Rustom Cama co-founded the Paris Indian Society. In 1907, she attended the second Socialist Congress in Germany, where she described the devastating effects of a famine that had struck the Indian subcontinent. In her appeal for human rights, equality, and autonomy from Great Britain, she unfurled what she called the 'Flag of Indian Independence'.
- Annie Besant started the Home Rule Movement to get some sort of self-rule for India.
- Women like Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Muthulaksmi Reddy, and Aruna Asaf Ali are some of the women freedom fighters who participated in the non-violent movement of non-cooperation and civil disobedience.
- Sarala Debi Chaudhurani participated in the revolutionary movement. She provided shelter and acted as a courier to revolutionaries.
- Rani Gaidinliu participated in Heraka movement.
- Lakshmi Sahgal headed the Jhansi unit Subhas's INA (Indian National Army)

Women's Constitutional Rights

- In the light of historical experiences and in consonance with the democratic ideals, our founding fathers incorporated various provisions for gender equality across the constitution they are in.
- **Constitutional Privileges Preamble**
  o It assures SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLIC ideals to all its citizens without any gender bias. It also offers EQUALITY of status and of opportunity for all its citizens including women.
- **Fundamental Rights**
  o Equality before law for women (Article 14).
  o The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, Article 15 (1).
  o The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children, Article 15 (3).
  o Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State (Article 16).
  o Article 21 A (Right to education): It provides free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years.
  o Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23).
  o Article 24 mandates that no child under the age of 14 years shall be

employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

- **DPSP**
  o The State to direct its policy towards securing:
    - Men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood, Article 39(a).
    - Equal pay for equal work for both men and women, Article 39(d).
    - To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities (Article 39 A).
    - The State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42).
    - Early childhood care and education to children under the age of six years-Article 45 (after the 86th amendment act).
    - The State promotes with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46).
    - The State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people (Article 47).
- **Fundamental Duties**
  o To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51 A (e)).
- **Political Rights**

o Voting rights are denied to women during pre-independence, but constitutional strictly prohibited gender bias in voting by offering universal adult franchise under Article 326.

o Under Article 243 D, one-third of seats in the Panchayats including offices of chairpersons reserved for women.

o 18. Under Article 243 T, one-third of seats in the Municipality including offices of chairpersons reserved for women.

Legislative Safeguard

- **Dowry Prohibition Act,1961:** It prescribes penalty for giving or taking dowry does not apply to presents that are given at the time of a marriage to the bride or bridegroom.
- **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956:** The Act intends to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation for commercial purposes.
- **Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1986:** An attempt to commit Sati or to abet such an attempt is punishable with imprisonment or imposition of a fine.
- **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986:** Indecent representation of women through advertisement and various publications, paintings, writings, figures, or in any other manner is completely prohibited through this act.
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005:** They not only cover physical violence against women but also consider other forms of violence, such as emotional/ verbal, sexual, and economic abuse. One of the most important features of the Act is

the woman's right to stay in her husband's home.

- **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:** It, among the others, demands that any workplace with more than 10 employees needs to create a mechanism for redressal of complaints against sexual harassment.

- Other legislative works that aimed to safeguard women's rights are the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Hindu Succession Act, 1956, The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, and The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976.

Problems of Indian Women: 21st Century

- Anything else, the problems of women is changed from time to time with the changing circum- stances. 21st-century India faces the following problems:

  o **Female Infanticide:**
    - Though female infanticide is sharply reduced, it continues to be prevalent in different forms for different reasons. Male child quest-driven sex selection is common now. The problem is more among educated urban and rich people.

  o **Worst Child Sex Ratio:**
    - As per the 2011 Census, the child sex ratio (0–6 years) has shown a decline from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 919 females per thousand males in 2011. Small-family desire, dowry burden and son preference are behind this.

  o **Low Sex Ratio:**
    - India has 940 females per 1,000 males as per the 2011 census. Though the trend is moving in a

good direction when compared to the 2001 census (933), there is a huge gap in gender equality.

  o **Child Abuse:**
    - Creating strain on our moral fabric children, particularly female child, are now abused that too by relatives and parents. This not only creates physical pain but also metal agony unsuitable to the age.

  o **Inferior Treatment:**
    - Women are given inferior treatment from womb to tomb. They are seen as a liability in the material world. They are not properly educated but rather employed as child labour. Their health is not properly taken care of. Their emotions, feelings and happiness are often neglected.

  o **Problem of Dowry:**
    - Still, millions of women get late married or married not at all because of the menace of dowry. It creates a lot of emotional tensions in the family and society at large.

  o **Domestic Violence:**
    - Though the status of women in their husband home is improved lot, still women are facing domestic violence for dowry or love marriage or inter-caste marriage reasons.

  o **Harassment at the Workplace:**
    - With more women engaged in a job outside the home, they are subject to harassment at the workplace by their superiors and peers. Women reeling under economic constraints

even do not have the opportunity to disclose their problems.

o **Safety:**
  ▪ The safety and security of Indian women in public place are pathetic. Molestation, rape, eve-teasing are everyday phenomena at present. India's rich tradition is facing back-lash at the world stage because of this.

o **Trafficking:**
  ▪ The trafficking of girl child and women are ever-increasing. The problem is such an act is done by an organized crime syndicate with well-developed and connected net- work. Trafficked women are used for flesh trading and criminal activities.

o **Low Literacy:**
  ▪ Even after six decades of independence, the literacy rate of women is just over 65% as against men's 82 plus. This clearly shows that women education is less impor- tant for Indian society.

o **Non-valuing Housewife job:**
  ▪ Despite the hectic and restless work done by our women in the kitchen and home from early morning to late night, their contribution is not appreciated. Because neither it is monetarily valued nor publically rewarded.

o **Feminization of Agriculture:**
  ▪ With the growing tendency of migration of men for work and consequent handover of agriculture job to household, women lead to the feminization of farming.

  ▪ The disguised nature of Indian agriculture puts women in a perpetual state of poverty.

o **Less Economic Engagement:**
  ▪ Though women widely participate in all kinds of jobs, still their economic engagement is less compared to men. For instance, from 2004 to 2011, female participation in the country's labour force declined from 35% to 25%. It is a puzzling picture; over the past few decades' access to education for Indian women has increased, but still, they have increasingly stayed away from employment.

o **Lack of Political Participation:**
  ▪ Despite a gender-neutral constitution, women's participation in politics is insignificant. In fact, women MPs in 16th Lok Sabha are just over 11%. The one-third reservation offered for women in Panchayats is captured by estab- lished politicians' wives and daughters.

Women Empowerment Policies and Programmes

• Realizing the fact that empowerment of women is the sine qua non for creating an inclusive and egalitarian society, the Indian government took the following initiatives:

• **Policies**
  o **National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001:**
    ▪ It calls for gender sensitivity in socio- and economic policies. It also pitched for equal access for women in health, education, and employment. It also voiced

against all forms of gender discrimination and humiliation.

- o **National Policy for Children, 2013:**
  - It assures the all-around development of children with strong support from the State. And so, it vowed for quality education, safe, healthy and happy life among the others.
- o **National Nutrition Policy 1993:**
  - It ensures adequate nutrition for children to have good physical and mental health by avoiding nutrient deficiency diseases, learning impairment, stunted growth, etc.

- **Programs**
  - o **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:**
    - It aims the prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child, ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
  - o **ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme):**
    - It aims to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group 0–6 years, and to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.
  - o **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS):**
    - It aimed at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other vulnerable children, through Government–Civil Society Partnership. It brings together multiple existing child protection schemes of the

women's ministry under one comprehensive umbrella.

- o **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) Sabla:**
  - It provides health and nutrition assistance facilities for adolescent girls, including drop-out girls. It also educates them about public services and trains them on skills for self-development.
- o **Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme:**
  - It aims to meet the challenge of the high prevalence and incidence of anaemia amongst adolescent girls and boys.
- o **Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP):**
  - It aims to provide skills that give employability to women in the age group of 16 and above to make them self-employed/entrepreneurs. Grants-in-aid are given under the scheme for NGOs.
- o **UJJAWALA:**
  - A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- o **Janani Suraksha Yojana:**
  - It aims to promote institutional delivery by offering free prenatal and post-natal care.
- o **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY):**
  - It is a Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme. Like this scheme under the National Food Security

Act, 2013, pregnant women and lactating mothers will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.

- o **Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme:**
  - It provides day-care facilities to the children of working women.
- o **SWADHAR Greh:**
  - A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances.
- o **One-Stop Centre Scheme:**
  - It aims to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.

success of Indian Women since Independence

- Consequently, during six decades of democratic journey, our country witnessed the following progressive developments in women empowerment.
  - o **Social Progress**
    - The instance of female infanticide and child marriage sharply reduced. Women gained greater freedom in the selection of their life partner.
    - The condition of the windows is improved markedly. Widow re-marriage is common now.
    - Women also have higher said in divorce and second marriage.
    - Women made great strides in education, for example, Kiran Bedi IPS and Nirupama Rao IFS.
    - o
  - o **Economic Developments**
    - Shedding their traditional housewife role, women made parallel inroads in the economic sphere, with respect to their male counterparts.
    - Nowadays, they significantly dominate the agriculture sector, particularly animal husbandry.
    - They also made huge inroads into high-tech service sec- tors, like information technology, medicine, etc. Indian women also proved themselves as capable of providing leadership roles in economic spheres, for example, Chanda Kochhar (ICICI), Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Biocon Biotechnology), Indira Nooyi (PepsiCo), and Arundhati Bhattacharya (SBI).
    - Our women also adopted the Self-Help Group (SHG) model to make themselves economically independent (e.g., Kerala's Kudumbashree).
  - o **Political Participations**
    - Indian women also proved their metal in governance and administration of the country.
    - They actively participated in politics from the office of ward member to the august office of PM.
    - India has pride in producing many successful women CMs, like Mayawati, Mamata Banerjee, and Jayalalitha.
    - It was the women PM Indira Gandhi, also known as Iron lady, who demonstrated the world about India's power.
    - India's largest political party INC was controlled by a women Sonia Gandhi for about 25 years.
  - o **Scientific Achievements**
    - Proving Gandhiji's words that 'Woman is more fitted than man to make exploration', Indian women excelled in science and technology.

- Side-lining wrong medieval perception women demonstrated their mental power in this field.
- Indian women like Anna Mani (meteorology), Dr Indira Hinduja (gynaecologist), Dr Aditi Pant (Oceanographer), Kalpana Chawla (Space), Sunita Narain (environment), and Dr Tessy Thomas (The Missile Women of India for her role in Agni series) are some of the best popular faces in this context.

Women Organization: Contemporary Context

- As we moved from women's protection to women empowerment, the role of NGOs changed. Now they are performing the following functions:
- **Role**
  - **Emancipator:**
    - Women organizations are primarily functioning as the emancipator of women from the suppression and oppression of orthodox classes and self-prescribed religious fatwas. It sets women free from outdated, regressive social practices and customs.
  - **Educator:**
    - It educates women about their legal rights and constitutional privileges, thereby it melts away the ignorance of women and makes right-oriented citizen, whereby women avoid the harassment and atrocities in the society and leads a dignified life.
    - If at all that happens, they are empowered to deal with.
  - **Mobiliser of Mass:**
    - They mobilize people at the grass-root level by articulating

the problems of the women, thereby NGOs highlight the serious nature of the problem to the government and media. Such a mobilization also provides immense scope for the exchange of progressive feminist ideas.

  - **Custodian of Rights:**
    - Women NGOs act as guardian of women life, custodian of women's rights, and guarantors of women's freedom.
    - In case of deprivation of their rights, NGOs try to restore them by organizing demonstrations, or by approaching the court or by highlighting the issue leveraging the power of media.
  - **Agent of Change:**
    - Women organizations are at the forefront of social transformation by giving adequate space for liberal thoughts, progressive ideas, modern values, and practices.
    - Thereby it inculcates a culture of tolerance and assimilation.
  - **Champion of Weak:**
    - It gives special emphasis on women belonging to the weaker section of the society, like Dalits and Tribes.
    - They address their socioeconomic concerns with long-term vision.
    - They provide the utmost care in terms of health, education, and housing to integrate them into mainstream development of the nation.
  - **Pressure Group:**
    - Nowadays, women NGOs are evolving as separate pressure groups due to their large social base.

- Thereby it ensures that government policies and programmes are relevant, need-oriented, and gender-equitable.
- **Problems**
  - **Unorganized:**
    - Most of the women NGOs are not properly structured and systematically managed.
    - They are functioning as isolated units, lacking coordination and cooperation at the pan-India level.
    - They lack capacity building which in turn costs the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.
  - **Financial Constraints:**
    - It is one of the major stumbling blocks for women organization.
    - They mainly depend on donation and do not have their own revenue generation.
    - Governmental aid for them is too meagre. Ultimately it results in poor and inadequate infrastructure facilities.
  - **Narrow Base:**
    - Despite its popular cause and aim to empower half of the Indian population, its membership is less and is primarily numbered by victims and their relatives as it lacks large-scale participation of women.
    - Even though historically men act as a torchbearer for women empowerment, men membership is least encouraged.
  - **Corruption:**
    - In recent years, corruption and maladministration are widely prevalent amongst few women NGOs. The revered institution is used for money laundering and legalizing illegal wealth.

  - **Urban Centric:**
    - It mainly focuses on urban and peripheral areas leaving large rural areas where 60% of the Indian population lives.
    - The subject of women's empowerment became a matter to gain prestige and glamour for the rich and educated upper class.
    - They never address the root of women's problems, instead opted for ad hoc solutions to get media coverage.
  - **No consistency:**
    - Women NGOs lack consistency in their functioning. Once the issue is over, they become dormant. It also fails to follow up the issue up to the end.
  - **Curative:**
    - Women organizations are focusing more on curative aspects, having less focus on preventive aspects.
    - That is less emphasis on education and empowerment and more on sympathizing victims.

Institution for Women Empowerment
- **Pre-Independence**
  - The role of Mahila Mandals organized by Arya and Brahmo Samaj is commendable in the context of women's upliftment in the earlier period.
  - Christian Missionaries did their best in this perspective, particularly in the context of education and social status.
  - **National Social Conference:** It was a social reform cell of INC by MG Ranade and Raghunatha Rao in 1887. It advocated inter-caste marriages, opposed polygamy and Kulinism (Privileges of Brahmins). It also launched the 'Pledge

Movement' to inspire people to take a pledge against child marriage.

o **Satyashodhak Samaj:** Founded by Jyotiba Phule, it among the other spread education to women.

o **Women's India Association, Madras:** Founded in 1917 by Margaret's cousins, it worked extensively for the social and education emancipation of the women.

o **National Council of Women in India (1925):** Started by women from Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, it aimed for women's rights.

o **All India Women Conference (1927):** It focused on all concerns of women, particularly education.

Women NGO's: Post Independence

- The women's rights movement took an upswing in the 1980s culminated in the Shah Bano case which upheld the basic human rights of Muslim women defying orthodox Islam bodies. Rights groups like Forum against Rape, Stree Sangharsh, and Samata actively took up the issue of rape during this period.

o **Self-Employment Women's Association (SEWA):**
  ▪ It was the first women's trade union, and it was formed in 1972 focused on improving the condition of women working in the unorganized sector.

o **All India Democratic Women Association (AIDWA):**
  ▪ Founded in 1981 as a pan-India women organization, it committed to achieving democracy, equality, and women's emancipation.

o **Indian Association of Women's Studies:**
  ▪ Established in 1981 as an institution of women academics

and activists, it involved in research and teaching. It actively publishes books and journals on feminist subjects.

o **Breakthrough Trust:**
  ▪ Breakthrough Trust is working to make violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable. This trust engages in various multimedia campaigns and mobilizes the community in favour of women. It also takes action and ensures dignity, justice, and equality for all.

o **Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan:**
  ▪ It is working to free women and children from sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, and trafficking and restoration the rights of their children at Varanasi and Mau (UP).

o **Jagori:**
  ▪ The Delhi-based NGO is working on tackling sexual harassment. It is working for the last 25 years with a vision of 'spreading feminist consciousness for the creation of a just society'. It has started the 'Safe Delhi' campaign to fight the problem of sexual harassment.

Conclusion

- Education & Economic independence of women & awareness amongst the masses are the most important weapons to eradicate this inhumane behaviour of the society towards the female sex.

- We are slowly but steadily heading towards an era of change & hope to see the light of change, shine on the weaker sex, as it is called one day.

SOCIAL ECONOMY CHANGES

Introduction

- Social change refers to any modification in established patterns of social structure, inter-human relationship and standards of conduct. These can be generated from within society (changing economy, technology) or due to external interventions and influences (legislation, judicial pronouncements, influence of other cultures etc).
- In modern societies legislative action tends to be most important instrument delivering social change, but that may sometime not be sufficient to bring long lasting change and may at times come in direct conflict with the established norms.

Social change in the society through legislation: -

- **Pre-independence legislations:** The British rule in India for the first time established the supreme authority of law in social matters, ensuring uniformity in law and social order which India did not have till then. Many of the evil practices such as sati pratha, child marriage etc. were curtailed by timely and suitable legislations.
- **Increased status of the women:** Legislation helped to shelve many of our outmoded traditional customs and practices. For instance law has been instrumental in bringing about a change in the status of women.
- In matters of employment, a woman is entitled for equal pay as her male counterparts.
- Workplaces have been made safer through **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.**
- A daughter can be given and taken in adoption under the **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956.**
- **Education for all:** Education has been made accessible and mandatory for all irrespective of gender, status, religion or caste through Right to Education.

However, in some instances legislation has failed to bring about the needed social change. For instance, problem of untouchability, child marriages, female foeticide, honour killings are still rampant despite legislations. Sometimes legislative actions come in direct conflict with societal norms thereby defeating the efforts. For ex: Effort towards Uniform Civil Code. Hence, more efforts in other dimensions are needed to ensure sustainable and smooth social change.

Other steps to bring social change:-

- **Social work and empowerment of people:** Since social work aims at resolving problems and issues related to structural inequalities, mass poverty, socio-economic injustices and deprivation, it promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being.
- **Judicial activism:** Legislatures are not best fitted for the role of adapting the law to the necessities of the time, for the legislative process is too slow and the legislatures often divided by politics, slowed down by periodic elections and overburdened with myriad other legislative activities.

Judicial interventions can be a better alternative.

- **Social reform movements:** The social change can be brought by preaching of religions, by launching social reform movements like one done by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Dayanand Sarswati, Justice Ranade, Shahu Maharaj, Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other such prominent social thinkers.

- **Participatory decision making is needed:** Administrative solutions are often unsatisfactory to absolutists who have little respect for the pragmatic balancing of interests. Any step for social change should come from within the society so that it is practical in implementation.

- **Education:** Education is the most powerful factor of social change and social changes to a great extent can be brought about through the process of education

- **Acceptance by high status individuals:** Any change would become easily accepted in the society if the people who are in high position would accept the change.

- **New opinions and thoughts:** Another factor of social change is the appearance of new opinions and thoughts. For example changes in the attitudes towards dowry, caste system, female education, etc. have resulted in widespread social variations and modifications. In fact, a majority of the social revolutions take place as a result of the evolution of new ways of thinking.

- **Technological and scientific factors:** Technological and scientific inventions such as various types of machines and equipments etc. are potent factors in

social change. They break regional barriers by providing easy and fast means of communication as well as of conveyance.

Conclusion

The social change brought by holistic approach is more sustainable and acceptable to all sections of the society.

Generally social change occurs in two forms.

- **Change in the system:-** It means all the small changes occurring in the system come under this form of social change. Karl Marx has described it in the form of quantitative changes. Such changes keep going on in all the societies like premature communism, ancient society, similarly plenty of changes coming up in modern societies in all areas are the ways of change in the system. Given so much importance to children and women in today's family, is indicator of change in relations. Parsons has also talked about such kind of change.

- **Change of the system:-** Though, this form of change, brings change in the whole system, for eg the qualitative change explained by Karl Marx described, this kind of change, because under qualitative change, the whole system is replaced by another system. Similarly, if it happens that in India, caste system in completely abolished and absolute class system is established then it would be said to be change of the system.

Direction of Social Change:

- Though there is not any fixed direction of change and so there is nothing absolute to describe it. But maclver and

Page have given, in general, the following directions of change

- **Forward direction of change:** Shows a definite positive change. This is usually seen in the field of science and technology, which in turn, change the existence of life and knowledge.

- **Downward/Backward direction of change:**– Some changes occur, upwards initially but later on a process of degeneration starts, economic change in the best example of it. Metropolitan cities also decay after a big change. In International market also this kind of change in seen.

- **Wave Like change:** – Another direction of change happens as a wave ambulance like motion and example of such kind of changes are seen in the field of fashion, styles of living, attires etc. Which after sometime repeat itself. It does not have any fixed direction of high level of change.

Factors of Social Change

- **Internal Factors:-** Change in population and geographical conditions, change in production process migration, Individual interests, communal conflicts, change in physical consumerism like in science and technology industrialization, urbanization, consumerism lifestyle etc.

- **External Factors:–** Cultural contact is the main external factor, which could be direct or indirect and which beings change in the form of acculturation, assimilation and diffusion for eg. India realized change under the direct influence of Islam and Western culture and especially westernization has put a great impact on our societies, in all spheres of life.

Nature of Social Change:

- **Social change is a universal phenomenon. Social change occurs in all societies. No society remains completely static.** This is true of all societies, primitive as well as civilized. Society exists in a universe of dynamic influences. The population changes, technologies expand, material equipment changes, ideologies and values take on new components and institutional structures and functions undergo reshaping. The speed and extent of change may differ from society to society. Some change rapidly, others change slowly.

- **Social change is community change. Social change does not refer to the change in the life of an individual or the life patterns of several individuals.** It is a change which occurs in the life of the entire community. In other words, only that change can be called social change whose influence can be felt in a community form. Social change is social and not individual.

- **Speed of social change is not uniform. While social change occurs in all societies, its speed is not uniform in every society.** In most societies it occurs so slowly that it is often not noticed by those who live in them. Even in modern societies there seems to be little or no change in many areas. Social change in urban areas is faster than in rural areas.

- **Nature and speed of social change is affected by and related to time factor.** The speed of social change is not uniform in each age or period in the same society. In modern times the speed of social change is faster today than before 1947. Thus, the speed of

social change differs from age to age. The reason is that the factors which cause social change do not remain uniform with the change in times. Before 1947 there was less industrialization in India, after 1947 India has become more industrialized. Therefore, the speed of social change after 1947 is faster than before 1947.

- **Social change occurs as an essential law. Change is the law of nature. Social change also is natural. It may occur either in the natural course or as a result of planned efforts.** By nature we desire change. Our needs keep on changing. To satisfy our desire for change and our changing needs social change becomes a necessity. The truth is that we are anxiously waiting for a change. **According to Green** "The enthusiastic response of change has become almost a way of life."

- **Definite prediction of social change is not possible. It is difficult to make any prediction about the exact forms of social change.** There is no inherent law of social change according to which it would assume definite forms. We may say that on account of the social reform movement untouchability will be abolished from the Indian society; that the basis and ideals of marriage laws passed by the government; that industrialization will increase the speed of urbanization but we cannot predict the exact forms which social relationships will assume in future. Likewise it cannot be predicted as to what shall be our attitudes, ideas, norms and values in future.

- **Social change shows chain-reaction sequence. A society's pattern of living is a dynamic system of inter-related parts.** Therefore, change in one of these parts usually reacts on others and those on additional ones until they bring a change in the whole mode of life of many people. For example, industrialism has destroyed the domestic system of production. The destruction of domestic system of production brought women from the home to the factory and the office. The employment of women meant their independence from the bondage of man. It brought a change in their attitudes and idea. It meant a new social life for women. It consequently affected every part of the family life.

- **Social change results from the interaction of a number of factors. Generally, it is thought that a particular factor like changes in technology, economic development or climatic conditions causes social change.** This is called monistic theory which seeks to interpret social change in terms of one single factor. But the monistic theory does not provide an adequate explanation of the complex phenomenon of social change. As a matter of fact, social change is the consequence of a number of factors. A special factor may trigger a change but it is always associated with other factors that make the triggering possible. The reason is that social phenomena re mutually interdependent. None stand out as isolated forces that bring about change of themselves. Rather each is an element in a system. Modification of one part influences the other parts and this influence the rest, until the whole is involved.

- **Social change are chiefly those of modification or of replacement. Social changes may be broadly**

categorized as modifications or replacements. It may be modification of physical goods or social relationships. For example, the form of our breakfast food has changed. Though we eat the same basic materials which we ate earlier, wheat, eggs, corn, but their form is changed. Ready-to-eat-cornflakes, breads, omlettes are substituted for the form in which these same materials were consumed in yester years. There may also be modifications of social relationships. The old authoritarian family has become the small equalitarian family, the one room school has become a centralized school. Our ideas about women's rights, religion, government and co-education stand modified today.

URBANISATION

Introduction

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas, the corresponding decrease in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which societies adapt to this change.

- **Causes of Urbanisation:**
  o **Natural increase of population:** It occurs when the number of births exceeds the number of deaths.
  o **Rural to urban migration:** It is driven by **pull factors** (that attract people to urban areas) and **push factors** (that drive people away from the rural areas).

    ▪ Employment opportunities, educational institutions and urban lifestyle are the main **pull factors.**
    ▪ Poor living conditions,

Percentage of population in urban and rural areas
India
Urban Rural
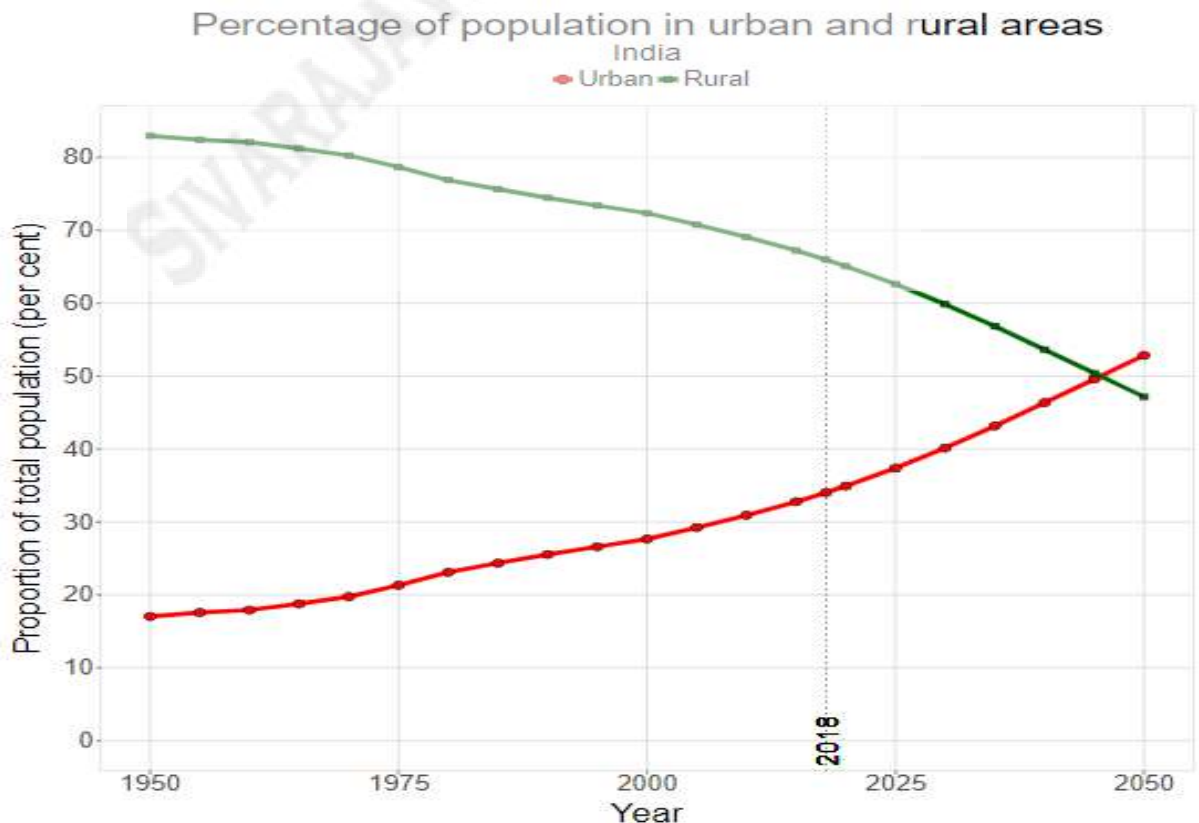
lack of educational and economic opportunities and poor health care facilities are the main **push factors.**

- **Global Urbanisation:**
    o The most urbanized regions include **Northern America** (with 82% of its population living in urban areas (as of 2018)), Latin America and the Caribbean (81%), Europe (74%) and Oceania (68%).
    o The level of **urbanization in Asia is n**

emains mostly rural, with 43% of its population living in urban areas.

Urbanisation in India

- **Urbanization   Prospects:**

    o The *World Urbanization Prospects, 2018* report produced by the *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)* notes that future increases in the size of the world's urban population are expected to be highly

Legend (%)

Colour	%
	42 and above
	37-41
	31-36
	30-26
	25 and below
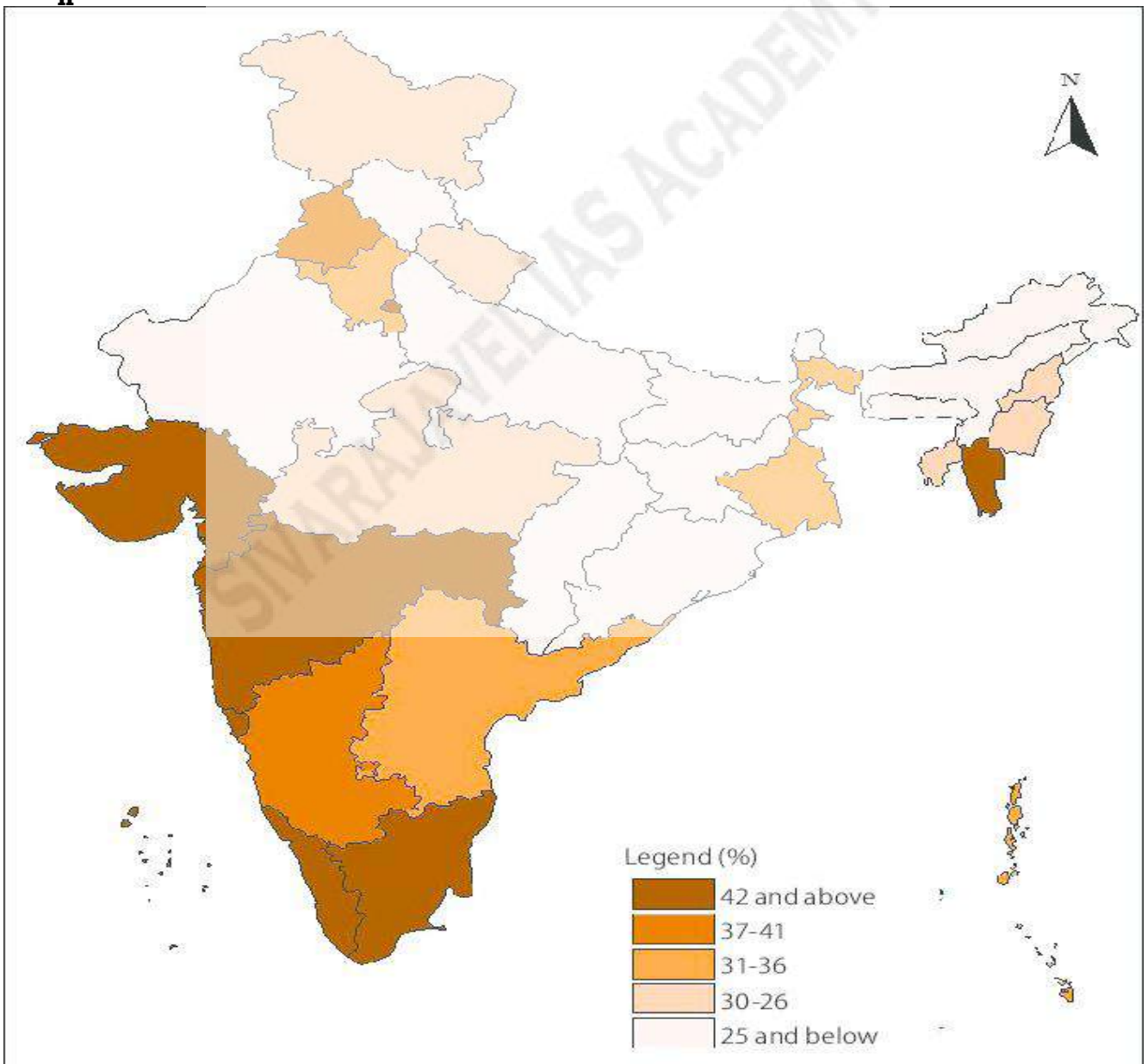
concentrated in just a few countries.

o Together, **India, China and Nigeria will account for 35% of the projected growth of the world's urban population** between 2018 and 2050.

▪ By 2050, it is projected that **India will have added 416 million urban dwellers.**

o Currently, India's population stood at **1210 million in 2011,** with an urbanisation level of **31.1% (**_Census of India 2011_**).**

- **State-wise Scenario:**
  o **Number of Persons Living in Urban Areas:**
    ▪ Over 75% of the urban population of the country is in 10 States: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala.
    ▪ Maharashtra leads with 50.8 million persons (13.5% of the total urban population of the country).
    ▪ Uttar Pradesh accounts for about 44.4 million, followed by Tamil Nadu at 34.9 million.
  o **High-Scoring States: Goa is the most urbanised State** with 62.2% urban population.
    ▪ Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have attained over 40% urbanisation.
    ▪ Among the North-Eastern States, Mizoram is the most urbanised with 51.5% urban population.

o **Low-Scoring States: Bihar, Odisha, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh** continue to be at a lower level of urbanisation than the national average.

o **Union Territories:** The **NCT of Delhi and the UT of Chandigarh are most urbanized** with 97.5% and 97.25% urban population respectively, **followed by Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep** (both above 75% urbanisation).

- **India's Global Commitments regarding Urban Development:**
  o The _SDGs Goal 11_ promotes urban planning as one of the recommended methods for achieving sustainable development.
  o The _UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda_ was adopted at Habitat III in 2016.

    ▪ It puts forth principles for the planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas.
  o The **_UN-Habitat (2020)_** suggests that the spatial conditions of a city can enhance its power to generate social, economic and environmental value and well-being.
  o **_Paris Agreement_:** India's _National Determined Contributions (NDCs)_ includes the goals to reduce the emission intensity of the country's GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level.

- **India's Initiatives for Urbanisation:**
  o **Schemes/Programmes Related to Urban Development:**
    ▪ _Smart Cities_
    ▪ _AMRUT Mission_
    ▪ _Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban_
    ▪ _HRIDAY_

- *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban*
  o **Government Initiatives for** *Slum Dwellers*/**Urban Poor:**
    - *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana*
    - *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India)*

Significance of Urban Living

- **Easier Access to Facilities:** Urban living is linked with **higher levels of literacy** and education, **better health, longer life expectancy, greater access to social services** and enhanced **opportunities for cultural and political participation.**
  o Urbanisation is associated with **easier access to hospitals,** clinics and health services in general.
    - Living in proximity to these services results in improved emergency care and general health.
- **Access to Information:** There are also benefits from **easier access to sources of information** such as radio and television which may be used to communicate information about health to the general public.
  o For instance, **women living in towns and cities are more likely to be informed about family planning** which results in reduction in family size and less frequent childbirth.
- **Individualism:** Multiplicity of opportunities, social diversity, lack of familial and social control over decision making leads to **more self interest and facilitates decision-making by an individual** and choosing one's career and actions by oneself.

Issues Associated to Urbanisation

- **Excessive Population Pressure:** On the one hand, the rural-urban migration accelerates the pace of urbanisation, on the other, it creates **excessive population pressure on the existing public utilities.**
  o Consequently, the cities suffer from the problems of slums, crime, unemployment, urban poverty, pollution, congestion, ill-health and several deviant social activities.
- **Overflowing Slums:** There are about 13.7 million slum households in the country sheltering a population of 65.49 million people across the country.
  o As much as 65% of Indian cities have adjoining slums where people live in small houses adjacent to each other.
- **Inadequate Housing:** Among the numerous social problems of urbanisation, the problem of housing is the most distressing.
  o A vast majority of urban population live under **conditions of poor shelter and in highly congested spaces.**
  o In India, more than half of the urban households occupy a single room, with an **average occupancy per room of 4.4 persons.**
- **Unplanned Development:** The model of building a developed city comprises unplanned development, which only **bolsters the dichotomy prevailing in urban cities** between the rich and the poor.
- **Pandemic-Induced Problems:** The *Covid-19 pandemic* has exacerbated the misery of urban poor or slum dwellers.
  o The sudden implementation of complete Covid lockdown **severely**

affected the ability of slum
dwellers to earn their living.

- **Non-Inclusive Welfare Schemes:** The benefits of welfare schemes for urban poor often reach only a small part of the intended beneficiaries.

building on their existing economic, social and environmental ties.

- **Improving Access to Health Facilities & Welfare Schemes:** Accelerating efficiency of welfare and relief schemes along with **ensuring access to free**

Sustainable urbanization means better:

Housing   Productivity

Opportunity   Education   Health care

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision
• #UNPopulation

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and benefits do not reach slum dwellers, mainly because these settlements are **not officially recognised by the government.**

vaccines, food security and adequate shelter in the slums.

o Improving **sanitation and transportation facilities in slums** and establishing clinics and healthcare facilities.

o **Aiding nonprofits and local support bodies** who have better reach to these marginalised communities.

Way Forward

- **Sustainable Urbanization for Successful Development:** As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development depends increasingly on the **successful management of urban growth,** especially **in low-income and lower-middle-income countries** where the pace of urbanization is projected to be the fastest.

o **Integrated policies** to improve the lives of both urban and rural dwellers are needed, while **strengthening the linkages between urban and rural areas,**

- **New Approaches for Urbanisation:** New approaches to urban planning and effective governance are the need of the hour.

o Necessary actions should be taken to **build sustainable, robust and inclusive infrastructure.**

o Instead of a top-down approach, a **bottom-up approach shall be adopted** to better understand unique challenges faced by the urban poor.

Industrialization: Industrialization has improved job prospects by allowing individuals to work in contemporary sectors in occupations that contribute to economic progress. Because of better job possibilities, more individuals have been drawn to relocate from rural to urban regions since the *industrial revolution*.

Commerce: Commercialization and commerce are associated with the belief that towns and cities provide better business possibilities and returns than rural regions.

Facilities: There are several social advantages to living in a city or town. Better educational facilities, higher living standards, improved sanitation and housing, improved health care, improved recreation facilities, and improved social life are only a few examples

Urbanization in India

India along with China and Nigeria are the most rapidly urbanizing countries as they account for 35% of world urban population growth projected for the 2018-2050 period.

In 2018 a large number of India's cities have a population of between 300,000 and 1 million inhabitants. There are 120 medium-sized cities of such population size and only five urban settlements with 20 million or more inhabitants.

In India, the urban population amounts to 461 million people. This number is growing by 2.3 per cent each year. By 2031, 75 per cent of India's national income is estimated to come from cities.

Providing the necessary urban infrastructure is the big challenge as 70 to 80 per cent of the infrastructure that will be needed by 2050 has not been built yet, and the estimated investment gap amounts to approximately 827 billion US dollars.

State-wise data:

- More than 75% of the urban population of the country is in 10 States: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala.
- Maharashtra has 50.8 million persons which are 13.5% of the total urban population of the country.
- Uttar Pradesh accounts for about 44.4 million, followed by Tamil Nadu with 34.9 million.
- Goa is the most urbanized State with a 62.2% urban population.
- Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have attained over 40% urbanization.
- Among the North-Eastern States, Mizoram is the most urbanized with 51.5% urban population.
- Bihar, Odisha, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh continue to be at a lower level of urbanization than the national average.
- The NCT of Delhi and the UT of Chandigarh are most urbanized with 97.5% and 97.25% urban population respectively, followed by Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.

Global scenario

At the international scale, levels of urbanization are closely correlated with levels of economic development, while rates of urbanization are inversely correlated with levels of economic development.

Demographic processes of immigration and migration, as well as natural population growth, are important determinants of urbanization, but these are in turn underpinned by other processes, especially structural economic change.

The most urbanized regions are Northern America with 82% of its population living in

urban areas (as of 2018), Latin America and the Caribbean (81%), Europe (74%), and Oceania (68%).

Asia has about 50% level of urbanization in Asia and Africa remains mostly rural, with only 43% of its population living in urban areas.

Significance of Urbanization

Some of the beneficial effects of urbanization include job development, technical and infrastructure improvements, better transportation and communication, educational and medical facilities, and higher living standards.

Urban living is linked with higher levels of literacy and education, better health, longer life expectancy, greater access to social services, and enhanced opportunities for cultural and political participation.

Urbanization and economic growth are strongly related in terms of industrialization, employment generation, and increase in productivity.

Drawbacks of urbanization

Dwelling crisis: There is a continuous scarcity of housing as the number of people living in metropolitan areas grows.

Overcrowding: Overcrowding, urban congestion is a constant, and it is an element that is growing day by day as more people and immigrants migrate to cities and towns in quest of a better living.

Unemployment: Lack of highly skilled jobs is most prevalent in metropolitan areas, especially among educated individuals.

Slums: Industrialization is fast-paced but there is a shortage of developed land for housing. The increasing migration of rural immigrants to the city, and the inflated prices of land beyond the urban poor contribute to the rise of slums and squatters in metropolitan areas.

Sewage infrastructure: In most metropolitan areas, insufficient sewage infrastructure is observed concerning the rapid population growth.

Health crisis: Communicable illnesses like typhoid, dysentery, plague, and diarrhoea eventually can spread rapidly. Covid 19 pandemic is a live example of how overpopulated cities and medical facilities collapse under the weight of a pandemic.

Pollution: The need for transportation increases with the increase in population, resulting in traffic congestion and pollution.

Urban Heat Islands (UHI): These are significantly warmer urban areas than their surrounding rural areas due to human activities. Urban Heat Island is a major problem associated with rapid urbanization.

Crime rates: Shortage of resources, overcrowding, higher poverty rates, unemployment, and a loss of social services and education lead to social issues such as violence, drug misuse, and crime.

Government schemes to manage urbanization

Smart cities mission

The National *Smart Cities Mission* is an urban renewal mission launched in 2015, to promote cities to provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'.

AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) mission

The purpose of **AMRUT** which is mainly for *urban rejuvenation* is to:

- Ensure that every household has access to a tap with an assured supply of water and a sewerage connection.
- Increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well-maintained open spaces (e.g. parks) and
- Reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for

non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling).

Swacch Bharat mission

It was launched in 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to ensure that the open defecation free (ODF) behaviours are sustained, no one is left behind, and that solid and liquid waste management facilities are accessible, the Mission is moving towards the next Phase II of SBMG i.e ODF-Plus.

Swacch Bharat mission Urban 2.0 was allocated funds in *Union Budget 2021*. The goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 is to make all the cities garbage-free with sophisticated waste management systems.

HRIDAY (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana)

National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) was launched on 21 January 2015 to bring together urban planning, economic growth, and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner to preserve the heritage character of each Heritage City.

PM Awas Yojana

The Housing for All scheme was an initiative of the Indian government to establish housing facilities for slum dwellers and was introduced by the Indian government's Ministry of Housing and urban affairs. The mission has an Urban part and Gramin part to comprehensively acknowledge the diversity of the Indian landscape.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-reliant India Mission) is a campaign launched by the Central Government of India which included an Rs.20 lakh crore economic stimulus package and several reform proposals. The five pillars of the mission are- economy, infrastructure, system, democracy, and demand.

Way forward

Sustainable, planned, and eco-friendly cities: Governments' efforts to build smart, safe, environmentally friendly, and affordable cities should get more boost and legal backing as well.

Private investments: More investments can be encouraged for green living and other urban initiatives for sustainable landscapes.

Access for all: every resident should be able to access all the services, without discrimination of any kind. Disabled friendly and inclusive infrastructure should be made mandatory in urban areas.

Employment: To mitigate the negative consequences of increasing urbanization while still protecting natural ecosystems, private investments in environmental resource utilization and employment creation should be promoted.

Health and Population management: population control is important to manage the spread of diseases. It will help in creating a healthy society with medical facilities accessible to all.

Poverty alleviation: A bottom-up approach can be adopted to better understand unique challenges faced by the urban poor and worked upon.

As we move forward in the 21st century, the global population is likely to continue growing. Urban areas will continue to grow with the population. By 2050, it is projected that two-thirds of the urban population will be living in urban areas, that are close to 7 billion people in cities alone.

This continual growth presents complex challenges as we prepare for the cities of the future. How we choose to manage urbanization will have consequences for our world for many years to come.

Urbanization problems can be categorized in the following ways:

Economic Problems:

- Decreasing job opportunities in rural areas.
- The smaller town creates push factors; leading to the overcrowding of skilled and semi-skilled laborers in cities.

Socio-economic problems:

- Insufficient financial resources fail to create adequate social infrastructure for catering huge population.
- The urban poor is not able to get quality education and health facilities.
- Selective sex migration disturbs the demographics of the urban center.
- Lack of job opportunities increases the crime rate

Environmental problems:

- Very difficult to get sufficient potable water for domestic and industrial uses
- Improper sewage systems create unhealthy conditions
- The massive use of traditional fuels for domestic and industrial uses increases air pollution
- Lacking treatment facilities for domestic and industrial waste dumped into water creates water pollution.

Remedies of Urbanization:

- Rurbanization:
  - Provide like urban facilities in rural areas or making rural areas smart is called rurbanization.
- Sustainable development of urban planning needed
- Migration needs to be regulated
- Scientific town planning needed
- Population control
- Innovation needed to control pollution and waste handling

Effects of Urbanization

Positive Effects of Urbanization

If urbanisation occurs within reasonable bounds, it has a number of beneficial consequences. As a result, some of the beneficial effects of urbanisation include job development, technical and infrastructure improvements, enhanced transportation and communication, high-quality educational and medical facilities, and higher living standards. Extensive urbanisation, on the other hand, almost always has negative consequences.

Housing Problems

People are drawn to cities and towns as a result of urbanisation, resulting in rapid population growth. There is a continuous scarcity of housing as the number of people living in metropolitan areas grows.

This is owing to a lack of expanding space for housing and public services, as well as poverty, unemployment, and expensive building materials that only a few people can afford.

Overcrowding in Urbanization

Overcrowding occurs when a large number of individuals share a small place. Because of overcrowding, urban congestion is a constant, and it is an element that is growing day by day as more people and immigrants migrate to cities and towns in quest of a better living.

Most individuals from rural or underdeveloped regions have a strong desire to migrate to the city, which usually results in crowding in a small space.

Unemployment in Urbanization

Joblessness is most prevalent in metropolitan areas, and it is much more prevalent among educated individuals. More than half of the world's unemployed youngsters are thought to dwell in urban areas.

And, while urban earnings are high, the living costs make them appear to be tragically low. The primary reason for urban unemployment

is the rising migration of individuals from rural or developing areas to city environments.

Development of Slums

The cost of living in cities is quite expensive. When this is paired with unpredictably high growth and unemployment, the expansion of illegal resident settlements such as slums and squatters occurs.

Fast-paced industrialisation, a shortage of developed land for housing, a significant migration of rural immigrants to the city in pursuit of a better life, and the inflated prices of land beyond the grasp of the urban poor all contribute to the rise of slums and squatters in metropolitan areas.

Water and Sanitation Problems

In most metropolitan areas, insufficient sewerage infrastructure is widespread due to overcrowding and rapid population growth.

In the administration of sewage infrastructure, municipalities and local governments are facing a significant resource issue. As a result, sanitation suffers, sewage flows erratically, and sewage is discharged into nearby streams, rivers, lakes, or oceans.

Communicable illnesses including typhoid, dysentery, plague, and diarrhoea eventually spread rapidly, causing pain and even death. Water shortage is exacerbated by overcrowding when supply falls short of what is required.

Poor Health and Spread of Diseases

Access to and usage of public health care services in crowded metropolitan regions is influenced by social, economic, and living factors. Slum communities, in particular, suffer from inadequate sanitation and a lack of water supply, making slum residents more vulnerable to infectious illnesses.

Pollution in cities causes a variety of health issues, including allergies, asthma, infertility, foodborne illness, cancer, and even early mortality.

Traffic Congestion for Urbanization

One of the biggest problems faced by increasing numbers of people moving to towns and cities is in the transportation infrastructure. As the population grows, so does the number of cars on the road, resulting in traffic congestion and pollution.

Many individuals in metropolitan regions commute to work, which causes serious traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours. People will also relocate to buy and access other social necessities as cities increase in size, causing traffic congestion and obstruction.

Urban Crime

Resources shortages, overcrowding, poverty rates, unemployment, and a loss of social services and education are all common causes of social issues such as violence, drug misuse, and crime.

Murder, rape, abduction, rioting, assault, theft, burglary, and hijacking are among crimes that are considered to be more prevalent in metropolitan areas. Furthermore, poverty-related crimes are most prevalent in fast-growing metropolitan areas. The calm and tranquillity of cities/towns are usually disrupted by these acts of urban crime.

Building Sustainable and Eco-friendly Cities

Governments should enact laws that design and offer ecologically sound cities and smart growth strategies, recognising that people should not live in dangerous or polluting regions.

The goal is to create sustainable cities that have better environmental conditions and safe environments for all urban residents.

Governments must also support and encourage investments in green infrastructure, viable industries, composting and environmental initiatives, pollution control, renewable energy, eco-friendly public

transportation, and wastewater reuse and reclamation, as well as an economy based on sustainable settings.

Provision of Essential Services

All residents of metropolitan areas should have access to enough vital social services, such as education, health, cleanliness, and clean water, as well as technology, energy, and food.

The goal is to create and execute job opportunities and wealth-creation activities so that individuals may earn enough money to pay for the services' upkeep.

The government can also use subsidies to reduce the price of basic healthcare, education, electricity, public transit, communication networks, and technology.

Creation of More Jobs for Urbanization

To mitigate the negative consequences of increasing urbanisation while still protecting natural ecosystems, private investments in environmental resource utilisation and employment creation should be promoted.

More employment for urban populations can be created through tourism promotion and sustainable resource oppression. Foreign and private investment in eco-friendly developmental projects that create jobs may also be eligible for subsidies and incentives.

Population Control in Urbanization

To assist lower the increased rates of population increase, key stakeholders in metropolitan areas must provide campaigns and counselling for effective medical centres and family welfare.

With the goal of managing illnesses and population increase, medical health clinics geared toward family planning choices must be made available across the whole urban area.

Urbanization in India

Urbanisation in India is largely attributable to the deregulation of its economy in the 1990s, which facilitated the growth of the private sector. Despite the fact that India's urbanisation is accelerating, barely one-third of the country's population lives in cities.

As per the *2011 census*, India has 53 cities with a population of one million or more, with that number expected to increase to 87 by 2031. A few of these metropolitan regions will grow into significant economic powerhouses, with GDPs exceeding those of nations like Israel, Portugal, and the United Arab Emirates.

Because cities have a high number of people in a limited area, they offer a considerable economy of scale that provides employment, housing, and services, they offer tremendous potential for sustainable development. It is critical to fully achieve Indian cities' economic, ecological, and social sustainability possibilities.

Level of Urbanization in India

The National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of *Chandigarh* are the most urbanised of all the States and Union territories, with 97.5 percent and 97.25 percent urban population, correspondingly, followed by Daman and Diu (75.2 percent) and Puducherry (68.3 percent).

Goa is currently the most urbanised state in the country, with 62.2 percent of the population living in cities, up from 49.8 percent in 2001. Kerala is another notable example of increasing urbanisation; its urban population is currently 47.7%, up from 25.9% a decade earlier.

Level of Urbanization in the NE States

Mizoram is the most urbanised of the NE states, with 51.5 percent urban population, while its absolute proportion to the country's overall urban population is only 0.1 percent.

Meanwhile, Sikkim, which was just 11.0 percent urbanised a decade earlier, was over 25% urbanised in 2011. Tamil Nadu remains the most urbanised state in the country, with 48.4% of the population living in cities,

followed by Kerala (47.7%), which has surpassed Maharashtra (45.2 percent).

In Which Age Urbanization Commenced

Urbanization refers to the transformation of rural settlements into cities or urban centres, as well as the rapid expansion of those areas. For reasons that academics have failed to agree on, urbanisation began in ancient Mesopotamia during the Uruk Period (4300-3100 BCE).

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Communalism refers to a politics that seeks to unify one community around a religious identity in hostile opposition to another community. It seeks to define this community identity as fundamental and fixed. It attempts to consolidate this identity and present it as natural – as if people were born into the identity, as if the identities do not evolve through history over time. In order to unify the community, communalism suppresses distinctions within the community and emphasises the essential unity of the community against other communities.

Factors Contributing to Communal Violence

- **Disruptive Effect of Social Media:**
  o Social Media played a critical role in circulating fake news at break-neck speed, as the copious audio-visual documentation of violence, hate messages are delivered to the masses almost immediately.
  o However, these graphic depictions of inhumanity have not elicited remorse or changed minds; rather, they have deepened biases and hardened stances.

- **Role of Mainstream Media:**
  o Instead of adhering to media ethics and neutrality, most of the media houses show an inclination towards particular political ideology, which

in turn widens the societal cleavage.

- **Lack of Value-Based Education:**
  o People are not equipped to think for themselves and this leads them to blindly follow the 'trends' instead of being able to differentiate the good from the bad themselves.

- **Majoritarian Hegemony and Minority Insecurities:**
  o A group in majority often believes that it has the sole say in the progress of the country. This leads to acts of violence when smaller groups oppose the majoritarian ideas of progress.
  o On the contrary, minority groups often find themselves blamed for being 'anti-national' whenever they try to protect their way of life from transgression. This often creates violence in society.

Impact of Communal Violence

- **Violation of Human Rights:** During the communal violence, the innocent ordinary people get caught into the circumstances beyond their control. This leads to the violation of human rights.

- **Economic Loss:** Communal violence leads to loss of life and public property. It leads to exploitation by way of plundering and indulgence in activities only for personal gains.

- **Social Dissonance:** Communal Violence strengthens vote banks of ideologically aligned political parties and further disrupts the cohesiveness in society.
  o It causes serious damage to communal harmony for a long period.

- o It also tarnishes the country's image as a pluralistic society in front of the world.
- **Erosion of Constitutional Values:** Communal violence dampens constitutional values like secularism and fraternity.

Way Forward

- The police need to be well equipped to curb communal violence. Local intelligence network can be strengthened to preempt such events.
- Peace Committees can be set up in which individuals belonging to different religious communities can work together to spread goodwill and fellow-feeling and remove feelings of fear and hatred in the riot-affected areas.
  - o This will be effective not only in dif-fusing communal tensions but also in preventing riots from breaking out.
- There is a need to initiate the process of de-communalising the people at all levels via education.
  - o Values-based education can instil compassion and empathy which can minimise the possibilities of the impact that any kind of communal polarisation can have on people.
  - o Pluralism and unity witnessed from the struggle for India's independence can be emphasised upon.
- Leaders with communal ideas and ideologies pressurise the government to act in a manner which is always against the principle of secularism.
  - o It is here that intellectuals and voluntary organi-sations can be most effective.
- There is a need to strengthen cybersecurity architecture.o Social media platforms should be asked to regulate hateful content and generate awareness about rumours and any kind of content that can incite communal tension.

Maintaining communal harmony and respecting pluralism in a country as diverse as India can be a challenge. However, it is important to address the collective conscience of people of the country to uphold the constitutional values like fraternity and secularism. While on the one hand, this can take into consideration the insecurities of the people, on the other hand, it can significantly contribute to the nation-building process. A strong nation, which is built by the contribution of communities working together for its prosperity can further contribute to the maintenance of global peace and harmony.

CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND COMMUNALISM

Preamble	**Preamble of the Indian Constitution declares it as a secular state and secures the liberty of thought expression, belief faith, and worship.**
Article 25	"All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health."
Article 26	Says that all denominations can manage their own affairs in matters of religion.
Article 29	Mandates that no discrimination would be done on the ground of religion, race, caste, language, or any of them.

Article 30	Mandates that all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
Fundamental duty – Art 51A	· Promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. · To value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;

LEGAL PROVISIONS

- Various provisions of **Indian penal code** which deals with the issues of communalism in the country, like **section 153A, 153B**
- **Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005** must be enacted soon.

Manipur government came up first with its Law against lynching in 2018.**Factors Responsible For Communal Violence:**

- **Historical factors** à British Rule and Rule of rulers like Aurangzeb had discouraged the harmonious association and peaceful co-existence. Two nation theory and partition of the country on the basis of religion made people more conscious about religion. British policy of divide and rule accompanied by communal electorate by **GoI act 1909, 1919, 1935**.
- **Socio-economic Factors** à Society is backward and lack of opportunity and a feeling of deprivation has sown the seed of communalism.
- **Educational Factors** à Lack of modern education so most Indians are reluctant to adopt ideas like liberalism and progressive values.
- Conflicting and incompatible religious ideologies
- Hostility and apathy against other community
- **Psychological Factors** à Years-long grudges and feelings of resentment

amongst the communities. This leads to the Fear of psychosis among the minority.

- **Cultural Factors** à Feeling under the members of the Muslim and Hindu communities that they are a distinct entity with their own cultural pattern, thought process, and personnel laws.
- **Identity crisis** à There is a general feeling that orthodox Hindus and Muslims have a problem with the secular character of the Indian state. Instead few orthodox wanted India to be a Hindu nation.
- **Political factors** à Intermixing of religion and the politics i.e., religion-based vote bank politics. Poor criminal justice system and large-scale corruption leading to nexus between police, politician and criminal which results into organised crime.
- **Inciting speech** by the political leader to garner the support of one religious' group.
- **Financial and ideological support** for orthodox and divisive elements of society.
- **Demographic factors** à In a certain part of the Country Demographic changes created an opportunity for manipulation of communal sentiments i.e. in Assam, West Bengal, and the Kashmir
- **International influences** à Pan-Islamic movements have also been mobilizing

ant-India Jihad sentiments in the country.

- **The ISI factor** à communal sentiments in the country is also promoted by these radical groups which try to polarise the country on the basis of religious fundamentals.
- **Social media factors**: The presence of orthodox groups over social media platforms spread rumors, disinformation, hate speech, and fanning violence.
- **Lack of proper action**: Punishment mechanism is not up to the mark which provides more opportunity for the trouble creator.

IMMEDIATE CAUSES FOR RIOTS

Gender offences à Members of one religious community alleged for gender violence against the women of other community offences like rape sexual harassment and other issues like love jihad were also disturbing social fabric.

- **Religious festival** à During the celebration of the festival communal tension and disputes arise between the two communities like the celebration of Holi or Muharram.
- **Land disputes** à Among the various religious groups in the country over the ownership of land.
- **Governance issues** à Over the years various commissions had found following shortcoming:
  - The ineffective conflict resolution mechanism.
  - Timely action and accountability of an officer are missing.
  - Missing intelligence about the situation.
  - Missing standard operating procedure (SOP) in case of communal violence.

- Lack of personnel to deal with communal tension or communal violence missing training of expertise in communal matters.
- **Administrative issues** à The slow reaction of police and administration after initial symptoms of communal violence. Sometimes police and administration act in partisan manner. Failure of leadership and link of administration with the general public is also weak.
- **Post-riot Management deficiencies à**
  - Issues with rehabilitation which often neglected breeding resentments and anger.
  - Missing accountability of the official who is involved in the process of rehabilitation.

FAKE NEWS AND COMMUNAL VIOLENCE:

Circulation of fake news over social media platforms disturbs social peace and also creates hostility of a community towards the organs of government. Fake videos and its circulation sometimes cause the mob lynching and violence.

Mob lynching:

Mob lynching is a **form of violence** in which a mob under the pretext of administering justice without trial, executes a presumed offender, by the means of torture, and sometimes it results in the death. The term lynch, the law refers to a self-constituted court that imposes sentence on a person without due process of law. Mob lynching is **crime against humanity and constitutional values**.

- The **Manipur** government came up first with its **Law against lynching in 2018**.
- The **Manipur Law is in sync with the Supreme Court guidelines**.

Cow-Vigilantism – Vigilante groups who disguise themselves as cow protectors/ gau-rakshak had created an environment of and led to violence in the various parts of the country.

MEASURES TO DEAL WITH COMMUNAL VIOLENCE:

These measures can be classified under Five broad category:

- Preventive measures
- Measures when an outbreak of violence is anticipated
- Measures during the violence
- Technology measures during the violence and after the violence
- Post violence measures

Preventive measures :
Citizen oriented measures:

- **Feeling the mistrust among the different religious groups:**
  - The feeling of nationalism needs to inculcate in the minds of people by making them aware of how all religious groups fought together to make this country free.
- **Peace committee:**
  - There shall be a peace committee in every area. This should be secular in nature and its meeting should take place regularly. The district administration should engage actively with the peace committee.
- **Community policing:**
  - Community policing is a kind of policing in which **police and citizens act as a partner** in ensuring peace in the area.
  - Community policing is **more associated with ground activity** so they provide better input and

help during the communal tension. some of the examples are Friends of police and Nenu-Saitham program.

- **Imparting liberal values:**
  - The education system should **impart liberal values to the students** so that tolerance and general liberal values on important occasions should be imparted in society, boosting unity.

Administrative measures:

- **Planning and profiling of the areas:**
  - **Demographic profile** of the area and marking the area on the basis of the historical record of disputes, clashes, and riots, etc
- **A crisis management plan if the conflict:**
  - A fixed set of instructions which can be followed to tackle the conflict.
  - A special officer can be appointed in every district of the country.
- **Intelligence and police:**
  - Intelligence mechanisms should be **sound enough to pretend the communal violence** before they happen every district can have these intelligence units which collect the data related to the communal violence and try to map these events to prevent the future violence.
  - **Sensitize police towards feelings of minorities** – Generally, the minority communities feel that police is biased so, trust-building is need of the hour
  - **Special training to the police force** which is working in an area which is sensitive to communal violence.

Manpower shortage issue in the police à In India, the **number of policemen per lakh of people is only 130 and the recommendation of the United Nation is 220 per lakh.**

Management of religious affairs:
- **Code of conduct for the religious festival:**
  o Generally, communal violence arises in-country during the celebration of these religious festivals, so special requirements should be made during the celebration of festivals.
- **Protecting the places of worship:**
  o No harm to the places of worship during communal violence should be ensured. The premises should be provided with special security arrangements.
  o The unauthorized construction on the land of worship should be dealt with strictly legal provisions.
  o Also, the administration and government should ensure that these religious places are not misused by the nefarious element of society.

Measures when an outbreak of violence is anticipated:
- Preventive arrest under the **CrPc sections of 151** along with the deployment of central forces which has a specialty in the outbreak of Riots.
- The imposition of **section 144** of the Indian penal code.
- **Deployment of police** in other sensitive areas of the state.

Measures during the violence:
- The **use of force in order to suppress the violence** and situation should be brought under control.

- **Guidelines and standard operating procedure** should be brought in quick enforcement so that damage could be minimized
- **Effective utilization of central forces** and calling them in time by the state authority.
- **Putting a standby team** in order when the situation is worse.
- **Media depicting the live death** of people should be **banned immediately**.
- The officer deployed should have **knowledge of local prospects**.

Technology measures during the violence and after the violence:
- **Proper checks and balances on social media** à Methods should be developed through which the hate speech and Rumours propagation can be stopped and during the Riot guidelines for social media giants like WhatsApp and Facebook should be issued.
- **Use social media to create a positive environment** in the society and circulate the information which creates an environment for peace.

Post violence measures
Fast track court:
- For providing quick justice to the victims and punishment to the guilty persons so, that an example can be set that if anyone evokes the communal violence then punishment is assured.

Enforcement action and Monitoring:
- All the guidelines must be enforced in order to establish long-lasting peace. Constitution of the special investigation team for ensuring the fair and impartial investigation.

- Monitoring is also very important, so that these kinds of events can be stopped in the future.

Relief and Rehabilitation:

- Relief and Rehabilitation work should be unbiased and do not discriminate between the religious groups.
- The benefit of schemes and other rehabilitation measures should reach to the victims.
- Interim relief may be provided immediately to the victims and essential goods and services should be provided timely to the individual of affected areas.

Also the **recommendation of 2nd ARC** that relief and rehabilitation of victims of communal violence under the **Disaster Management act of 2005**, communal violence can also be **viewed as a disaster**.

Conclusion:
Strong legal action along with the policy of zero tolerance towards the violence will bring down the communal hatred and impartial administration and police will assure the minority that they are safe. This will ensure long-lasting peace and development in the country

RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN INDIA

Religious violence in India includes acts of violence by followers of one religious' group against followers and institutions of another religious group, often in the form of rioting. Religious violence in **India** has generally involved **Hindus** and **Muslims**.

Despite the secular and religiously tolerant **constitution of India**, broad religious representation in various aspects of society including the government, the active role played by autonomous bodies such as **National Human Rights Commission of India** and **National Commission for Minorities**, and the ground-level work being done by non-governmental organisations, sporadic and sometimes serious acts of religious violence tend to occur as the root causes of religious violence often run deep in history, religious activities, and politics of India

Along with domestic organizations, international human rights organisations such as **Amnesty International** and **Human Rights Watch** publish reports on acts of religious violence in India. From 2005 to 2009, an average of 130 people died every year from communal violence, or about 0.01 deaths per 100,000 population. The state of **Maharashtra** reported the highest total number of religious violence related fatalities over that five-year period, while **Madhya Pradesh** experienced the highest fatality rate per year per 100,000 population between 2005 and 2009. Over 2012, a total of 97 people died across India from various riots related to religious violence.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom classified India as Tier-2 in persecuting religious minorities, the same as that of Iraq and Egypt. In a 2018 report, **USCIRF** charged **Hindu nationalist** groups for their campaign to "**Saffronize**" India through violence, intimidation, and

harassment against non-Hindus. Approximately one-third of state governments enforced anti-conversion and/or anti-cow slaughter laws against non-Hindus, and mobs engaged in violence against Muslims whose families have been engaged in the dairy, leather, or beef trades for generations, and against Christians for proselytizing. "Cow protection" lynch mobs killed at least 10 victims in 2017.

Many historians argue that religious violence in independent India is a legacy of the policy of **divide and rule** pursued by the British colonial authorities during the era of **Britain's control over the Indian subcontinent**, in which local administrators pitted Hindus and Muslims against one another, a tactic that eventually culminated in the **partition of India**.

Ancient India

Ancient text **Ashokavadana**, a part of the **Divyavadana**, mention a non-Buddhist in **Pundravardhana** drew a picture showing the Buddha bowing at the feet of **Nirgrantha Jnatiputra** (identified with **Mahavira**, 24th **tirthankara** of **Jainism**). On complaint from a Buddhist devotee, **Ashoka**, an emperor of the **Maurya Empire**, issued an order to arrest him, and subsequently, another order to kill all the **Ājīvikas** in Pundravardhana. Around 18,000 followers of the Ajivika sect were executed because of this order. Sometime later, another Nirgrantha follower in **Pataliputra** drew a similar picture. Ashoka burnt him and his entire family alive in their house. He also announced an award of one **dinara** (silver coin) for the head of a Nirgrantha. According to *Ashokavadana,* as a result of this order, his own brother, **Vitashoka**, was mistaken for a heretic and killed by a cowherd. Their ministers advised that "this is an example of the suffering that is being inflicted even on those who are free from desire" and that he "should guarantee the

security of all beings". After this, Ashoka stopped giving orders for executions.[17] According to **K. T. S. Sarao** and **Benimadhab Barua**, stories of persecutions of rival sects by Ashoka appear to be a clear fabrication arising out of sectarian propaganda.

The *Divyavadana* (divine stories), an anthology of Buddhist mythical tales on morals and ethics, many using talking birds and animals, was written in about 2nd century AD. In one of the stories, the razing of **stupas** and **viharas** is mentioned with Pushyamitra. This has been historically mapped to the reign of King **Pushyamitra** of the **Shunga Empire** about 400 years before Divyavadana was written. Archeological remains of stupas have been found in Deorkothar that suggest deliberate destruction, conjectured to be one mentioned in Divyavadana about Pushyamitra. It is unclear when the Deorkothar stupas were destroyed, and by whom. The fictional tales of Divyavadana is considered by scholar as being of doubtful value as a historical record. **Moriz Winternitz**, for example, stated, "these legends [in the Divyāvadāna] scarcely contain anything of much historical value".

Introduction-

Communal violence includes all forms of violent action by members of one community against the members of other community. These days the occurrence of communal violence is a regular feature. Communal violence, either major or minor, leaves a deep impact on the society. When the religious thoughts are mixed with politics, it leads to aggression and violence.

The Indian law defines communal violence as, "any act or series of acts, whether spontaneous or planned, resulting in injury or harm to the person and or property, knowingly directed against any person by virtue of his or her membership of any

religious or linguistic minority, in any State in the Union of India, or Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within the meaning of clauses (24) and (25) of Article 366 of the Constitution of India."

From Past-

- The riots in India are not new. Such events are occurring since 17th century. But the riots were sectarian at that time and not based on religion like **in 1720s among Afghans, Abyssinians, Satnamis and Mughals**.

- But in 18th century, the scenario changed and riots took the communal colour. More clashes between religions witnessed.

- Hindu revivalist movements in 19th century like Shuddhi Movement of Arya Samaj and Muslim movements like Faraizi movement to bring Bengali Muslims back on the true path of Islam.

- Formation of Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha based on fear and hatred.

- Partition of India in 1947– After partition, millions of populations was forced to move from both sides of the border. Hindus in Pakistan and Muslims in India were killed in masses, women were raped, and many children lost their parents.

- Anti Sikh riots, 1984– Sikhs in large number were massacred by anti- Sikh mob. This massacre took place in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by his own Sikh body Guard in response to her actions authorising the military operation.

- Ethnic clashes in Kashmir and exclusion of Kashmiri Pundits in 1989– the brotherhood saw a serious blow due to Extremist Islamic terrorism in the Kashmir valley, which led to mass killing and large-scale exodus of Kashmiri Pundits from the valley to the various regions and corners of the India, giving them the status of refugee in their own country.

- Babri Masjid Demolition in 1992– in 1990, due to some political mobilisation, there was atmosphere of protest by Hindu religious groups and in large scale "kar sevak" visited Ayodhya from all parts of India, in support of demolishing Babri masjid and building Ram temple there.

- Godhra Incident and Gujarat riots 2002– Godhra incident in 2002, when "kar sevak" returning from Ayodhya in a Sabarmati Express were killed by fire in the coaches of train. This act was followed by the extended communal violence in Gujarat.

Recent developments-

- **Assam Communal Violence,** 2012– In **2012**, there were ethnic clashes between Bodos (Tribal, Christian & Hindu faith) and Muslims. Ethnic tensions between Bodos and Bengali-speaking Muslims escalated into a riot in Kokrajhar in July 2012, when unidentified miscreants killed four Bodo youths at Joypur.

- **Muzaffarnagar violence, 2013–** The cause of this ethnic clash between Jat and Muslim community is very much disputed and has many versions. According to few, it was started after some suspicious post on Social media platform Facebook. According to some, it was escalated after the eve teasing case in Shamli.

- **Delhi riots 2020**– Delhi saw the riots between Hindu and Muslim community after the hate speeches that followed the anti-CAA and anti-NRC protests in Delhi region.

- The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) characterizes India as a country of particular concern, in its annual report.

Reasons for communal violence-

- **Majority-Minority issue**– sense of victimization and oppression in the minds of minorities.
- **Orthodoxy**– feeling associated with distinct cultural pattern, personal laws and thoughts which prevents acceptance of secularism and religious tolerance.
- **Psychology**– like feeling of Hindus about Muslims as unpatriotic and fanatics and feeling of Muslims that they are considered second-rated citizens & outsiders.
- **Social causes**– cultural distinction between sections.
- **Economic status**– economic inequalities mainly due to education, skills, training, etc. This generates a sense of hatred with growth.
- **Politics**– vote bank appeasements, favouring section, etc. incites feeling of hatred about others.
- **Rumors and False news**– the biggest cause of violence in the World these days be it about cow slaughter, child trafficking, theft, etc.
- External factors– non-state actors, enemy nations try to incite hatred in the minds of minorities to destabilize the nation.

Impacts-

- **Violation of Human Rights**– violence takes away lives, properties, source of income, etc. violating human rights.
- **Economic loss**– damage to source of income, killing of sole earners, etc. have lifelong impacts on families.
- **Sectarianism**– the feeling of marginalization and alienation gives way to tendencies of secessionism, separatism, etc. affecting nation-building.

- Internal security issues– violence and law & order issue has negative impact on national interest.
- Threat to Democracy– favouratism in politics, voting for an ideology, etc. is not good for a healthy society.
- Loss of public infrastructure– damages to roads, bridges, railways, etc. puts the nation on negative side of growth prospect.
- Public trust degradation– alienation within society develops which have a long-lasting effect often proving a permanent dent.
- Threat to Constitutional values– the values like secularism, fraternity erodes due to violence on the name of religion and castes.
- Refugee problem– people have to live as refugee in their own country and area.

What Government has done

- Human Rights Commissions– statutory National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission are being created to protect human rights and to act against those spreading hatred and intolerance.
- Sachar Committee– appointed in 2005, recommended to set up Equal opportunity commission (EOC) in 2010
- Nanavati Committee– set up by Gujarat government in 2002 to enquire about Gujarat violence.
- Ranganath Mishra Commission– entrusted by the Government of India to suggest practical measures for the upliftment of the socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to include the modalities of implementation for the same. It

suggested 10% should be reserved for Muslims and five% for other minorities in central and state government jobs in all cadre and grades.

- Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011, but it lapsed.

Constitutional Safeguards for Minorities in India-

- Right to Freedom of Religion– Article 25 to 28.
- Article 29– Protection of interests of Minorities
- Article 30– Right of minorities to establish & administer educational institutions
- Article 46– promoting educational & economic interests of the weaker sections
- Article 347– Special provision relating to language spoken by a section of the population of a State.
- Article 350A– Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage.
- Article 350B– Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

Uniform Civil Code and Religion-

- Article 44, under Directive Principles of State Policies, states that the State should secure a Uniform Civil Code for its citizens throughout the territory of India. However, it is still unimplemented.
- India is a multi-religious society and the rites & rituals changes with region and religion. It is proposed to make a uniform society. This will help in narrowing the religious cleavages.
- However, this comes in contradiction with the Constitutional freedoms provided to religions and minorities (those stated above). So it faces much heat whenever discussed in public forum.

Social Media and Freedom of Expression-

Now a day's social media has become notorious for spread of communal hatred. It provides almost instant transfer of provoking material on which our government has no control.

Though, Fundamental Rights, under article 19(1), gives citizens freedom of expression. But proviso to this article also empowers government to impose reasonable restrictions to guard unity and integrity of the country.

But we also have a Fundamental Duty under Article 51A(e) provides– "to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women."

What can be done?

- Legislative support, administrative efficiency and alertness.
- Mutual respect– to move away from 'Our belief alone is true' and 'rest is untrue or incomplete' towards 'sarv dharm sadbhav'.
- Appeasement politics– selection of candidates on the basis of religious community or sect by keeping aside the qualifications, having section-favouring policies, etc. should have to be disapproved.
- Hate speeches– which clearly divert the mind of youth and proves fatal for the society and harmony.
- Social media surveillance
- Education– society and its citizens, become so much capable and empowered, that they can take sensible, ethical and rational decisions.

Way forward-

- Moving away from Fundamentalists and Conservative ideologies– these sections in all religions is the main cause of hatred among various religion

as they try to project their religion as best and disrespect the others.

- Role of Media– The media can also prove to be significantly useful in preventing communal feelings. Media, movies and other cultural platforms can be influential in promoting peace and harmony. The communal press can be banned and legal action can be taken against communal writers.
- Employment for youths– proper economic activity when available for youth, they will not divert to rumours

or false news and communalism, in particular.

Conclusion-

Though, India is a secular country but due to communal feelings the secularization is getting affected. Secularization is narrowing down the sphere of religion to the private life of the individual.

Each of us, have to make a balance between our own religious community and national interests, we have to unite with nationalism, and then should move forward.

TERRORISM AND COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Context

In a recent address at the **90th Interpol General Assembly** in New Delhi, the Home minister has mentioned the collective cooperation of members' to ensure that the **fight against terrorism** is sustained, comprehensive and continuous, for which India is committed to working with the **Interpol.**

What is Terrorism?

- Terrorism, by definition, is always **a crime**, but it can also be a **strategy in a war**. In the international community (including UN), terrorism has no legally binding, criminal law definition.
- For the sake of discussion, it can be described as; **according to the FBI:** *"Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."*

What are the causes of Terrorism?

- **Political Terrorism**: It was originally theorized in the context of insurgency and guerrilla warfare, a form of

organized political violence by a non-state army or group.

- **Strategic**: Saying that a group has a strategic cause for using terrorism is another way of saying that terrorism isn't a random or crazy choice, but is chosen as a tactic in service of a larger goal. Terrorism is typically described as a strategy of the weak seeking to gain advantage against stronger armies or political powers.
- **Religious:** Religious ideas, such as martyrdom were seen as particularly dangerous. However, as thoughtful studies and commentators have repeatedly pointed out, such groups use selectively interpret and exploit religious concepts and texts to support terrorism. Religions themselves do not "cause" terrorism.
- **Socio-Economic**: Socio-economic explanations of terrorism suggest that various forms of deprivation drive people to terrorism, or that they are more susceptible to recruitment by organizations using terrorist tactics. Poverty, lack of education or lack of political freedom are a few examples.

What issues arises of Terrorism?

- Countering Terrorism can threaten the **right to life** of an individual.
- Challenges to the absolute prohibition against torture
- Transfer of individuals suspected of terrorist activity
- Liberty and security of the person is threatened
- Due process and the right to a fair trial of the suspects gets staked.
- Surveillance, data protection and the right to privacy is at risk due to terrorist activities.

How does it impact world's global order?

- Mass destruction of assets and Infrastructure.
- Violation of Human rights and Communal disputes.
- Creates socio-economic divide in the society.
- Communal Targeting against suspects of terrorism.
- Making the region under-developed and poverty ridden.
- Polarisation of Youth mind-sets.

What are the fundamental challenges?

- Fast evolving of terrorism
- Lack of definition of the term terrorism
- Lack of mechanisms to list terror entities
- The ease with which Islamic State (IS) attracted recruits from around the world.
- The ease with which they travelled across borders to join the so-called caliphate in Syria and Iraq.
- Increasing potential use of 3-D printing, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, unmanned aerial systems, and synthetic biotech, for illegal ends.

Does it violate Human rights and up to what extent?

Yes, Terrorism does violate the Human rights in every form possible including the following aspects:

- It threatens the dignity and security of human beings everywhere, endangers or takes innocent lives, creates an environment that destroys the freedom from fear of the people, jeopardizes fundamental freedoms, and aims at the destruction of human rights.
- Has an adverse effect on the establishment of the rule of law, undermines pluralistic civil society, aims at the destruction of the democratic bases of society, and destabilizes legitimately constituted Governments.
- Has links with transnational organized crime, drug
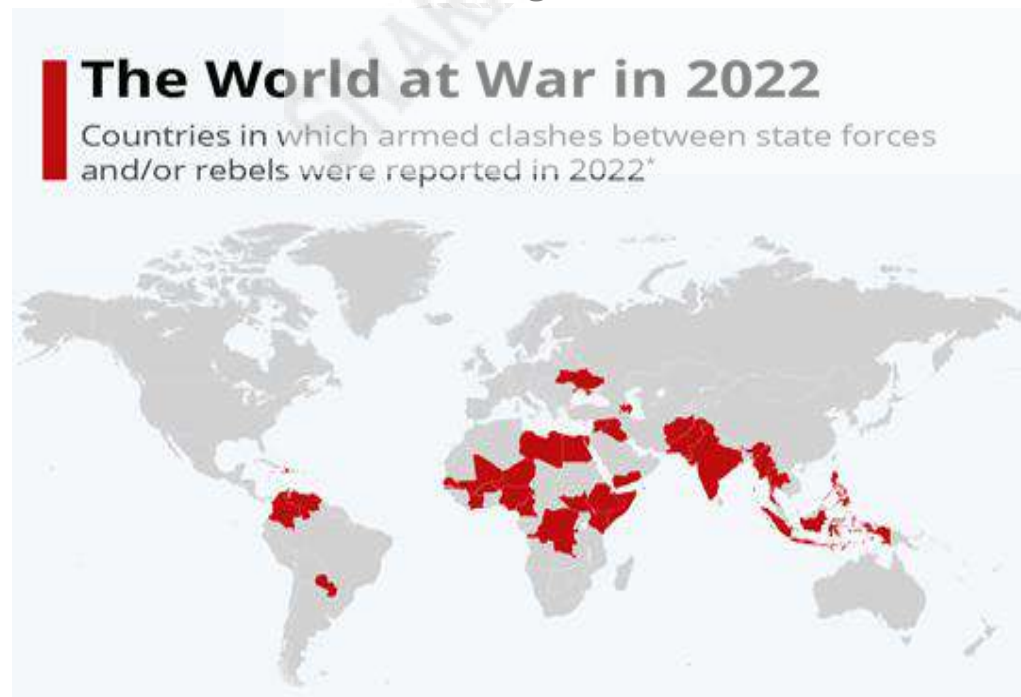
The World at War in 2022

Countries in which armed clashes between state forces and/or rebels were reported in 2022*

trafficking, money-laundering and trafficking in arms, as well as illegal transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological materials, and is linked to the consequent commission of serious crimes such as murder, extortion, kidnapping, assault, hostage-taking and robbery.

- Threatens the territorial integrity and security of States, constitutes a grave violation of the purpose and principles of the United Nations, is a threat to international peace and security, and must be suppressed as an essential element for the maintenance of international peace and security.

What are the Solutions to the issues related to Terrorism?

- The promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism: **National counter-terrorism strategies** should, above all, seek to prevent acts of terrorism, prosecute those responsible for such criminal acts, and promote and protect human rights and the rule of law.
- Government interventions with global cooperation.
- Establishing an international Law on terrorism and its related issues like Left wing- extremism, regional terrorism etc.

Conclusion:

Thus Terrorism can lead to several challenges and affects every section of the society irrespective of age, sex, region and religion. Hence there is a need to invoke a cooperative approach towards countering terrorism in every possible form.

Regional Disparities in Economic Development

- Regional disparities in economic development are one of the common features found in all over the world

today. **Regional disparity denotes regional imbalances or regional dualism or growth differentiation.**

- Regional Disparities refer to **differences in economic development and uneven economic achievement in different geographical regions.**
- The coexistence of relatively developed and economically depressed states and even regions within each state is known as a **regional imbalance.**
- **Many countries are characterized by significant regional disparities in economic performance and living standards, as reflected in income, education, or health outcomes**.
- **These regional disparities raise equity concerns**: they contribute to overall within-country inequality, and they are linked to inequality of opportunity, as measured by, say, intergenerational mobility Regional disparities may also have harmful implications for economic efficiency, as limited opportunities for those stuck in the wrong place lead to the underutilization of potential and constrain overall growth.
- More broadly, regional disparities, including urban-rural differences, **can fuel social tensions and pathologies**, increase populism and resentment towards urban elites, threaten countries' social fabric and national cohesion, and in extreme cases lead to conflict, particularly where the disparities reinforce existing ethnic, racial, linguistic, or religious divisions.
- Regional disparities in the development of regions of a country **may slow the growth of the entire national economy.**
- The **development process nowadays generally concentrate around the few**

main **territories of a nation and others do not receive the benefits of such development** due to factors like market imperfection, geographical constraints, false government policies, lack of law and order and other social, political and economic reasons.

- **Determination of such disparities is required for the creation of proper economic policies, needed to take actions against factors hindering economic growth.**

- **Even the richest country in the world- the USA has the problem of imbalanced regional development and many small countries (such as Italy & France) and socialist countries (such as Russia and China) are also facing this problem**. Different regions of a country grow at very unequal rates, resulting inter-regional and intra-regional disparities which in turn give socio-economic problems.

- **In India, regional disparities exist from the British time period**. The British rulers, as well as industrialists, started to develop only those embarked regions of the country which were potentially suitable for prosperous manufacturing and trading activities and served their interests.

- **The British industrialist preferred to concentrate their activities mostly on metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Bombay, and Chennai, etc. as compared to the other cities of the country**.

- The uneven pattern of investment in industries as well as in economic overhead like transportation and communication facilities, irrigation, and power made by the British has resulted in regional disparities in India.

- Disparities in economic and social development across the regions and intra-regional disparities among different segments of the society have been the major plank for adopting planning in India since independence.

- **During the first three decades of planning, the government gave much stress to establishing heavy industries in backward regions but this problem remained unabated.** The accelerated economic growth since the 1980s appears to have aggravated regional disparities.

- **The ongoing economic reform since 1991 with stabilization and deregulation policies as their central pieces seems to have further widened the regional disparities because the benefits of economic growth after economic reforms were not distributed equally among the states.**

- **From many studies, it is clear that the development of any region depends upon natural resources, human resources, etc. But in spite of the availability of such kinds of resources, many regions remained still backward like Orissa, Bihar, and Jharkhand, etc.**

- Thus in India, **the process of development has not been determined by the availability of these resources alone; political and social factors are also important for the development.**

Need for Balanced Regional Development

- Within democratic polity, growth and prosperity must exhibit **regional balance**. Thus a democratic government striving to achieve such balance is axiomatic.

- India is subdivided into 29 states differing in terms of their productive potential and the type of industry they can support. **The realization of their potential holds the key to increasing the competitiveness of the nation as a whole.**

- Regional disparity in development causes challenges like **violent conflicts, unplanned and haphazard migration** e.g. **Insurgency** in North-east and **Left wing extremism** in large parts of central and eastern states of India.

- The **sustainability of the growth rate and the goal of the country to achieve its development target will be difficult to meet unless India develops as an integrated whole of regional competency.**

Causes of Regional Disparity

- **Historical Factor**
  - The British government and industrialists developed only those regions of the country which possessed rich potential for prosperous manufacturing and trading activities. Thus port cities like Bombay, and strategically important areas like Calcutta and Madras received initial development.
  - In the absence of proper land reform measures and proper industrial policy, the country could not attain economic growth to a satisfactory level.

- **Geographical Factors**
  - The difficult terrain surrounded by flood prone areas, hilly terrain, rivers and dense forests leads to increase in the cost of administration, cost of developmental projects, besides making mobilization of resources particularly difficult.
  - Himalayan states like Himachal Pradesh, Northern Kashmir, Uttarakhand, North-Eastern states remained mostly backward due to its inaccessibility and other inherent difficulties.

- **Location Specific Advantages**
  - Due to some locational advantages like availability of irrigation, raw materials, market, port facilities etc. some regions are getting special favour in respect of site selections of various developmental projects e.g. oil refineries are mostly located in close to sea.

- **Early Mover Advantage**
  - New investment in the private sector has a general tendency to concentrate much on those regions having basic infrastructural facilities.
  - Term-lending institutions and commercial banks tend to concentrate investments in the relatively more developed States.

- **Failure of Planning Mechanism**
  - Local needs; one size fits all approach, lack of adequate resources, poor implementation of plans, lack of planning capacity at state level reduced capacity of Planning Commission to ensure balanced development.

- **Restricted Success of Green Revolution**
  - **Green revolution** improved the agricultural sector to a considerable extent through the adoption of new agricultural strategy of high yielding variety

seeds, assured irrigation, provision of technical knowhow etc

- However, the benefit of green revolution were restricted to Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh as this belt had advantage of irrigation facilities, were traditionally wheat growing states, with adequate policy support from State Governments which other areas lacked and couldn't reap benefits of Green Revolution.

- **Law and Order Problem**
  - Extremist violence, law and order problem etc. have been obstructing the flow of investments into backward regions besides making flight of capital from backward states.

Intra Regional Disparity

- An important aspect of regional disparities in India is the significant level of disparities, which exist within different States. For example, **Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Saurashtra in Gujarat**.

- Demand for and creation of some of the States in the past in the wake of popular agitation was based on perceived neglect of certain backward regions in some of the bigger states such as creation of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat in the fifties and creation of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in the sixties.

- **In each State specific reasons exist for backwardness of regions within states** e.g. the major cause of backwardness of Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra and Northern Karnataka is the scarcity of water.

- Backwardness of certain regions in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa can be associated with the distinct style of living of the inhabitants who are mostly tribals and the neglect of such regions by the ruling elite.

Government Interventions to Reduce Regional Disparities

- **Higher resource transfers from the Centre to the Backward States** via;
  - **Planning Commission** (before 2014) mainly in the form of plan transfers, and
  - **Finance Commission** in the form of non-plan transfers. Since 1969 a **Special Category status** was introduced which was in operation till 13th Finance commission to provide greater percentage of grants to such states from Centre.
  - The large weight given to **"Income Distance"** by 14th Finance commission is an important step towards plugging the gaps in per-capita income between states.

- **Development Programmes**
  - Programmes of agriculture, community development programme, **Drought Prone Areas Programme,** irrigation and power, transport and communications and social services aimed at providing basic facilities and services to people in all the regions.

- **Provision of Facilities in Areas which Lag Behind Industrially**
  - **River valley projects** and **multi-purpose projects** e.g. Narmada Dam for dry parts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, proposed Ken-Betwa inter river

link project for Bundelkhand region etc.

- **Programmes for the Expansion of Village and Small Industries**
  - **Village and small industries** are spread all over the country and various forms of assistance provided by the Central and State Governments are made available in the areas according to programmes undertaken.
  - Industrial estates have been set up in all States, and increasingly, they are being located in smaller towns and rural areas.
- **Diffusion of industrial activity and infrastructure**
  - In the location of public sector projects, the claims of relatively backward areas have been kept in view wherever this could be done without giving up essential technical and economic criteria.
  - For North east region East West Corridor project, **Special Accelerated Road Development Project (SARDP-NE)** and **Trans Arunachal Highway** for increasing connectivity.
  - There is an on-going major rail construction programme in the NER. 25 rail projects are under way in the region of which 11 are national projects.
  - Subsidies, exemptions and tax breaks given to industries for investing in backward regions. For instance **North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP 2007)** for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and

Tripura; **Special Package Scheme for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and J&K**.

- **Schemes for Development of Backward Areas**
  - The **Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)** is a Programme implemented in 272 identified backward districts in all States of the country to redress regional imbalances in development.
  - BRGF consists of two funding windows namely Development Grant and Capacity Building.
  - **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** has been launched in September 2015 for the welfare of tribals and tribal areas and other affected by mining.
- **Competitive Federalism**
  - Competitive federalism means spirit of competition among two or more states in the matters of trade, investment and commerce.
  - States compete with each other to attract funds and investment, which facilitates efficiency in administration and enhances developmental activities.

Way Forward

- India's geographical diversity and different levels of development across regions mean that **location specific targeted action** would be required in less prosperous regions to ensure that a minimum acceptable level of prosperity.
- **There is need to invigorate civil society in these areas** as it is now well accepted in developmental studies that the region with higher social capital

tends to develop more rapidly and sustainably.

- **NITI Aayog's Three Year Action Agenda underlines the specific action for North Himalayan states, North-Eastern states, Coastal regions and Islands and Desert & Drought prone areas this action plan should be diligently implemented.**

Minority Status in India

What was the Petition about?

- Petition complains that **followers of** *Judaism***,** *Bahaism***, and** *Hinduism* **are the real minorities** in Ladakh, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Kashmir, Punjab and the North-East States.
- However, they **cannot establish and administer educational institutions** of their choice because of the **non-identification of 'minority' at the State level.**
- Religious communities such as **Hindus here are socially, economically, politically non-dominant and numerically inferior** in several States.

What was the Ruling?

- Every person in India can be a minority in one State or the other.
- A Marathi can be a minority outside his home State e.g., Maharashtra.
- Similarly, a Kannada-speaking person may be in minority in States other than Karnataka.
- Court indicated that **a religious or linguistic community which is a minority in a particular State,** can inherently claim protection and the right to administer and run its **own educational institutions under Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution.**

Who are the minorities notified by the Government of India?

- Currently, only those communities notified under section 2(c) of the *NCM (National Commission for Minorities) Act, 1992,* by the central government are regarded as minority.
  - Despite the **Supreme Court's 11-judge bench judgment in T.M.A Pai case,** which clearly determined that linguistic and religious minorities must be identified at the state level rather than at the national level, section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act 1992 gave the Centre "unbridled power" to inform minorities.
- **In 1992,** with the enactment of the NCM Act, 1992, the MC became a statutory body and **was renamed as the NCM.**
- **In 1993**, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz. **The Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities.**
- In 2014, **Jains were also notified** as a minority community.

What are the Constitutional Provisions for Minority?

- **Article 29:**
  - It provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, **shall have the right to conserve the same.**
  - It grants **protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.**
  - However, the SC held that the scope of this article is not

necessarily restricted to minorities only, as use of the word **'section of citizens' in the Article includes minorities as well as the majority.**

- **Article 30:**
  - o All minorities shall have the **right to establish and administer educational institutions** of their choice.
  - o The protection **under Article 30 is confined only to minorities** (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29).

- **Article 350-B:**
  - o The *7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956* inserted this article which provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities appointed by the President of India.
  - o It would be the duty of the **Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities** under the Constitution.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Human rights are **rights** that we have simply because we **exist as human beings.**

- These are **universal rights** inherent to all of us, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language or any other status.

- They range from the most fundamental, the *right to life* to those that make **life worth living**, such as the *rights to food, education*, **work, health, and liberty.**

- *World Human Rights Day* is observed by the international community every **year on 10th December.**
  - o It commemorates the day in **1948** the *United Nations (UN) General Assembly* adopted the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*. UDHR is a part of the **International Bill of Human Rights.**

- Headquartered in Geneva, with many regional offices, **the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** has lead responsibility in the UN system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

- **What is the International Bill of Human Rights?**

- Following the *second world war* **(1939-45)**, a series of declarations and covenants began to articulate **universal human rights.**

- In **1948**, for the first time, countries agreed on a comprehensive list of **inalienable human rights.**

- In December of that year, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),** a milestone that would profoundly influence the development of **international human rights law.**

- o 30 articles of UDHR provide the principles and building blocks of current and future human rights conventions, treaties and other legal instruments.
- In **December 1966**, the **UN General Assembly** adopted **two international treaties** that would further shape **international human rights:**

mic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which is monitored by the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**

- o The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)-** monitored by the **Human Rights Committee.**
- These are often referred to as "the

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1 Equality
Everyone is born free and **equal** in dignity and with rights.

2 Freedom from Discrimination
You should never be discriminated against for any reason.

3 Life, Liberty and Security
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security.

4 Freedom from Slavery
No-one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

5 Freedom from Torture
No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment.

6 Recognition as Person Before Law
You have the right to be treated as a person in the eyes of the law.

7 Equality Before the Law
You have the right to be treated by the law in the same way as everyone else

8 Remedy by Tribunal
Your have the right to remedy by competent tribunal.

9 Freedom from arbitrary arrest
No-one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

10 Fair Public Hearing
You have the right to a fair public hearing.

11 Innocent until Proven Guilty
You have the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

12 Privacy
No-one has the right to interfere with your privacy, family, or home.

13 Freedom of Movement
You have the right to freedom of movement in and out of the country.

14 Asylum
You have the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.

15 Nationality
You have the right to a nationality.

16 Marriage and Family
You have the right to marriage and to raise a family.

17 Property
You have the right to own property.

18 Freedom of Belief
You have the right to freedom of belief and religion.

19 Freedom of Opinion
You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

20 Freedom of Assembly
You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

21 Take Part in Government
You have the right to take part in the government of your country.

22 Social Security
You have the right to social security.

23 Work
You have the right to desirable work and to join trade unions.

24 Rest and Leisure
You have the right to rest and leisure.

25 Adequate Living Standard
You have the right to a decent life, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.

26 Education
You have the right to education

27 Participate in Cultural Life
You have the right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community.

28 Social Order
You have the Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document.

29 Mutual Responsibility
We all have a responsibility to the people around us and should protect their rights and freedoms.

30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference
There is nothing in this declaration that justifies any person or country taking away the rights to which we are all entitled.

HRE USA
Human Rights Educators USA
A national network dedicated to building a culture of human rights.
hreusa.org

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION is a lifelong process of teaching and learning that helps individuals develop the knowledge, skills, and values to fully exercise and protect the human rights of themselves and others, to fulfill their responsibilities in the context of internationally agreed upon human rights principles; and to achieve justice and peace in the world. HRE USA strives to promote human dignity, justice, and peace by cultivating an expansive, vibrant base of support for Human Rights Education (HRE) in the United States.

International Covenants".

- **The UDHR and these two Covenants together** are known as the **International Bill of Human Rights.**
- What are the Other Treaties related to **Human Rights?**
- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international human rights law are complementary bodies** of international law that share some of the same aims.
  - o International humanitarian law is a set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. International humanitarian law is **also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict.**
- *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)*
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)*
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)*
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
- *Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)*
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1999)
- *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2006)*
- *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)*

- In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council **(UNHRC)** passed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights **(UNGPs)**.
- What are the Provisions Related to Human Rights in India?
- **Definition:**
  - o According to the **National Human Right Commission of India, Human Rights** as the rights relating to **life, liberty,** *equality* **and dignity** of the individual guaranteed by the **Constitution** or embodied in the **International Covenants** and enforceable by **courts in India.**
- **National Human Rights Commission:**
  - o The *National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)* of **India** was established in 1993.
  - o The statute under which it is established is the *Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.*
    - The Act provides for the establishment of **State Human Rights Commissions.**
- **Human Rights as Incorporated in Indian Laws:**
  - o **Indian Constitution** incorporated several provisions of **human rights** in **Indian Constitution.**
  - o **Part III of Fundamental Rights from Article 14 to 32.**
    - **Articles 14 to 18 of the Constitution** guarantee the **right to equality to every citizen of India.**
    - **Article 19** deals with freedom of speech and expression **and Article 21** provides Right to life and liberty.

- o **In case of violation of fundamental human rights:**
  - ▪ The citizens can **move to the Supreme Court under Article 32 and High Courts under Article 226.**
  - o **Directive Principles of State Policy** from **Articles 36 to 51.**
- India is a **signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and has ratified ICESCR and ICCPR.
- **India has also ratified:**
  - o The international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination
  - o The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
  - o The convention on the rights of the child
  - o Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- **Some Other Related Laws and Policies in India:**
  - o *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (2006)*
  - o *The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (2013)*
  - o *The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act (2014)*
  - o *Jan Dhan Account*
  - o *Ujjwala gas connections*
  - o *Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana*
  - o *Triple talaq*
  - o *National Portal for Transgender Persons, Garima Greh*
- **How is India's Performance on Related Indices and Reports?**
- **Indices:**

- o *World Press Freedom Index 2022:*
  - ▪ Published by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF).**
  - ▪ Rank of India **150 out of 180** countries.
- o **Human Freedom Index:**
  - ▪ Jointly published by **Cato Institute and the Fraser Institute.**
  - ▪ India ranked **119th out of 165** countries **in the 2021 report.**
- o **Index of Economic Freedom:**
  - ▪ **Economic Freedom Index 2021** has been published by the Heritage Foundation.
  - ▪ **India's economic freedom** score is **53.9,** making its economy the **131st** freest in the **2022** Index.
  - ▪ **India** is ranked **27th** among **39 countries** in the **Asia–Pacific region.**
- **Reports**:
  - o *Human Rights Report on India 2021:*
    - ▪ Published by the **US State Department.**
    - ▪ The report flagged **violations of privacy** by **government authorities, Pretrial detention** is **arbitrary** and **lengthy, Free of Expression** and **Media** are restricted.
  - o *Freedom in the World 2021 Report:*
    - ▪ Published by the US based human rights watchdog **Freedom House.**
    - ▪ **India's** score was **67**, a drop from **71/100** from last year **2020.**

- *Democracy Report 2022:*
  - Published by the **V-Dem Institute** at **Sweden's University of Gothenburg.**
  - The level of **democracy** enjoyed by the average global citizen in **2021 is down to 1989 levels.**
- **What are the Emerging Challenges Regarding Human** Rights?
- *Violations of Human Rights* may be committed by the **state knowingly or as a result of the state's negligence.**
  - One of the most severe and well-known violations of human rights in recorded history is the **Holocaust. Jews, gays, communists, Slavs**, and other groups were denied humanity as part of **Adolf Hitler's "cleansing the world"** agenda.
- **Right to live with dignity:**
  - *Manual Scavenging* is a grave concern. The Indian government has come up with several policies to counter it, but few areas are witnessing cases of manual scavenging till now.
  - The **human rights of the Tribals are compromised** when they are displaced from the protracted area for the conservation of the animals.
  - *The Right to Clean Environment* comes under the **Right to life** under **Article 21** of the **Indian Constitution. Hike in pollution** due to *urbanization* **and industrialization** led to continuous violation of this **human right.**
- **Human rights of women:**
  - Women are considered weak in our society and are often denied basic human rights. They are subjected to violence in society whether it is within four walls of the house or at workplace.
    - In **Afghanistan, invasive vaginal examinations** are forced on women to test **"virginity"** every time a girl is arrested on a **mortality charge.**
- **Rights of prisoners:**
  - **Violations** of the most **fundamental human rights of the prisoners**, including **forced labour, physical abuse/torture, police misuse of power, inhumane treatment, custodial rape, poor food quality, a lack of a water system,** and other issues noted by the **Supreme Court.**
    - The **Supreme Court of India** in the recent past has been very vigilant against encroachments upon the *Human Rights of the prisoners.*
- **Corruption in Governance:**
  - Corruption threatens the **rule of law, democracy and human rights, undermines good Governance, fairness and social justice, distorts competition, hinders economic development, and** endangers the **stability of democratic institutions** and moral foundations of society.
  - There have been possibilities of **misuse of the provisions of the anti-terror law including the targeting of minorities and using it against political opponents had** arisen.

Why Human Rights are Important?

- **Human rights** protect an individual from being **abused** or _discriminated_ against **because** everyone should have the equal opportunity to grow **physically** and **intellectually.**
- Individuals can speak out against _societal injustice_ and **evil practices** prevalent in society.
- **Human rights** guarantee that people's **fundamental necessities** be addressed.
- _Freedom of speech and expression_ are promoted by human rights.
- _Religious freedom_ is made possible by **human rights.**
- A **uniform norm** for **government accountability** is provided by **human rights.**

Way Forward

- **Ensure Timely and Effective Service Delivery:** Corruption in governance is the major factor behind the human rights violation because it relaxes the timely and effective implementation of the government policy and program. The timely and efficient delivery of services should be guaranteed by appropriate administration and monitoring.
- **Focus on Underdeveloped and Developing Countries:** Majority of the human right violation are taking place in underdeveloped and developing nations. So developing and underdeveloped nations should be given proper opportunity to grow and sustain the measures associated with human right violation.
- **In case of India, the NHRC** should be substantially redesigned in order to become a more effective watchdog of human rights abuses across the nation. The efficacy of the NHRC will rise if the commission's recommendations are made **legally binding. State and non-state** entities must cooperate and take lead if the human rights situation in India is to be **improved and strengthened.**
- **Old laws and provisions** should be aligned according to latest demand of the circumstances.

EDUCATION

Reforms in Education System
Indian Education System

A major shift in the education system can be observed since the pre- and post-British rule till today in India. Initially, children were educated in Gurukuls which was later modified, and the modern education system was introduced.

After India became independent, the constitution committed six fundamental rights, of which one was the Right to Education. It allowed free education for every child up between the age of 6 and 14 years.

The education system is mainly divided into pre-primary, primary, elementary and secondary education, which is followed by higher studies.

However, there are many drawbacks and loopholes in this system which if curbed can work for the overall development of the country.

To know in detail about the **Right to Education Act (RTE)**.

By **2030**, India will have the **largest number of young populations in the globe**, a population size which will be a boon only if these young people are skilled enough to join the workforce. Quality education will play a major role in it.

But the current state of Education faces major challenges like **lack of adequate infrastructure, low government expenditure on education (less than 3.5% of the GDP**) and as per Unified District Information System For Education (UDISE) the pupil-to-teacher ratio at national level for elementary schools.

So, it's high time to tune the Indian Education System with global standards and adopt **modern learning approaches** that are responsive and relevant. Also, vitalize National Education Policy 2020 to see the light of day.

The Features of National Education Policy 2020:
- The **NEP 2020** aims at making **"India a global knowledge superpower"**. It is only the **3rd major revamp** of the framework of **education in India** since independence.
  - The **two earlier education policies** were introduced in **1968 and 1986.**
- It aims to bring **2 crores out of school children back into the mainstream** through an **open schooling system.**
- School governance is set to change, with a **new accreditation framework** and an **independent authority to regulate both public and private schools.**
- Assessment reforms with **360-degree Holistic Progress Card**, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes.
  - Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships.

Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms
- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- PRAGYATA
- Mid Day Meal Scheme
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- PM SHRI Schools

The Major Issues Related to the Education Sector in India

- **Inadequate Infrastructure in Schools:** According to the **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE)** for 2019-20, only **12% of schools have internet facilities and 30% have computers.**
  - About **42% of these schools lacked furniture, 23% lacked electricity,** 22% lacked ramps for the physically disabled, and **15% lacked WASH facilities** (which include **drinking water, toilets, and hand wash basins**).
- **High Dropout Rate:** The **dropout rate is very high** in primary and secondary levels. Most of the students in the 6-14 age groups leave school before completing their education. It leads to wastage of financial and human resources.
  - According to the National Family Health Survey-5, **not being interested in studies was the reason given by 21.4% of girls** and **35.7% of boys** aged between **6 to 17 years** for dropping out of school before the **2019-20** school year.
- **Problem of Brain Drain:** Due to **cutthroat competition for getting admission in top institutes like IITs and IIMs**, a challenging academic environment is created for many students in India, so they prefer going abroad, that makes our country deprived of good talent.
  - There is a **quantitative expansion of education** in India but the **qualitative front (essential for a student to get a job) is lagging.**
- **Mass illiteracy:** Despite **constitutional directives** and efforts aimed at enhancing education, around 25% of Indians still remain illiterate, which also leaves them **socially and digitally excluded.**
- **Lack of Adequate Attention to Indian Languages:** Indian languages are still in an underdeveloped stage, the **medium of instruction particularly in science subjects is English**, resulting in **unequal opportunities** for rural students.
  - Also, **standard publications** are not available in the Indian language.
- **Lack of Technical and Vocational Education:** Mainly, our educational system is of **generalist nature.** The development of **technical and vocational education is quite unsatisfactory,** due to which the number of educated unemployed persons is increasing day by day.
- **Unaffordability**: Meagre incomes at rural level leads to **education taking a backseat.** Due to lack of awareness and financial stability, **many parents tend to see education as an expense rather than an investment.** They would rather want their children to work and earn.
  - When it **comes to higher education,** lack of good institutes in the vicinity force students to shift to cities, **which adds to their**

expenses. This leads to low rates of enrollment.

- **Gender-Inequality**: Despite the government's effort to ensure equality of opportunity for education for both men and women in our society, the **literacy rate of women in India, especially in rural areas, remains very poor.**
  - According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), poverty and local cultural practices (female infanticide, **dowry, and early marriage)** play a big role in gender inequality in education throughout India.
  - Another obstacle to education is a **lack of sanitation in schools across the country.**

Way Forward

- **Towards Experiential Learning Approach:** There is a need for **inclusion of problem-solving and decision-making related subjects** in the school curriculum to offer a hands-on learning experience to students and **prepare them to face the outside world when they enter the workforce.**
  - **Experiential Learning can reap maximum** benefit from its ability to extract active participation from every student, which in turn **triggers their** emotional intelligence and **sets them on a path to self-learning**.
  - **Linking** Artificial Intelligence **with the Educational Sector** will also facilitate experiential learning.
- **Implementation of National Education Policy:** The

implementation of the NEP can help shake the education system from its slumber.
  - Moving away from the current **10+2 system to a 5+3+3+4 system** will bring the **pre-school age group formally into the education set-up.**
- **Education-Employment Corridor:** India's educational setup needs to be enhanced by **integrating vocational learning with mainstream education** and providing right mentorship at school **(especially in government schools)** to ensure that students are guided in the right direction from the start and are **aware of career opportunities.**
  - Students in rural regions have great potential and are motivated to study but lack the right mentoring. This is **required not just for the children but also for their parents** that will in a way also **reduce the gender gap in education.**
- **Reducing the Language Barrier:** While keeping English as a means of **education for international understanding (EIU)**, it is **important to give other Indian languages equal importance,** and **special publication agencies** can be established to **translate resources into a variety of languages** so that all Indian students have the same opportunity regardless of their **linguistic background.**
- **Taking a Note from Past to Future:** It is important to look to the

future while keeping our **long-established roots in mind.**

- There is much to learn from the **'Gurukul' system** of ancient India, which focused on **holistic development beyond academics**, centuries before the topic became a buzzword in modern education.

- Ethics and value education remained at the core of learning in the ancient Indian education system. Values such as **self-reliance, empathy, creativity, and integrity** remain a major area in ancient India that have **relevance even today.**

- The **ancient evaluation of education** was not restricted to **grading thematic knowledge.** Students were assessed on the skills they learned and how well they can apply practical knowledge to **real-life situations.**

  - The modern education system can also devise similar systems of assessment.

Current Issues in Education in India

Discussed below are the current issues with the Education system in India:

- **Expenditure on education –** More funds should be allotted for the development of the education system in India. In the past few years, many beneficial steps have been taken in this direction and if the same is continued India may soon be overcome the current challenges

- Gross enrolment pattern as followed by the UN must also be adapted by India

- **Capacity utilization –** The world now needs creative minds, and the Government must encourage schools to boost the students and utilize their capacities to the max and not let their ideas go unheard

- **Infrastructure facilities –** Better infrastructure must be provided, especially in Government schools. Since Government is now focusing on digital education, they must undertake steps to provide all necessary facilities in the Government schools and rural areas as well

- **PPP model –** Well-designed PPPs can create models of innovation for the school system in India. Thus, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model must be taken into consideration

- **Student-teacher ratio –** The number of students in search of proper education is way more in comparison to the teachers and faculty available. Thus, qualified teachers must be appointed to impart knowledge to the future of the country

- **Accreditation and branding –** quality standards

- **Students studying abroad –** There are many students who choose to study abroad because of these issues in the Indian education system. The concerned authorities must work on them, and students must also choose to stay, learn in India and empower the country through their knowledge

Primary Education in India Primary education or elementary education is typically the first stage of compulsory education, coming between early childhood education and secondary education. In India, the children in these classes are generally aged between 6 to 14 years.

The comparative figures of duration of primary education in different countries are given in the table.

- Primary Education System in India the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is the apex body for school education in India.
- The NCERT provides support and technical assistance to several schools in India and oversees many aspects of enforcement of education policies.

In India, the various bodies governing school education system are:

- The state government boards, in which most Indian children are enrolled.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board.
- The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) board.
- Islamic Madrasah schools, whose boards are controlled by local state governments, or autonomous, or affiliated with Darul Uloom Deoband.
- Autonomous schools like Woodstock School, Auroville, Patha Bhavan and Ananda Marga Gurukula.
- Right to Education The 86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002 inserted Article 21A in the Constitution, making the Right to Education a fundamental right. The

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 became operative in the country on 1st April 2010.

Main provisions of the act are:

- Every child between the ages of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighborhoods school, till completion of elementary education.
- No child shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education.
- Where a child above six years of age has not been admitted to any school, or though admitted, could not complete his or her elementary education, then, he or she shall be admitted in a class appropriate to his or her age.
- The appropriate government and local authority shall establish a school, if it is not established, within the given area in a period of three years from the commencement of this Act.
- The Central and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of this Act. Status of seats filled under RTE Based on the report "State of the Nation: RTE Section 12(1)(C)" conducted by IIM Ahmedabad and Central Square Foundation, the provisions of the act has been poorly implemented with only 29% of the 21.4 lakh seats reserved for them getting filled. The report is based on the analysis of District Information

System for Education (DISE) 2013-14 data.

- There is a wide variation across states. Delhi is right on top having filled 92% of 38,297 seats for children from economically weaker sections (EWS), Madhya Pradesh has filled 88% of 1.82 lakh EWS seats. Undivided Andhra Pradesh has an abysmal record of filling only 0.2% of 1.72 lakh seats. Uttar Pradesh has filled 3% of 5.84 lakh seats.

- In 2013-14, out of 2.06 lakh private unaided schools with Class I, only about 45,000 schools reported enrolling students under EWS category.

- The report also highlights a fair amount of inconsistency between the DISE data and data on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan website and state websites. 1.3 Status of Primary Education in India

- **Enrolment**: Primary school enrolment in India has been a success story, largely due to various programs and drives to increase enrolment even in remote areas. Enrolment has reached at least 96 % since 2009, and girls make up 56% of new students between 2007 and 2013.

- **Access to schools**- Improvements to infrastructure have led to better access to schools. India now has 1.4 million schools and 7.7 million teachers (about twice the population of Oklahoma) so that 98 per cent of habitations have a lower primary school (class I-V) within one km and 92 per cent have an upper primary school (class VI-VIII) within a 3 Km walking distance.

- MDG Goal 2- India is on the path of achieving the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. 1.4 Private Sector's Contribution to Primary Education

- Private sector is making huge inroads into education in rural India. By 2019, when the RTE Act would complete 10 years, private sector will be the majority service provider.

- The private sector involvement will also be strengthened by 25 % quota of the government (under the RTE Act). Besides private schools, parents also spend considerable amounts of money on private tuition, making quality education more inaccessible to people without money.

Issues Related to Primary Education
Toilets

- Despite availability of toilets at government schools, majority of them remain non-functional owing to lack of water supply.

- Lack of toilets has contributed to increasing dropouts, particularly among female students. 1.5.2 Dropouts

- Nationally, 29 percent of children drop out before completing five years of primary school, and 43 percent before finishing upper primary school. High school completion is only 42 percent.

- This lands India among the top five nations for out-of-school children of primary school age. 1.5.3 Learning Outcomes The quality of learning is a major issue and reports show that children are not achieving class-

appropriate learning levels. 1.5.3.1 ASER Survey 2014

- The ASER survey has shown that despite improvement in the facilities provided by the rural schools of India, the students' performance has not gone up.

- The enrolment level is near universal with 96.7% of children registered in schools during 2014, the same as 2013.

- The proportion of all children in Class V who can read a Class II text has improved by 1 percentage point from 2013 - 48.1% children of Class V could read a Class II text in 2014 against 47% in the previous year.

- In 2005, when the first ASER report was published, three out of five children in Class V were able to read a Class II text.

- Only 44.1% of Class VIII students in rural India managed to do a division in 2014, as against 46% in 2013.

- Children's ability to read English is relatively unchanged in primary school. In 2014, about 25% of children enrolled in Class V could read simple English sentences. This number is virtually unchanged since 2009

- The situation is worse in middle school. In 2009, 60.2% of children in Class VIII could read simple sentences in English but in 2014, this figure was 46.8%.

- Some education experts blame the norm of the Right to Education Act which requires the child to be admitted in an age-appropriate class.

- Some experts feel that the lack of pre-schools might have weakened the performance of students in

primary and upper primary as their basics were not clear.

- Another reason could be that students in rural areas may not be practising at home as they could be the first generation to receive education. The government needs to hold workshops for parents to educate themselves so that they can help their children to study at home.

- Interest in education starts from early years. One cannot develop interest in education at the age of 6. According to the early childhood policy of the Indian government, a 3-year-old should be subjected to play-based learning, and once the child turns 5, reading, writing and number work should start. That is the time when one starts making a connection with one's brain. Almost 98 per cent of the brain develops in early age. The brain is not getting that foundation

- A Comparison between ASER survey and National Achievement Survey by NCERT ASER Survey NAS survey Conducted on households Conducted on schools ASER is meant to be an analysis of basic competencies in reading and mathematics across rural India, conducted by community volunteers, in the child's home NAS is a school-based, grade specific, countrywide assessment (covering both rural and urban) but limited to government and government aided schools Quality of learning measured by reading, writing and arithmetic has either shown no improvement or actually worsened. Significant disparities across states Increase in mid-day meal served in

government schools. Compared to last year's 97.7 per cent, 99.50 per cent schools now serve meals. Kitchen sheds have also increased. The rural-urban divide also seems to have been bridged with most of the Indian states showing no significant disparity between rural and urban students. 1.6 General Issues in Rural Schools

- Private resources for promoting rural education are minimal to non-existent. Allocated public resources are more often than not, not effectively utilized.

- Single teacher schools, most of them with just a single room, are unable to provide even the basic environment for learning.

- Lack of adequate classroom facilities means that children from different age groups typically sit in the same classroom, leading to boredom and disinterest.

- Driven by pressing short-term economic needs, most parents are reluctant to send their children to school. They often pose obstacles to learning. In some cases, the State has to offer incentives, such as subsidized rice through the mid-day meal scheme to attract children to school. 5 www.visionias.in ©Vision IAS 1.7 General Issues in Urban Schools

- Teaching and learning methods used in most schools discourage questioning, learning, application and creativity.

- An education system focused on exams and marks ("factory approach") has produced few world-class creators and original thinkers.

- Teachers are the missing link in Indian education. Although demand for quality teachers greatly exceeds supply, the teaching profession has become a profession of last resort attracting either low calibre individuals or people for whom teaching is a hobby or only a supplementary source of family income.

- Teacher training and education institution standards have declined over the years and little effective knowledge and skill transfer takes place. Like much of the education system, teacher education has become pedantic and is divorced from application. A degree in teacher education is no longer therefore a guarantee of teaching skill. 1.8 Some Suggestions

- Teacher Education o The lack of learning in India's schools call for changes to teacher education. A collaboration between foreign universities' schools of education with Indian teacher training institutes in necessary. o Such a collaboration could help build capacity and upgrade teacher education both in terms of curriculum and pedagogy, which is much needed in Indian teacher education institutions like the District Institutes of Education and Training. o Such collaborations could be facilitated through technology, collaborative research projects, teacher exchanges, and subsidized online courses for teachers in India.

- Building Good Assessment Systems o Good assessments are useful at the classroom level for teachers to

gauge their students' understanding and also to inform policy.

- The need for regular and useful assessments in India is something that Indian departments of education are focusing on at the central and state level.

- Gender studies education: o Boys and girls should be taught to think about gender equality from an early age and the curriculum should include gender studies with appropriate teacher training.

- Skills Development o Making education more practically relevant to the labor market should be a priority.

- Resources o Currently spending on education is low in India, and stands at 3.4 percent of the GDP. This needs to be increased. Targets for the Twelfth Plan 1. Ensure universal access and, in keeping with letter and spirit of the RTE Act, provide good-quality free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years; 2. Improve attendance and reduce dropout rates at the elementary level to below 10 per cent and lower the percentage of out-of-school children (OoSC) at the elementary level to below 2 per cent for all socio-economic and minority groups and in all States; 3. Increase enrolments at higher levels of education and raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the secondary level to over 90 per cent, at the Senior Secondary level to over 65 per cent; 4. Raise the overall literacy rate to over 80 per cent and reduce the gender gap in literacy to less than 10 per cent; 5. Provide at least one year of well-supported/well-resourced pre-school education in primary schools to all children, particularly those in educationally backward blocks (EBBs); and 6 www.visionias.in ©Vision IAS 6. Improve learning outcomes that are measured, monitored and reported independently at all levels of school education with a special focus on ensuring that all children master basic reading and numeracy skills by class 2 and skills of critical thinking, expression and problem solving by class 5. 2 Higher Education in India 2.1 Education System after Primary Level in India Generally higher education programmes result in the awarding of certificates, diplomas or academic degrees. University Grants Commission is the main governing body at the tertiary level, which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the centre and the state. Accreditation for higher learning is overseen by autonomous institutions established by the UGC. These institutions include: AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council), MCI (Medical Council of India) etc. India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. 2.2 Achievements of Higher Education

- Some institutions of India, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), National Institute of Technology (NITs),

International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H), University of Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru University have been globally acclaimed for their standard of education.

- The IITs enroll about 8000 students annually and the alumni have contributed to both the growth of the private sector and the public sectors of India.

- Foreign universities actively seek Indian students. Performance of Indian Universities in Global Rankings

- Not even one Indian higher education institution made it to the top 200 club in the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings for 2014-15. India marks its presence in the 276-300 range.

- The QS World University Rankings published in 2013 ranked IIT Delhi at number 222 with a 49.4% score, IIT Bombay at 233, and IIT Kanpur at 295.

- The University of Mumbai was ranked 41 among the Top 50 Engineering Schools of the world by America's news broadcasting firm Business Insider in 2012 and was the only university in the list from BRICS nations viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- The Indian School of Business situated in Hyderabad was ranked number 12 in global MBA rankings by the Financial Times of London in 2010 while the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been recognized as a global leader in medical research and treatment. Problem Areas Though some Indian universities score better on

academic reputation, on the other parameters the poor performance can be attributed to: Secondary (Class8- 10) Senior secondary (Class 11-12) Higher education or tertiary education 7 www.visionias.in ©Vision IAS ☐ Lack of corpus of research grants comparable to global standards. ☐ Lacunae in recruitment and retention of students from India and abroad. Suggestions: To improve domestically and to compete globally, following steps can be taken: ☐ Generating a healthy competition by incentivising good performance i.e. treating universities on the basis of their outcome and performance.

- Identifying and empowering 50 top universities in every possible manner to seek global excellence as done by Russia.

- Granting extensive autonomy to the universities in terms of curriculum, recruitment, tenure and agenda setting with greater say of the faculty and students.

- Increasing funding, including corporate funding for Indian universities.

- Incentivising research and publications among faculty members. Thus, changes are required at the level of policymaking, regulation and governance n higher education for Indian universities to achieve global excellence and higher rankings. 2.3 Issues Related to Higher Education in India

- Driven by market opportunities and entrepreneurial zeal, many institutions are taking advantage of

the lax regulatory environment to offer 'degrees' not approved by Indian authorities, and many institutions are functioning as pseudo non-profit organisations, developing sophisticated financial methods to siphon off the 'profits'.

- Regulatory authorities like UGC and AICTE have been trying to extirpate private universities that run courses with no affiliation or recognition. Students from rural and semi urban background often fall prey to these institutes and colleges.

- One of the fundamental weaknesses of the system is lack of transparency and recommendations have been made to mandate high standards of data disclosures by institutions on performance. 2.4 Foreign Universities in India Present rules permit foreign universities to collaborate with Indian partners through various mechanisms. However, few globally renowned universities collaborate with India. Moreover, for opening a campus in India, an educational institution needs to be in the top 400 in one of three global rankings:

- The UK-based Times Higher Education Ranking

- The UK-based Quacquarelli Symonds ranking

- The China-based Shanghai Jiao Tong University rankings There are three views on the issue of foreign educational institutions operating in India:

- Proponents argue that it would increase choices for students and enhance competition in the sector. Indian students pay heavy tuition fees to foreign universities. It will help Indian students get foreign education at an Indian price. Additionally, it will help those Indian students who are unable to go abroad due to financial constraints.

- Secondly, there are some experts who support limited entry based on the reputation of the institution.

- Opponents argue that it would limit access and lead to commercialisation. It is not a great idea to aim for foreign investment in education when there is underutilisation of domestic capital in the sector. Highranking educational institutes are reluctant to open new campuses for the fear of brand and quality dilution. 8 www.visionias.in ©Vision IAS Having a mature higher education system has its own benefits and many nations in the world such as the USA, the UK and Australia are reaping those benefits. They attract a significant number of students from countries all over the world. This not only brings foreign money but also adds to their diversity which has its own intangible benefits for a country. Today's requirement is not of foreign universities but upgradation of existing universities which are able to compete with foreign universities. There is no doubt that there is a huge demand and supply gap in our higher education system. Inviting foreign universities to fill this gap seems attractive, but this should not stop us from building our higher education system indigenously. The Indian education system should not be degree-driven, instead it must be

dividend-driven. 2.5 Initiatives taken by the Government

- Government is planning to bring 800 experts, industry experts and researchers from across the world to teach in institutions in the country, with no cost to the students.

- The Government is also planning to digitise every certificate of the students, from school level to the higher education level. 2.6 Opportunities and Suggestions Given its low-cost education structure, India presents one of the best opportunities in the world for generating returns from investment in education. Modest injections of capital and resources can produce significant improvements in education quality and output.

- With the given resource limitations, a case can be made to focus on low capital-intensive skill-based education.

- In Korea, the best students enter the teaching profession because the social status of a teacher is very high. We need such a system in India.

- The government must help students with more scholarships. But, a student should be in a position to avail of the scholarship irrespective of whether he attends a government or private institution.

Education and Social Change in India

- Education influences different domains of social life. It not only influences social change, but also acts as an agent of social change. Education is the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skill, values, beliefs and habits. Education engages itself in a much more positive action and can perform the function of an initiator of change. It inculcates in the younger generation whatever changes are desirable for rebuilding a society. Moreover, it cultivates necessary intellectual and emotional readiness to deal with challenges of change.

- **Education is an important instrument of modernization.** Modern values in social economic and political spheres have to be instilled in the minds of people to achieve the goal of modernization. Values such as equality, liberty, scientific temper, humanism and ideas against blind faith pave the way for modernization. This task can be effectively performed by education.

- **In ancient India education was provided by the family, kin group and society as a whole through participation in daily life.** But, as the needs and activities increased in course of times, a more systematic means of instruction was introduced and a specialized occupational group of teachers was formed The Brahmans acted as formal teachers and were repositories of knowledge and learning. Teaching centers functioned around individual scholars and the learning process also emphasized the role of each individual student This system of education emphasized more on life than on instruction. Thus curricula varied from center to center. The transmission of religious ideas and the interpretation of Gurukula and

Vidyalayas. However, this educational system was available only to small section of the population that constituted the upper layers of the Varna hierarchy under the pressure of social and economic change.

- **Historically speaking modern education appeared in India with the establishment of British rule.** Initially, the British rulers supported traditional schools and encouraged their expansion and growth. But by the middle of the nineteen century, the colonial policy changed and a decision was taken to introduce European literature and science in India. English was made the medium of instruction in the higher branches of learning. This policy concentrated on the education of the upper and middle classes. Little progress was made in establishing a suitable system of primary education.According to one estimate in 1881-82,1in 10 boys and 1in 250 girls between the ages of 5 and 12 years attended schools. About 90 per cent of the populations were illiterate even in the early part of the twentieth century.The educational system thus not only maintained the gulf between the upper classes and the mass of the population but also increased it further.

There was significant limitation of the educational policy of the colonial period

- Priority given to higher education over primary education. The enrolment in colleges and universities increased at a higher rate than in schools.

- Modernization through education remained confined to the educated and elite groups that ordinarily belonged to the upper castes. It hardly affected the mass of the population.
- However, the system of education introduced during the colonial rule had several good points.
- It gave a fundamentally different orientation to the educational system and laid foundation of modern education in India.
- Its content was liberal and modern. The teaching of several new branches of learning such as science, technology and medicine created an environment congenial for modernization.
- The structure of educational institution was developed on professional lines. This structure, which classified institutions under categories like primary schools, high schools, college and university, continued even after the Independence.

Education in Indian Society has achieved amazing success during the last fifty-five years. Its achievements, both in absolute and relative terms, have been remarkable. The fact becomes more visible when we compare the present situation with the one existing at the time of independence.We inherited an educational system which was largely unrelated to national needs and aspiration. It was quantitatively small and qualitatively poor. Only about 14 per cant of the country's population were literate. Only one child out of three had been enrolled in primary schools. In addition to low levels of enrolment and literacy, regional and gender disparities were also

very apparent The education system faced problems of expansion, stagnation and wastage. It lacked vocationalisation and had no relationship with the social and cultural needs of the Indian society.

After the independence, it was recognized that education formed a vital aspect of the modernization processes. Therefore, educational reform was accepted as an important agenda of national development. A comprehensive constitutional and policy framework was developed The successive Five-Year Plans augmented the goal by launching several programmers of educational development.

We may assess the educational profile of India by first touching upon the literacy scene.

- In 1951, we had a literacy rate of 18.3 per cent which went up to 52.2 per cent in the 1991 census. The rate of literacy, according to the 2001 census, was 65.38 per cant.

- While the literacy rate in the case of the male was 75.85 per cant, it was 54.16 per cent in the case of the female. It is apparent from these figures that there has been unprecedented growth in the field of literacy in India.

- The female literacy rate has increased by14.87 per cant as against 11.72 per cant in the case of males. Such a remarkable progress in the rate of literacy has primarily been due to two major factors. First, the government-sponsored national campaign for literacy which has made tremendous impact As the scene has been decentralized, its accountability has increased Second the considerable involvement of Nongovernmental Organization (NGOs) which have made the literacy campaign more flexible.

- The expansion and the consolidation of elementary education have been equally remarkable. Universalisation of Elementary Education (U.E.E.) has been accepted as a national goal This programme envisages universal access, universal retention and universal achievement.

- Now, almost 94 per cant of country's rural population have primary schools within 1 km. At the upper primary stage 84 per cent of the rural population have schools within a distance of 3 kins.

- The enrolment at the primary stage has gone up from 42.60 per cant in 1950-51to 94.90 percent in 1999-2000.Similarly, the number of primary and upper primary schools has gone up from 2.23 lakh in 1950-51 to 8.39 lakh in 1999-2000 and the number of teachers in these schools from 6.24 lakh in 1999-2000.

- A new scheme called Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been launched to pursue universal elementary education in mission mode. The goals of SSA are to send all children in the age groups of 6-14 to school by 2003 so that they complete five year of primary education by 2007 and complete eight year of schooling by 2010.

- Secondary education acts as a bridge between elementary and higher education. It prepares young persons of the age groups of 14-18 for entry into higher education. There were 1.10 lakh secondary and senior secondary institutions in

1999 in the country. 272 lakh students were enrolled in these institutions, of which 101 lakh were girls. In 1999, there were 15.42 lakh teachers in these schools. The vocationlisation of secondary education has been implemented since1998.

- The expansion of institutions of higher education has also been exceptional. On the eve of the independence the country had only18 universities. Now there are 259. There are 11,089 colleges and 119 autonomous colleges. The growth of technical and professional institutions has been equally phenomenal. At present, these are 7000 teacher education colleges,110 polytechnics, 600 management institutes, 550 engineering and technology colleges and 170 medical colleges.

- Apart from expansion and spread of education opportunities at different levels, special emphasis has been put to improve the status of women through education. It is believed that empowerment of women is a critical precondition for their participation in the development processes. Girl child has now become a target group. Similarly, educational development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has received added attention.

The educational scenario presented above quite evidently looks impressive, but actual efforts have fallen far short of the goaL The National Policy on Education envisages that free and compulsory education should be provided to all children up to the age of 14 years. This target of universalizing elementary education is yet to be achieved.

Social Change brought about in the Indian society by the spread of education :

- The transition from 'class education' (education for a few] to 'mass education' (education for all) has widened the scope of unlimited entry into the educational system.

- The groups and communities who were deprived of access to education have now joined the national mainstream of development.

- It has not only disseminated universal values such as equality and humanism but it has also transmitted scientific world view. Education has been one of the most important factors in transforming the outlook and attitude of the people.

- The quantitative expansion of education has spread into every nook and corner of the country. It has shaken the age-old inertia and indifference towards education. The phenomenal growth of literacy and education among women is unprecedented It has radically transformed their attitude and improved their status within and outside the families. Their economic contribution has also become conspicuous. The difference in attitude towards boys and girls is no longer prevalent as before. Such a change in society's attitude towards women s role has enabled them to enter spheres of occupational activities that were virtually closed to them.

- As a result of the expansion of education, the degree of mobility

among the member of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has considerably increased The overall state of affairs, however, is not so encouraging in this respect The problems associated with these disadvantaged groups have been so deep rooted that their solution requires overhauling of the social system itself. The national policy of providing equal opportunities as well as special opportunities to the underprivileged classes has begun giving positive results. Member of these communities have achieved considerable success in education.The rate of literacy has increased and the enrolment in primary and secondary schools has improved a great deal. Of course, their presence in higher education is still very low. The upper castes continue to dominate almost all areas of higher education.

- It should be apparent by now that education has acted as a strange modernizing force in Indian society. It is changing the world view of the people. The growth of educational institutions based on the rational principle of science is itself an expression of modernization.

- Increasing urge for education among the deprived and the downtrodden reveals change in their levels of aspirations. It has given an additional responsibility to the education system. The education system till Independence catered to the needs of the upper and the middle classes.A momentous change has occurred in this situation after Independence. A large number of lower caste children have entered educational institutions at all levels. Their aspiration and abilities being different, a new orientation is necessary to find out their talents and capacity so that their educational needs can be fulfilled.

- Levels and the degree of mobility have also been influenced by education. Studies in India suggest that mobility at the level of caste generally operates in the socio-cultural domains and in respect of pollution and purity. Such changes are, however, reflected through changes in customs, practices, occupations, education and income of particular groups.Although these changes do not bring large scale change in the structure of stratification, some families or groups of families may raise their status within their own castes and in relation to some other castes. What we are trying to emphasize is that, education has played an important role in effecting mobility at the individual level which is gradually spreading out to the group level.

- Increase in the number of caste-free occupations is thoroughly the result of educational progress in the country. Education is a major element in the honour assigned to occupations. It plays a major role in determining what occupation one will achieve and, in turn, the level of one's income.

Ambedkar's view on Education and social change. Ambedkar believed that education would greatly contribute to improvement of untouchables. He always exhorted his followers to reach excellence in the field of knowledge. Knowledge is liberating force.

Education makes man enlightened makes him aware of this self respect and also help his to lead a better life materially one of the cases of the degradation of untouchables was that they ware denied the right to education.Ambedkar criticized the British policy on education for not adequately encouraging education among the lower castes. He felt that even under the British rule education continued mainly to be an upper caste monopoly. Therefore he mobilized the lower castes and the untouchables and funded various centers of learning while a labour member in the executive council of the governor-general he was instrumental in extending scholarships for education abroad to the untouchable to undergo both liberal education and technical education. He was particularly opposed to education under religions auspices. He warned that only secular education could instill the values of liberty and equality among the students.

CRITIQUE :

However, as we move away from the spectacular gains of education in India since Independence we are confronted with the problem which the Indian system of education is facing today. The problems of standard content and the social purpose of education are basic to our system of education. Several sociologists like

A.R. Desai S.C. Dube, M.S. Gore, K. Ahmad and A.B. Shah etc., have focused upon the issue of education as an instrument for social reconstruction and modernization.

- **Ahmad** has said that although formal education can play a vital role in 'ideational' change through transformation of knowledge,

attitudes and values of the people, its effectiveness in bringing about structural changes in society is extremely limited This is because of the linkages between the existing practices and procedures in education and vested interests.

- **A.R. Desai** too, has questioned the validity of education as an instrument of social change. His contention is that after independence, education has not been purposively geared to obtain the desired changes. He has criticized the policies and funding and financing of education to attain the goals of social mobility and equality. To support Desai, we can give the example of education of SCs, STs, women and the minorities which has failed in uplifting their status. The unemployment and under-employment of uneducated youth is another example of failure of education for achieving the aspirations of youths. The failure to achieve development of the rural areas and alleviating poverty is yet another example. Unless the pattern set by the prevailing distribution of power is broken and there is a tilt in the policies towards the poor, it will be difficult to find resources for the necessary transformation. Change in higher education is also necessary for social change.

- **M. S. Gore** has pointed out the necessity of change in the content and methods of education in the environment and context in which it is conducted and in the convictions and the commitment of teachers and administrators responsible for education for the effectiveness of

education in achieving the required development.

- Some empirical studies have been conducted in India on the relationship between education and modernization. One such study was conducted by the NCERT in Delhi covering eight states. These studies described the extent to which the attitudes, aspirations and outlook of school and college students and teachers in the country have 'modernized'. Modernization in these studies was measured in terms of an adaptation of a scale developed by Alex Inkles. The results pointed out low effect of education on modernization. Students continue to be traditional in matters of family life, etc.

- **Yogendra Singh** conducted a study into the implications of attitudes and values of teachers in Rajasthan University to modernization. This study measured the levels of aspirations, commitment, morale and authoritarianism among university teachers with a view to understanding how the role structures and value systems of teachers affect their role as agents of modernization. He found significant relationships between the two and thus held that teacher's values influence the modernization of students. These issues have to be seriously debated and remedies evolved to make the system more effective and persuasive. As the nation has accepted the significance of education for the social and economic development of the country, its educational planning has to move in this direction. The report of the India Education Commission, entitled Education and National Development, forcefully stated, "Education cannot be considered in isolation or planned in a vaccuum. It has to be used as a powerful instrument of social, economic and political change"

Introduction

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has been recently announced by the Government of India. NEP 2020 is novel in many ways that can help develop an individual and social transformation.

It recognizes the importance of formative years; it envisages making education more inclusive and aimed at transforming the Indian education system to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

Body

NEP's Vision of Individual & Social Transformation

- **Recognizing the Importance of Formative years:** In adopting a 5+3+3+4 model for school education starting at age 3, the policy acknowledges the formative years' primacy from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child's future.

- **Encouraging Vulnerable Sections of Society:** Another laudable aspect of the scheme is vocational courses with an internship. This may encourage the vulnerable sections of society to send their children to school.

  o Also, it would help in the realization of the goal of the Skill India Mission.

- **Making Education More Inclusive:** The NEP proposes extending the Right to Education (RTE) to all children up to the age of 18.

o Further, the policy seeks to leverage the huge potential of online pedagogy and learning methodologies to increase gross enrollment in higher education.

o Moreover, technological solutions should be utilized for creating greater access to the socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

- **Ending Hindi vs. English Debate:** Most crucially, NEP, once and for all, buries the strident Hindi versus English language debate.

  o It emphasizes making the mother tongue, the local language, or the regional language the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, which is considered the best medium of teaching.

  o This will integrate culture, language, and traditions with the learning so that children can assimilate it in an integrative manner.

- **Departure from Silos Mentality:** Another key aspect of school education in the new policy is the breaking of the strict division of arts, commerce, and science streams in high school.

  o This can lay the foundation for a multi-disciplinary approach in high education.

  o This will help change the present scenario where students are under societal pressure to pursue certain streams that may not be as per their choice.

- **Education & Social Justice:** NEP recognizes education as the most effective way for social justice. Thus, the NEP calls for an investment of about six percent of GDP jointly by the Center and the States.

Conclusion

The new National Education Policy 2020 is novel. It aims to make the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned to the needs of the 21st century and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Community Development Programme
INTRODUCTION

Communities refer to people bounded in specific geographic areas and communities of interest. The past three centuries have seen major changes in the notion of community. We have moved from a predominantly agricultural and rural society, to an urban industrialized society, and now to a post-industrial society. In this latter period of de-industrialization, there has been erosion of community life and a decline in civil society organizations. These have meant a slow degeneration of traditional family networks, heightened inequality between groups of people as well as growth of institutions to meet the needs of the people, which were hitherto met by the community itself.

Development as a concept would imply that there is progress or change for the better in such a way to enhance the security, freedom, dignity, self-reliance and self-development of groups of people. This would involve twin concepts of social as well as economic development.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ?

Community Development Programme

The community development programme was started in India just after independence (1952). It was a multi project programme with the aim of an overall development of rural people. This programme consisted of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, cooperation, public health, education, social education, communication, village industries etc. In fact all these aspects of life relate to the 80 per cent of India's farming population. There are officials for each activity at district level to plan, execute and evaluate the programme up to the village level.

Community development is an exclusive term. It is frequently used to encompass any and every effort towards the advance of community interests. A variety of interpretations are therefore easily available. Community development is a compound term. It is useful, therefore, to consider its components.

Development may be defined as a process by which the efforts of the people themselves are combined with those of governmental authorities, to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress. Community development is a collaborative, facilitative process undertaken by people (community, institutions, or academic stakeholders) who share a common purpose of building capacity to have a positive impact on quality of life.

AIMS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- creating equitable conditions and outcomes for health and wellbeing;
- improving the health and prosperity of the community as a whole;
- fostering sustainable community initiatives;
- fostering sustainable self-sufficiency for the people involved;
- increasing personal worth, dignity, and value; and
- building awareness of and resolving issues in the community.

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Community Development Programme drew its inspiration and strategy from erstwhile projects of rural development in the 1920s and just before Indian Independence, as well as the international influences on community development project that developed both in the Great Britain and in America. The first major rural development programme launched after independence in October 1952 in 55 development blocks was with the following main objectives.
a) To secure total development of the material and the human resources in rural areas.
b) To develop local leadership and self-governing institutions.
c) To raise the living standards of the rural people by means of rapid increase in food and agricultural produce.
d) To ensure a change in the mind-set of people instilling in them a mission of higher standards.

In September 1956, a new ministry of community development was created. Then the ministry of Agriculture and Rural development was in overall charge of the programme of the country. Currently the

entire centrally sponsored programmes are part of the Ministry of Rural Development. From a centrally sponsored programme it became a state-sponsored one in 1969.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN LATER TIMES

A change in these programmes came about with the advent of the Integrated Rural Development Programme that had conceived of rural development as that of targeting specific groups with a focus on asset creation or wage employment. Later on in the Integrated Rural development programme launched in the sixth plan, the asset creation has taken a cluster-oriented approach that emphasized on the creation of groups for participation and management. Group approaches became the focus in all programmes of rural development dealing with the forestry (joint forest management) watershed, National Rural Health Mission or Elementary Education other poverty alleviation programmes as well as the mid-day meal scheme (mother's committees to be formed). Participatory management was emphasized with a mandatory requirement of neighbourhood groups in the above programmes. The DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) has been instrumental in popularizing the self-help group concept and its has now become a widespread phenomenon for community action and development, in both government initiated and voluntary agency initiated programmes.

Other recent programmes of community development include: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyatikaran Yojana, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, National Food Security Mission. Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Members of Parliament local Area Development Scheme, National Literacy mission and Midday Meal Scheme are the other notable community development programmes being implemented.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The tribal communities received some help through Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Projects (MTDPs) created towards the end of 1954. These MTDPs could not serve the interests of the tribal people since the number of schemes were numerous. Later the Community Development Blocks where the concentration of tribal population was 66% and above were converted into Tribal Development Blocks (TDBs). Due to failure of this to address tribal communities needs, Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy (TSP) was evolved for rapid socio-economic development of tribal people, and is continuing even now with the following objectives:

1. Over all socio-economic development of tribals and to raise them above poverty level.
2. Protection of tribals from various forms of exploitation.

SUMMARY
Community Development Programme was a programme which sought to change the economic, social and cultural life of the

rural population and to transform the stagnant villages into progressive rural communities. CDP intended to promote rural welfare through the improvement of education, public health and sanitation, medical facilities, housing, drinking water, hospitals, community centres and sports and cultural activities. The CDP is instrumental in raising the standard of living of the rural people and in reconstructing the rural India. The basic objectives of CDP in India are the development of people or "Destination man". Despite the shortcomings, the CDP was instrumental in laying the foundation for the development of rural economy and defining rural development strategies and approaches. It recognized the need for investing in men/women and material as a means of bringing about social change in rural area.

EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEMES

Recently, the government of Rajasthan has launched the flagship scheme for Urban Employment, the **Indira Gandhi Shehari Rojgar Yojana.**

What do we need to know about the Scheme?

- **Aim:**
  o To provide **100 days of employment to families in urban areas** on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).
  o The government has allocated Rs 800 crore for the implementation of the scheme.
- **Target Population**: People in the 18 to 60 age group are eligible for the scheme.

- **Employment Opportunities:**
  o **Water Conservation:** The **renovation work** at Khaniyon ki Baori comes under the water conservation works of the scheme.
  o **Convergence**: People can be **employed in other centre or state level schemes,** already having a material component, and which require labour work.
  o **Other works include:**
    ▪ Environmental conservation such as tree plantation in public places and maintenance of parks.
    ▪ Cleanliness and sanitation-related works such as solid waste management.
    ▪ Heritage conservation and work related to security/fencing/boundary wall/guarding of urban civic bodies and public lands, etc.
- **Urban Employment Guarantee Schemes of other States:**
  o **Kerala:**
    ▪ Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS), launched in 2010, aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in urban areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to an urban household whose adult members

volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

- o **Himachal Pradesh:**
  - ▪ **Mukhya Mantri Shahri Ajeevika Guarantee Yojna** was launched in 2020 to enhance livelihood security in urban areas by providing 120 days of guaranteed wage employment to every household in a financial year.
- o **Jharkhand:**
  - ▪ **Mukhyamantri Shramik Yojana** was launched in 2020 to enhance livelihood security in Jharkhand State by providing a guaranteed 100 days wage employment in a financial year.

Why are Urban Employment Guarantee Schemes emerging in India?

- **Absence of "Guarantee" Schemes:**
  - o **Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), launched** in 1997, provided employment to the **unemployed and underemployed urban poor** through self-employment and wage employment.
    - ▪ In 2013, the SJSRY was replaced by the **National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM).**
  - o India has had a history of urban employment schemes, **but none of them were**

employment "guarantee" schemes.

- **Urban unemployment Rates**:
  - o Most unemployment data, be it from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) or the Periodic Labour Force Survey shows that the **unemployment rates are typically higher in urban areas.**
    - ▪ As per **August 2022 data (CMIE)**, unemployment rate in **urban India stands at 9.57%** (Rural **7.68%**).
- **Vulnerable Informal Sector:**
  - o According to the International Labour Organization, of the 535 million labour force in India in 2019, **around 398.6 million have poor quality jobs.** Further, the lockdown exposed the **state of vulnerable employment in urban low-end informal jobs.**
  - o Vulnerable employment is characterised by **inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine the basic rights of workers.**
- **Rural Centric Schemes:**
  - o Most of the government schemes providing relief, be it from the Union government or state, **prioritize rural unemployment and poverty like MGNREGA.**
  - o Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, launched in 2020, with an allocation of Rs 50,000 crore, to **boost employment and livelihood**

opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages in the wake of the Covid outbreak.

Can UEG Scheme be an Extension of MGNREGA?

- **Existing Scheme's Framework:**
  - Currently in India, **most UEGs appear to be a mere extension of MGNREGA** to the urban areas.
    - Being the UEG in Himachal Pradesh, Odisha or Kerala, one common feature among them is **providing employment for a specific number of days during the year to the urban households.**
- **However, UEGs cannot be mere extension of MGNREGA due to following reasons:**
  - **Rural unemployment is mostly seasonal.**
    - During peak farming season, very few rural people may be unemployed.
    - **But there is no such seasonality in urban unemployment.**
  - **Capacity of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural and urban areas.**
    - Urban local bodies are poorly funded and have little capacity to provide help.
  - **The public works** in which the labour is involved are different in rural and urban economies.

Way Forward

- UEG Scheme interventions by the States are a **welcome step which give urban residents the right to work** and ensure the **right to life guaranteed under** Article 21 **of the Constitution.**
- Programmes like the Smart Cities Mission and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) have focused **more on the development of bigger towns and cities.**
  - It is important to **re-focus our attention to improving the livelihoods and ecology of urban areas beyond India's major cities.**
- An urban employment guarantee programme **not only improves the incomes of workers** but also has **multiplier effects on the economy.**
  - It will **boost local demand in small towns,** improve **public infrastructure** and services, **spur entrepreneurship, build skills** of workers and create a **shared sense of public goods.**

Employment Guarantee Scheme

Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority concern of the Government. Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing 'The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005' which provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The demand for work itself is influenced by various factors such as rain-fall

pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates.

Further, Government runs various employment generation schemes for beneficiaries like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) implemented by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development, and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) implemented by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Details of the progress of the schemes are as follows:

Schemes/Year	2017-18	2018-19
Estimated employment generated under PMEGP (No. of Persons)	387184	111064 (30.06.2018)
Persondays Generated under MGNREGS (Persondays in crore)	234.26	82.51 (20.07.2018)
Candidates placed in jobs after training (DDU-GKY) (No.of Persons)	75787	23757 (10.07.2018)
Skill Trained Persons given Placement DAY-NULM (No. of Persons)	115140	22518 (09.07.2018)

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme to extend collateral free loans by Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to small/micro business enterprises in the non-agricultural sector to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. Under PMMY, the number of loans sanctioned during 2015-16 to 2017-18 were 12.27 crore, out of which 3.49 crore were new entrepreneurs.

In order to improve the employability of youth, around 22 Ministries/Departments run skill development schemes across various sectors.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana has been initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the year 2016-17 for incentivizing employers for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme, Government is paying the entire employer's contribution (12 % or as admissible) towards the EPS and EPF for all sectors w.e.f. 01.04.2018 to all eligible new employees and is applicable for all sectors for the next 3 years. Till 30th July, 2018, benefits have been given to 76908 Establishments covering 61.36 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY).

Government has also implemented the National Career Service (NCS) Project which comprises a digital portal that provides a nation-wide online platform for jobseekers and employers for job matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content.

This information was given by Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar Union Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

EVERY SCHEME FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

The government of India has taken a number of initiatives for promoting employment generation in the country during the corona pandemic.

1) Financial package

- Financial package of more than rupees twenty seven lakh crore under "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" has been launched interalia, to create employment opportunities for migrant workers, workers of organized and unorganized sectors, strengthen of MSME sector and promote the rural economy. It includes a number of initiatives for all these sectors.

2) Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)

- Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) has been launched w.e.f. 1st October 2020 **to incentivize employers for the creation of new employment along with social security benefits** and restoration of employment.
- This scheme is **implemented through EPFO** seeks to **reduce the financial burden of employers** and encourage them to hire more workers.
- Under ABRY, the **Government** of India is providing for a period of **two years, both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers share' (12% of wages)** of contribution or only employees' share of contribution depending on

employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments, for new employees whose **monthly wage is less than Rs. 15,000/- per month**.

- The **new employees under the scheme include those who lost their jobs during Covid-19 and didn't join any EPF-covered** establishment up to 30.09.2020.
- The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries under the scheme has been extended from 30th June, 2021 to 31st March, 2022.

3) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

- Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), the Government of India has **contributed both 12% employer's share and 12% employee's share under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF)**, totalling 24% of the wage for the wage month from March to August 2020 **for the establishments having up to 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-**.
- This has helped in providing employment in EPFO registered establishments during post Covid period.
- **Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee was reduced to 10% each** from the existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months i.e. May to July 2020.

4) PM- SVANidhi Scheme

- PM SVANidhi was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on June 01, 2020**.

- Its objective is to **provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors** to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

- Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail of a working **capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in **monthly** instalments in the tenure of **one year**.

- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ **7% per annum will be credited** to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on a quarterly basis.

- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

- **SIDBI will implement the PM SVANidhi Scheme** under the guidance of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It will also manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

- **PM- SVANidhi Scheme** has facilitated **collateral-free** working capital loan up to Rs.10,000/- for one-year tenure to street vendors, to help them resume their businesses.

- RBI and the Government of India have introduced measures to infuse liquidity in the economy to sustain the market economy and raise the level of employment.

Other Schemes

- Besides the above, Government has taken various other steps for generating employment in the country encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and through public expenditure on schemes like **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (**MGNREGS**), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (**DDU-GKY**) and **Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**. **Wage under MGNREGS has been increased from Rs. 182 per day to Rs. 202 per day**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- It was started in 10th five year plan in 2005. It works under Ministry of Ministry of Rural Development.

- Funding: Centrally **Sponsored** with the pattern **90:10**.

- Providing **provides a legal guarantee of** at least **100 days of unskilled manual work** in **rural** areas.

- Any member > **18 years** (Adult members) of a rural household, **willing** to do unskilled manual work, may apply to the **local Gram Panchayat (which will issue a Job Card)**. **Minimum 14 days of Employment**.

- If Employment is not given within 15 days, then **daily unemployment allowance given by States**.

- Wages to be given according to **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**. Minimum Wages is increased to **202 Rs**. (early 175 Rs.)

- **Atleast 1/3rd beneficiaries shall be women**.

- Work site **facilities** such as **crèche, drinking water,** shade have to be provided.

- Projects will be **recommended by Gram Sabha (does Social audit too)** and **approved by the Zilla panchayat**.
- **Atleast 50% works** will be allotted to **Gram Panchayats** for execution. Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works.
- **60:40 wage and material ratio** has to be maintained. **No contractors and machinery is allowed**.
- **Center bears 100% wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75% of material cost** including wages.
- **Grievance redressal mechanisms at State and District level.**
- **Rights based approach. Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions is an objective**.
- Integration with other schemes like PMGSY, Housing for All etc. DBT for the wages.
- Work should ordinarily be provided **within 5 km radius** of the village. In case work is provided beyond 5 km, extra wages of 10% are payable to meet additional transportation and living expenses.
- **Disbursement** of wages has to be done on **weekly basis** and not beyond a fortnight in any case.
- All accounts and records relating to the Scheme should be available for public scrutiny.

National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), 2013

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- MoHUA has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) since 1997 which has been restructured as DAY - National Urban Livelihoods Mission since 2013.
- It is for all cities with a population of > 1 lakh or more. All statutory towns.
- To reduce poverty, gain self employment and skilled wage employment, build strong grassroots level institutions.
- The mission would aim at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless.
- It would also address issues of urban street vendors by access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security etc.
- To established strong right based linkages with other programmes and for PDS, ICDS, sanitation, financial inclusion etc.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)

- It is a **credit linked subsidy programme** by merging 2 schemes namely PM Rozgar Yojana (**PMRY**) and Rural Employment Generation Program (**REGP**) for generation of employment opportunities through **establising of micro enterprises in both rural and urban areas**.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** administered by **MoMSME**.
- **Implementation**
    a. At **National** level: by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**).

> b. At State Level: by State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.
> - **Objectives**
>   a. Generate continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas especially to artisans through setting up micro enterprises.
>   b. To facilitate participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to micro sector.
> - **Eligibility**: > 18 years, 8th pass (for > 10 lakhs in manufacturing and > 5 lakhs for Service sector), SHG and Charitable trusts, Production based cooperatives societies.
> - **Salient Features**: It is implemented through KVIC and State/ UT KVIB in rural areas and through District Industries Centers (DIC) in Urban and Rural areas in ratio **30:30:40 between KVIC/ KVIB/ DIC**.

- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** is being implemented by the Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities.

> **Micro-Units Development Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank**
> - It is a **refinance** institution for Microfinance institutions. MUDRA Bank will refinance MFIs through a PM Mudra Yojana.
> - It is not just a refinance institution but also a **regulator for MFIs**.
> - MUDRA Bank is being operationalised as a **subsidiary of SIDBI known as MUDRA (SIDBI) Bank.**
> - It registers, regulates, accreditates MFIs entities and lays down guidelines for micro/small enterprise financing business.
> - **Budget 2015-16** proposed to **create MUDRA** with a corpus of Rs. **20000 crore** made available from the shortfalls of PSL.
> - In addition there is a **Credit Guarantee Corpus of Rs. 3000 crore** for guaranteeing loans to Micro enterprises.
> - MUDRA Bank operates through regional level financing institutions who in turn connect with MFIs, Small Banks, SHGs, NBFC (other than MFI) and Primary Credit Cooperative Societies.
> - In lending MUDRA gives priority yo enterprises set up by under privilege sections of society especially SC/ ST, 1st generation entrepreneurs sna existing small business.
>
> **PM Mudra Yojana, 2015**
> - Launched in 2015 for providing loans upto 10 lakhs to **non corporate, non farm small/ micro enterprises**.
> - To **"fund the unfunded"** by bringing such enterprises to the formal financial system and extending affordable credit to them.

> - Under PMMY, all banks viz. Public Sector Banks, Private sector Banks, RRBs, State Cooperative Banks, Urban Cooperative Banks, **Foreign Banks and NBFCs/MFIs**.
> - Loans offered are Shishu (upto 50000); Kishor (50000 to 5 lakhs) and Tarun (5 lakhs to 10 lakhs). There is **no subsidy** for this loan.
> - Sectors like Land Transport, Community, Social and Personal service activities; Food products; Textile products are included.

- Earlier **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)** was launched to incentivise employers for creation of new employment. Under the scheme, Government of India is paying Employer's contribution i.e. **12% for a period of three years to the new employees earning upto Rs.** 15,000/- through EPFO. The terminal date for registration of beneficiary through establishment was 31st March 2019. The beneficiaries registered upto 31st March, 2019 will continue to receive the benefit for 3 years from the date of registration under the scheme i.e. upto 31st March, 2022.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)
- PMRPY Scheme aims to **incentivise employers** registered with EPFO for job creation by the **Govt paying** the **full 12% employers' contribution to EPF & EPS both** w.e.f 01.04.2018 (earlier benefit was applicable for employer's contribution towards EPS only i.e 8.33%) for the **new** employees having UAN (Universal Account Number), for 1st 3 years of employment.
- It is **implemented by Ministry of Labour & Employment** and is operational **since 2016**.
- Eligibility
- Establishments should have a Labour Identification Network (**LIN**) allotted to them under Shram Suvidha Portal.
- PMRPY is for **new employees** earning wage **< 15000 per month**.
- Duration: The scheme was in operation for 3 years i.e. **till 2019-20**.

- Besides these initiatives, flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India **,** Digital India **,** Swachh Bharat Mission **,** Smart City Mission**,** AMRUT **or** Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation **,** Housing for All **, Infrastructure** development and **Industrial corridors** have the potential to generate productive employment opportunities.

Self Employment and Entrepreneurship Development

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises **(MSME)** has announced expansion of and doubling of support to beneficiary oriented Self-Employment schemes aimed at contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Key Points
- The government will provide assistance to artisans engaged in **Pottery Activity and Beekeeping Activity.**

- Previously, the Ministry of MSME approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana.
- **Pottery Activity:**
  o The assistance includes **technical knowhow, quality standardization of products, skill-development to** Self Help Groups **(SHGs), encouragement to the successful traditional potter to set up units** under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme, necessary market linkages by tying up with exports and large buying houses etc.
    - PMEGP is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme** which promotes self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises.
  o It also includes setting up of clusters in **Terracotta, Red clay pottery,** with new innovative value added products to build pottery to crockery/tile making capabilities under the SFURTI scheme.
    - The **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)** aims to make traditional industries more productive and competitive by organizing the traditional industries

and artisans into **clusters.**

Terracotta
- Terracotta is a type of ceramic pottery, made by baking terracotta clay.
- The word "terracotta" comes from the Italian words for "baked earth."
- It is often used for making pipes, bricks, and sculptures.
- Recently, a Terracotta Grinder was launched at Varanasi by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- The Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) terracotta has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- **Terracotta Figurines** were also made during the Indus Valley Civilization. They were either used as toys or objects of worship and represented birds, dogs, sheep, cattle and monkeys.
  o The famous terracotta figure of the Mother Goddess was discovered in Mohen-jodaro which shows the Mother Goddess as the symbol of fertility and prosperity.
- **Beekeeping Activity:**
  o It aims to **create sustainable employment for the beekeepers/farmers,** help artisans adopt **scientific Beekeeping** & Management practices, utilize available natural resources; and **create awareness about the benefits** of beekeeping in cross pollination.
  o It involves distributing tools and equipment to migrant labourers in the Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan

Rozgar Abhiyaan (PMGKRA) districts and providing training to the beneficiaries, setting up clusters under the SFURTI Scheme.

- PMGKRA empowers and provides livelihood opportunities to the **returnee** migrant workers **and rural citizens** who have returned to their home states due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown.

o Recently, the Ministry of MSME flagged off 'Apiary on Wheels'.

- 'Apiary on Wheels' is a unique concept designed by the KVIC for the easy upkeep and migration of Bee Boxes having live Bee colonies.

o A Beekeeping Development Committee was also constituted in 2019 under the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) to give recommendations to enhance the contribution of the beekeeping sector for achieving the target of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022.

o KVIC also launched a Honey Mission in 2017 under which it provides awareness, training and **'Bee Boxes' along with Bee Colonies** to the farmers.

- The Honey mission was in line with the 'Sweet Revolution', launched in 2016 to promote beekeeping and associated activities.

- **Benefit:**

o The program will immediately benefit about 1500 artisans, in providing sustainable employment with increased earnings.

o Artisans living in **rural areas, Self Help Groups and Migrant workers** will particularly benefit from the program.

o In addition to enhancing employment opportunities locally, the programme will also help in **capturing the export market** in such products.

Way Forward

- The MSME sector has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially the rural enterprise owners. In addition to these self-employment schemes, the government can provide tax relief (GST and corporate tax), give swift refunds, and provide liquidity to rural India (may be through PM-Kisan) to boost demand for MSME products.

India is a developing country with the second-highest population in the world. The problem of unemployment is prevalent in the country. To overcome this problem and find new employment opportunities, The Central government of India has implemented several schemes to

help overcome the problem and find new employment opportunities.

The Self-Employment Scheme run by the Central government provides financial and educational benefits to its citizens. It motivates them to be self-employed. The Government has introduced many schemes to deal with unemployment, such as the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, a Micro-credit scheme for self-help groups.

Central Government Schemes for Self-Employment

The term "Self-Employment" is a type of employment in which a person or group is employed for them and gets paid from the firm's profit, instead of working for others. The programmes related to self-employment in India have made many citizens employed and opened new employment opportunities. The Central Government of India runs many schemes to encourage the people towards self-employment throughout the country. The list of self-employment schemes in India is listed below.

Aspire Scheme

A Scheme for Promotion and Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) is aimed to make the people of rural areas self-employed by providing financial support from subsidies and loans. The main aim of introducing this scheme is to generate opportunities in rural areas. To build new enterprises in rural areas, the Aspire scheme was introduced by the Government of India in 2015.

Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme

This scheme is introduced by the Khadi and Village industries (KVIC) to produce employment opportunities in the urban and rural areas of the country. Any citizen of India who has crossed the age of minority (18 years) is eligible to get the benefits of this scheme. The Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme is only for the new ideas and not for the established ones.

The maximum cost of a project unit provided by the Central Government under this scheme is Rs. 25 Lakhs for the production sector and Rs. 10 Lakhs for the service sector.

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Scheme is the scheme of the Central Government, launched in 1993, which focuses on providing self-employment to the literate youth who do not get any job. This scheme provides loans for unemployed women and youth. With the help of this loan, young India can start their business with Innovative ideas in many sectors.

Under this scheme, the loan amount of up to Rs. 1 Lakhs is offered to the borrower and training of 15 to 20 days is provided. The period of repayment is 3 to 7 years of the loan amount.

Micro-Credit Scheme for Self-Help Groups

Micro-credit scheme for self-help groups is run for the members of self-help groups (SHGs), generally for the ladies who live in the rural areas or the slum section of urban areas. The National Ministry, Development and Finance Corporation, looks out for this scheme. In the micro-credit scheme, as the name suggests, the little or micro amount of Rs. 1 Lakhs to the members of self-help groups with the 7% rate of interest. The period of refund of this loan is three years.

Self-Employment Lending Scheme

The Self-Employment Lending Scheme is run by the National Ministry Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for the

minor community to make them self-employed. The maximum value of loan amount sanctioned under this credit line term-2 scheme is Rs. 30 Lakhs, and for credit line term-is Rs. 20 Lakhs. The rate of interest charged on this amount to the minor communities is 3%, and the repayment tenure is five years.

Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor Scheme

The Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor Scheme is the programme under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM). This scheme provides the poor living in Urban areas with financial support. There is no education qualification required to be eligible for this scheme, and any individual or group with a minimum number of members three can apply for it. For the groups, the sanctioned loan amount is up to Rs. 10 Lakh for groups and Rs. 2 Lakh for individuals. The interest rate in this scheme is 7%, and the tenure of refund ranges from 5 to 7 years.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Scheme

Many young innovators do things out of the box. The Central Government introduced the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Scheme to encourage those innovators toward self-employment. This scheme provides the facility of credit to different Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

- SHISHU Loan- The loan amount provided in the SHISHU loan has a maximum limit of Rs. 50,000. This loan is provided to set up the new business.
- KISHOR Loan-The loan amount provided in the KISHOR loan ranges from Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 5,00,000. This loan is given to those existing industries which want to purchase the new equipment and raw materials.
- TARUN Loan-The loan amount provided in the TARUN loan ranges from Rs. 5,00,001 to Rs. 10,00,000. It is provided to the enterprises and businesses which are already existing and want to grow at a large scale.

Some other important self-employment schemes run by the Central Government are given in the table below:

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Benefits
1	Mahila Samridhi Scheme	The beneficiary loan amount for a lady in this microfinance Scheme is Rs. 60,000.
2	Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme	Up to 3 Lakhs to the farmers.
3	Marketing Assistant Scheme	Offer 25% to 95% off of the space rent and Airfare to the innovators.
4	Startup or Stand Up India	Between 10 Lakhs to 1 Crore to the group

	Scheme	in which minimum one Schedule tribe or Scheduled caste person and minimum one lady is a member.
5	Self-Employment Scheme	This scheme is for the handicapped individuals, who want to set up their business in their area with a maximum limit of Rs. 50 Lakhs.

Conclusion

The issue of unemployment has been a primary issue for the government of India since its independence. There are many educated but unemployed people living in this country. To make them self-employed and provide them with economical support, the Government of India introduced different self-employment schemes such as micro-credit schemes for self-help groups, mudra schemes, rozgar schemes and many more. The government aimed to reduce the unemployment rate with these self-employment schemes of the country.

Role of NGOs

Recently, the parliament has proposed some amendments to the Foregin Currency Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010. According to the government, these amendments aim to bring about transparency in the working of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). However, these new regulations put onerous conditions on NGOs, educational and research institutions that have partnerships, including of a financial nature, with foreign entities.

Thus, many civil society groups question these amendments, especially at a time when the country requires robust civil society organisations and networks to deal with a range of challenges including the detrimental effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thus, given the role of NGOs in the development sector of India, there is a need to balance between autonomy of NGOs and Government's imperative to put a check on NGOs that are engaged in illegal activities.

Major Amendments in the Law

- There is now a capping of the administrative expenses of NGOs at 20% of their foreign donations.
- The new amendment requires them to have a State Bank of India account at a Delhi Branch.
- It also prohibits the transfer of grants received under FCRA to any other outfit.
- It also gives sweeping powers to the Ministry of Home Affairs to cancel the FCRA certificate of an NGO.

Concerns Emanating From These Amendments

- The new FCRA provisions, especially the one that constrains NGOs from subgranting, threaten the spirit of collaboration in the country's development sector.
  - This would undermine the flow of foriegn funding and development aid.

- Apart from this, the proposed changes are not in sync with the ideals of environmentalism, human rights and civil liberties as these sectors receive most of the foreign contributions. These ideals are important pillars of India's soft power.
- Due to these issues, the **International Commission of Jurists** has said the new law was incompatible with international obligations and India's own constitutional provisions on rights.

Role of NGOs in Indian Democracy

India has nearly 3.4 million non-governmental organisations (NGOs), working in a variety of fields ranging from disaster relief to advocacy for marginalised and disadvantaged communities. There the role and responsibilities are immense in developing country like India, which can listed as follows:

- **Bridging The Gap:** NGOs endeavour to plug gaps in the government's programmes and reach out to sections of people often left untouched by state projects. For example, providing aid to migrant workers in Covid-19 crisis.
  - o Also, they are engaged in diverse activities, relating to human and labour rights, gender issues, healthcare, environment, education, legal aid, and even research.
- **Role of an Enabler:** Community-level outfits and self-help groups are critical for bringing any change in the ground.
  - o In the past, such grass roots organisations have been enabled by collaborations with bigger NGOs and research

agencies that have access to foreign funding.

- **Acting as a Pressure Group:** There are political NGOs that mobilise public opinion against government's policies and actions.
  - o To the extent such NGOs are able to educate the public and put pressure on public policy, they act as important pressure groups in a democracy.
  - o They also mobilize and organize the poor to demand quality service and impose a community system to accountability on the performance of grassroots government functionaries.
- **Role in Participative Governance:** Many civil society initiatives have contributed to some of the path-breaking laws in the country, including the Environmental Protection Act-1986, Right to Education Act-2009, Forests Rights Act-2006 and Right to Information Act-2005.
- **Acting as a Social Mediator:** The social inter-mediation is an intervention of different levels of society by various agents to change social and behavioural attitudes within the prevailing social environment for achieving desired results of change in society.
  - o In Indian context wherein people are still steeped in superstition, faith, belief and custom, NGOs act as catalysts and create awareness among people.

Issues Emanating From NGOs

- **Lack of Credibility:** During the last few years, numerous organisations have mushroomed which claim to work for the cause of helping the poor.
    o Under the garb of being an NGO, these NGOs often mint money from donors and are also involved in money laundering activities.
    o There is nearly one NGO for every 400 people in India. However, not every NGO out there is engaged in serious social welfare work. Many are fraudulent and many are there without much serious intent.
- **Lack of Transparency:** India's disproportionate number of NGOs and the sector's lack of transparency and accountability is clearly an issue that needs reforms.
    o Further the allegations of corruption against NGOs be ignored. In the past many NGOs were blacklisted after being found to have indulged in misappropriation of funds.
- **Undermining Development Activities:** A report by India's Intelligence Bureau accused NGOs such as Greenpeace, Cordaid, Amnesty, and Action Aid for reducing India's GDP by 2-3% per year.

Conclusion

It is important for NGOs to achieve and maintain a high degree of transparency in not just their work but also their financials. NGOs need to keep their income and expenditure open to public scrutiny. However, credibility of an NGO cannot be decided against the touchstone of the source of funds, native or foreign.

Also, the government must realise that seamless sharing of ideas and resources across national boundaries is essential to the functioning of a global community, and it should not be discouraged unless there is reason to believe the funds are being used to aid illegal activities.

About NGOs and their Types

While the term "NGO" has several meanings, it is typically understood as non-profit, private groups that operate outside government authority. Some NGOs are run by volunteers, while others have paid personnel. The World Bank distinguishes two significant types of non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

- Operational non-governmental organisations (NGOs) design and implement development programmes.
- Advocacy NGOs aim to influence public policy by defending or promoting a specific cause.

Some NGOs may fall into both categories at the same time. NGOs that support human rights, lobby for better health, or encourage political engagement are examples of NGOs.

Role of NGO

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) serves as a liaison between the government and the general public. When a few concerns do not reach the government or are not resolved, NGO functions play an essential part in assigning these issues to the government. The NGO looks explicitly into a few problems. Their main goal is to make the world better for all suffering humans.

The purpose of an NGO is to focus on all topics relating to human rights, social issues, environmental issues, and

advocacy. They strive to develop and improve society's social and political conditions on a large scale. The following are some of the NGO's functions:

- Human rights and child rights
- Poverty eradication
- Animal Rights
- Prevent Social Injustice
- Conservation of Environment
- Aged people care routine
- Empowerment of women
- Disease Control and others
- Health and Nutrition plans
- Conservation of Wildlife
- Hygiene and Sanitation conditions
- Humanitarian Relief
- Education plans and literacy
- Refugee Crisis

So the need for an NGO is essential in all societies. Let us see the importance of NGOs in a country like India.

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Need of NGOs

The functions of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a significant part in bringing about social change for the betterment and progress of society. It has been demonstrated that these organisations are active in different parts of the world and serve humanity and other noble causes. The members of the NGO must be well-educated, dedicated, inspired, and enthusiastic about the organisation's goals and functions. The following are some of the needs of NGOs.

- A safety-valve social NGO is critical in organising public inconvenience and advocating for societal concerns and needs
- They play an essential role in giving impoverished and needy people a voice

- One of the responsibilities of NGOs is to guarantee that the government responds to citizens' concerns and solves their issues, thereby making the government's job more responsible
- NGOs make suggestions and support improvement and flexibility in government decisions by contributing their research and experience
- The non-profit organisation helps as a means for people concerned about any social, political, or economical problem to answer and provide a helping hand. NGOs aid in conflict, solve and foster an atmosphere of trust and confidence
- Nobody is sacrificing their current needs or damaging natural resources to pursue their selfish aims; hence, this sector needs the most care
- As a result, the NGO is keeping a close check on everything and devising control mechanisms to prevent the overuse of natural resources, which leads to environmental dangers and, in turn, health issues and natural disasters

Conclusion

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have always been at the forefront of accountability by providing various development solutions. When NGOs work with governments and markets, they help to enhance development. Apart from serving as a conduit between society and government, these organisations also assist by functioning as a "think tank," improvising and proposing innovative ideas.

In addition, adequate research is carried out, further improving development

activities. NGOs also get funding from national and international bodies, allowing them to be financially secure and connected to other opportunities. Not just during the Pandemic but in all catastrophes and unanticipated events. The role of NGOs is very crucial in this modern world.

Non-Governmental Organisations - Concept

- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are not for profit organisations that work to alleviate suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, work on human rights issues, or help the communities to develop.
- The term NGO in India denotes a wide spectrum of organisations which may be non-governmental, quasi or semi governmental, voluntary or non-voluntary etc.
- These organisations are not a part of the government, have a legal status and are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 43 emphasises the state's objectives and the aim of fostering rural cooperatives. The freedom to create associations is covered under Article 19 (1)(c).
  - In Entry 28, the Concurrent List includes Charitable Institutions, Charity, Religious and Charitable endowments, and Religious Songs Institutions.
- Governments, foundations, businesses, and private individuals may all contribute to the funding of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

- NGOs are vital to the development of society, the improvement of communities, and the promotion of citizen participation.
- Indian NGOs mainly come under three segments; that are societies, trusts, charitable companies.
- NGOs have played an increasingly important role in the development of the social sector, including education, health, and other areas, over the previous two decades.

Non-Governmental Organisations - Historical Background

- With the commencement of social reform movements in the first part of the **19th century,** the concept of voluntary organisations entered Indian society for the first time.
- Reform movements instilled the idea of dedicating one's life to helping the most vulnerable members of society. These movements recognised women's and untouchables' rights.
- The second part of the nineteenth century witnessed the rise of institutionalised reform groups such as **Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission,** and others.
- As a result, the government enacted the **Societies Registration Act of 1860.**
- Between 1900 and 1947, effective efforts were undertaken to utilise the volunteer spirit into political activity and **mass mobilisation** in order to achieve independence from the harsh colonial authority.
- During the post-independence period, there were many volunteer organisations active in the process of nation-building.
- The transition to **neo-liberal economic** and **political planning**

resulted in the rapid expansion of voluntary organisations.

Role of NGOs

The Social safety Role

- NGOs are the principal vehicle through which communities can give voice to their concerns.
- NGOs play a vital role in mobilising public attention to societal problems and needs.
- NGOs ensure development, which entails the engagement of all people on an equal footing.

Improving the performance of the government

- NGOs can broaden government's accountability by ensuring the government is responsive to citizens at large
- They also encourage policy adaptability by bringing their own independent expertise and research teams to the platform.
- They enhance the efficiency of service delivery at the local level through involvement of residents.
- They also enhance policy monitoring and assessment because the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) considers reports and social audits by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) when drafting its reports.

The Service Role

- The non-profit sector acts as a flexible mechanism through which people concerned about a social or economic problem can begin to respond.
- NGOs help in constructive conflict resolution.Track II diplomacy (including non-governmental organisations) is critical in the international arena for establishing a setting of trust and confidence.

- Organising seminars, lectures and group discussion and awareness programmes
- **Women empowerment:** Women are the vulnerable section of society. More women are campaigning for their rights and participating effectively in society.
- **Education:** NGOs are actively working to promote education, especially among the poorer parts of the community..
- **Environmental awareness:** Thousands of voluntary organisations work to awaken people and governments against environmental degradation and depletion of resources e.g. Vanashakti NGO.
- **Rehabilitation:** Projects like dam building, road highway development, and railway construction have frequently resulted in the relocation of some groups of people, particularly in rural regions, without adequate compensation.
  o NGOs play an important part in the cause of people's relocation and are doing noteworthy work in this area.
- **Protecting dignity:** Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play an important role in restoring the dignity of marginalised and oppressed groups. **For example,** defending women's dignity by protecting women who face gender, racial, or religious discrimination.
- **Human rights protection:** Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) make substantial contributions to

human rights and public awareness in India.

o Without the tireless efforts of civil society organisations, it would have been impossible to recognise the rights of gays and transgender individuals, for example.

Community Participation

- The non-profit organisations offer alternative perspectives; and most importantly, the capacity to conduct meaningful acts with communities, particularly those disadvantaged.
- They foster pluralism, diversity and freedom. NGOs are actively working to promote education, especially among the underprivileged sections of the population.
- The NGO's constitute a world-wide network interacting with Governments and Internal intergovernmental organisations in shaping international environmental policies.

Need of NGOs

Need of NGOs

- Since independence, India has **achieved phenomenal economic growth in healthcare, education, poverty alleviation and overall standard of living.**
- Still the **issues** of **exclusion of women, children and marginalized communities in the development process remains.** The adverse consequences of **inequitable growth include the spread of Naxalism, recurrent violence for reservations and increasing cases of farmer suicides.**
- **India ranks 131** among 189 countries in the **2020 Human Development Index released by UNDP**.
- The **Global Hunger Index for 2020** indicates that **14 percent of India's population is undernourished**. According to the report, the country's child stunting rate was 37.4%. In the Index, India was placed 94th out of 107 countries.
- In such conditions, **civil society plays a critical role in publicizing people's concerns and ensuring that minorities are not forgotten.**
- The state requires the c**onstructive and collaborative engagement** of the civil society in its **various developmental activities and programs.**
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) act** as the **operational arm of the civil society and have an important role in the development processes of the society.**

Advantage of NGOs

Advantages and Benefits of NGOs

- **Ability to experiment freely:** Acting as a voice for people both on a representative and self-appointed basis for social development.
  o Media campaigns and other forms of activism are used to mobilise citizens.
- **Flexible in adapting to local situations:** Acting as an intermediary between different sectors and groups. Acting as a mediator and facilitator.
- **Good rapport with people:** Researching, analysing and informing the public about issues
  o NGOs have a major role to play towards the Rehabilitation of people

- o NGOs also play an essential part in restoring the integrity of the poor and marginalised.
- o Human right protection.
- **Ability to communicate at all levels:** NGOs with the support given by the government has been accelerating its development activities by taking up specific issues like poverty alleviation, women rights, child labour, casteism and discrimination,rural development, environmental issues etc.
- **Improving the government's performance:** NGOs ensure that the government is responsible to the people.ZZ

- o They ensure that the government is inclusive as opposed to sectarian.
- o They promote policy innovation and flexibility by providing independent expertise and research.
- o They are also responsible for monitoring and evaluating government policies. While preparing its reports, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) incorporates NGOs' reports and social audits.

Some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in India

Some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in India

NGO	Significance
CRY (Child Rights and You)	- CRY is widely regarded as India's most trustworthy NGO. - They strive tirelessly to provide healthier and happier childhoods for India's impoverished children. - Rippan Kapur launched CRY in 1979. (Child Rights and You). - CRY essentially tracks children's critical needs such as healthcare, education, nutrition, and protection from child marriage and child labor. - Over the last 42 years, this NGO has impacted the lives of nearly 3 million children in 19 Indian states.
Give India Foundation	- This is an Indian non-profit organisation. - Venkat Krishnan created it in 1999. - It is essentially an online donation platform, and its goal is to provide resources and channels to some trusted non-governmental organisations throughout the country.
Care India	- Care India has been working with purpose for 68 years. It is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving social justice and poverty. - Lincoln Clark founded the NGO in 1946. - The organisation's main goal is to empower girls and women from poor and marginalised communities and help them improve their lives and livelihoods.

Pratham	• It is one of India's most well-known and largest non-governmental organisations. • Madhav Chavan and Farida Lambe started it. • It promotes the availability of high-quality education for underprivileged children in India. • Pratham is present in 23 Indian states and union territories, and it has encouraged its various chapters in the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Germany.
Oxfam India	• Oxfam India guarantees Adivasis, Dalits, Muslims, and Girls safe and violence-free lives, allowing them the freedom to express their thoughts and actions and making them aware of their rights, with a future free of discrimination. • They conduct research to find a solution to the rising inequalities and to assist marginalised communities in obtaining jobs, healthcare, and quality education.

Non-Governmental Organisations - Laws and Regulations

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

• Foreign funding of voluntary organisations in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

• The act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions for the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.

• NGOs are required to file annual reports with the MHA. They must declare the amount of foreign contributions received, the source, how they were obtained, the purpose for which they were received, and how they were used.

• If NGOs fail to comply with the FCRA, the government has the authority to penalise them. **For example**, if non-governmental organisations do not complete yearly returns, the government might issue a show-cause notice and later suspend or terminate their foreign financing licences.

• In 2016, the government revised the FCRA, 2010 to exclude donations from foreign firms (with a 50% ownership) to non-profit organisations, political parties and candidates running for office, publications, government personnel, and so on from the definition of foreign source.

Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999

• Aims to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange

• The objective of the act is to facilitate external trade and payments and promote the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.

• In 2016, the Ministry of Finance's authority to regulate NGOs was transferred to the FEMA in order to unify all NGOs that accept foreign donations under one roof for better monitoring and control of the finances.

• This was done to ensure that the flow of foreign cash to these organisations is monitored by just one custodian.

NGOs and RTI act

- The Supreme Court ruled last year that NGOs that are "primarily sponsored, directly or indirectly," by government funding, fell under the purview of "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI) Act of 2005.
- The term "substantial" refers to a big percentage. It does not have to be a significant portion or more than 50%.
- This would imply that these NGOs must keep records in accordance with the Act, and that all Indian citizens have the right to obtain information from them.

Non-Governmental Organisations - Limitations

Case studies

Aid to migrant workers in Covid-19 crisis

- NGOs **bridge the gaps in the government's programmes and reach out to sections of people often left untouched by state projects**.
- Also, the NGOs are engaged in **diverse activities, relating to human and labour rights, gender issues, healthcare, environment, education, legal aid, and even research.**

Participative Governance

- Environmental Protection Act-1986, Right to Education Act-2009, Forest Rights Act-2006 and Right to Information Act-2005, these are some path breaking initiatives by the civil societies.

Acting as a pressure group

- There are political non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that mobilize public opinion against the government's policies and activities.
- NGOs are vital pressure groups in a democracy because they can educate the public and create pressure on government policies.

NGO in Handloom cluster

- The Digital Empowerment Foundation (DFE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering, In Madhyapradesh, the NGO has launched a project called Chanderiyaan, which is essentially a Chanderi weaver's ICT resource centre, with the backing of the IT ministry.
- Chanderi weavers use the brand name "Chanderi" to sell their wares across the country at a premium.

Non-Governmental Organisations - Limitations

- **Accreditation Issues:** It remains a big challenge as it is very difficult to distinguish whether an organisation wants to work for the cause or has been set up only for the specific purpose
- **Difficulties to get funds:** NGOs' willingness to speak out against the government is diluted by their dependence on government funds.
  - Getting donors is a hard task, and sometimes dealing with some specific donor's funding conditions can be a challenge for NGOs.
- **Lack of proper networking:** Lack of communication is caused by an inadequate network. Poor networks lead to loss of opportunity to work with the community and their participation.
- **Developmental issues:** In India, foreign-funded NGOs have been

often responsible for organising disturbances and undermining development initiatives.

- **Cultural hurdles:** NGOs are frequently viewed as invading people's centuries-old traditions and cultures, resulting in huge protests. **For example,** Ban of Jallikattu, after the Public Interest litigation by PETA

- **Lack of Volunteerism/Social work among Youth:** Because of the lack of appealing employment prospects and pay levels. Parents, too, discourage their children from participating in social activities.

Laws and Regulations

Case Studies

Suggestions to improve the working of the NGOs

Suggestions to improve the working of the NGOs

- **Capacity Building:** Capacity building and training can assist in the acquisition of critical new skills.
  - NGO workers can then be more easily trained and the appropriate skills can be developed within the organisation to meet difficulties.
  - Donors will have more faith in the initiative if they have access to qualified experts.

- **Information, Communication and Technology:** All NGOs should be using a minimum of Internet, email, a basic website and relevant social media platforms.it will help the timely updation.

- **Timely filing of annual income and expenditure:** This will help in improving the image of NGOs in the eyes of the government.

- NGOs also need to ensure that laws, rules and regulations should be followed.

- **Monitoring:** In terms of monitoring and regulating illicit and unaccountable funds, there should be more collaboration between the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance.
  - Keeping track of such foreign fundings will enhance transparency in their operations and serve as a deterrent to legislation.

- **Inculcate the Essence of social work:** It is important that participation of people in democracy, for the promotion of social justice, gender equity, inclusion etc. while working with NGOs.
  - NSS and NCC should encourage kids to volunteer from the time they are in elementary school.
  - Universities, colleges and schools have to collaborate with NGOs and conduct campus interviews for the young graduates who are interested in social work.

- **Increased Role in Rural Areas:** In India, 65% of the population belong to rural areas. NGOs must therefore expand their operations in rural regions in order to enlist the help of village residents in improving their lives.
  - Simultaneously, these NGOs must encourage young graduates from rural areas to participate in volunteer work.

- **National Accreditation Council:** To ensure compliance by NGOs, a National Accreditation Council composed of academics, activists, retired bureaucrats, and others should be established.
- **Improved government coordination:** The Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance must work together more closely to enable better surveillance and control of illegal and unexplained cash.
- **Transparency laws:** The government should create norms that require organisations to keep their accounts in specific ways.
  - In addition, when organisations fail to furnish balance sheets, the government should take steps to collect them.
  - The General Financial Rules, 2005 necessitate a regulatory framework for non-governmental organisations, and full legislation in conformity with these rules must be drafted as quickly as feasible.

Difference Between NGOs and SHGs

	Non-Governmental Organisations	Self-Help Group
Role	• On the state and national levels, NGOs address issues and give assistance to the general public.	• SHGs provide aid and support to a small/specific group of people who are experiencing an issue.
Structure	• NGOs in India are governed by the Companies Act, 2013, or the Indian Trust Act or the Societies Act. • They must be legally registered as a trust, society, or Section 8 company and must follow the provisions of the act under which they are registered.	• In India, SHGs are not governed by a single legislation or act. • They are created on the basis of Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution, which states that citizens have the right to organise any organisation or group with mutual consent.
Funding	• NGOs are funded by the general public, companies, and volunteers. Certain NGOs also receive funding from other nations. • The Overseas Exchange Management Act of 1999 governs an NGOs foreign funding.	• SHGs are only supported by the members who form them. Members of an SHG contribute a set amount to the fund of their committee.

Working	- NGOs work on a big scale to improve the lives of a wide population through their efforts at the city, state, national, and international levels. - NGOs work on a larger scale for the benefit of the public. - They carry out welfare services within states or across the country, such as giving monetary assistance, medical, educational, and occupational facilities to those in need.	- SHGs typically have 20 to 30 members. They generally labour in rural or impoverished regions to help their group members. - SHGs operate on a narrow spectrum, usually within their own association. - The SHG looks after its members' needs and helps each other by pooling funds.
Members	NGOs are made up of volunteers and members from various walks of life.	Members of SHGs are generally women or persons who live in the same town and have comparable socioeconomic needs and histories.

Conclusion

Many NGOs in India have **supported the government in serving its people in recent decades by campaigning for laws such as the Right to Information Act, food security, and rural employment.Still the Non-governmental organizations face multiple challenges**. The most important step to overcome these obstacles **is identifying what are various challenges that an organization is facing, and the areas where to improve.** Organizations can design a plan to improve and overcome the difficulties they face after identifying these important areas.

Introduction

- Indian Government, at all levels, announces Welfare Schemes for a cross-section of the society from time to time.

- These schemes could be either Central, State-specific, or a collaboration between the Centre and the States.
- India is considered to be a welfare state and the Supreme court termed 'welfare state' as an element of the Basic structure.
- Welfare schemes indicate politics of development.
- These schemes play a crucial role in solving many socio-economic problems that beset Indian society, and thus their awareness is a must for any concerned citizen.
- These schemes are more important for vulnerable sections because they experience a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population.

Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections
Children

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):**
  - Government of India's flagship program for the achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time-bound manner, as mandated by the 86th amendment to the Constitution.
  - SSA aims to provide relevant elementary education to all children in the age-group 6 to 14 by ensuring 100% enrolment, cent percent retention of children, quality education, and quality infrastructure facilities in the schools.
  - Various activities include reimbursement of school fees to children's admission under (RTE) Act, distributing free textbooks, teachers' salaries, special training for mainstreaming out-of-school children among others.
  - SSA is being implemented in partnership with State Governments to cover the entire country and address the needs of 192 million children in 1.1 million habitations.

  - The program seeks to open new schools in those habitations which do not have

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

- School Education Quality Index (SEQI) to institutionalize focus on improving education outcomes (learning, access, equity)

- **Shagun portal** – To monitor implementation of SSA

- **'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' (PBBB)** - Foundational learning in early grades with an emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension and Mathematics

- **Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA)** - Motivate and **engage children of age group** 6-18 years, in Science, Mathematics & Technology

- **Vidyanjali** - Enhance community and private sector **involvement in Government** run elementary schools

  schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure.
  - SSA has a special focus on girl's education and children with special needs.
  -

- **Mid-day meal scheme:**
  - To tackle the problem of hunger, malnutrition, and school drop out.
  - Under this scheme, nutritious food is served in all government schools for school children.

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:**
  - The government of India backed a saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children.

o The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for future education and marriage expenses for their female child.

o

Persons with Disabilities

- **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan:**
    o Accessible India Campaign or Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is a program that is launched by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to serve the differently-able community of the country.
    o The program comes with an index to measure the design of disabled-friendly buildings and human resource policies.

- **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme:**
    o To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice, and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
    o The approach of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance to voluntary organizations to make available the whole range of services necessary for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

- **Senior citizens:**
    o **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana:**
        ▪ This is a scheme offered by the Life insurance

SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a small scale scheme for girl's marriage and education. The motto is to provide girls their right position in the society and to make them financially literate and stable

Key features

| Up to 10 years of age | Bank/Post Office | Birth Certificate of daughter |
| Rs 1000- Rs 1,50,000 | 8.6% | Tax free interest |

1925 | Student meal scheme launched by Madras Municipal Corporation

Mid-1980s | Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry also start similar schemes

1990-91 | States with similar programmes increase to 12

1995 | Students in 2,408 blocks to get free foodgrains under national programme

1997-98 | All blocks included

2004 | Cooked midday meal launched for all primary schools
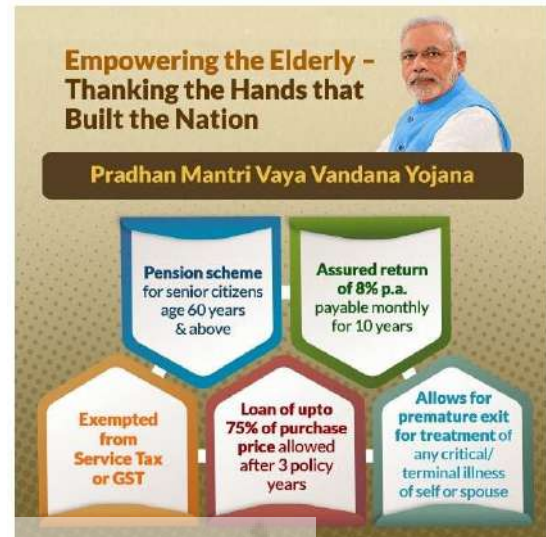
2007 | In 3,479 backward blocks, scheme extended up to Class VIII

2008-09 | Students up to Class VIII in all govt-run or aided schools and madrassas and maqtabs avail of midday meal

Corporation (LIC) of India that gives a guaranteed payout of pension at a specified rate for 10 years.

▪ It also offers a death benefit in the form of the return of purchase price to the nominee.

- o **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana:**
  - ▪ It is a scheme for providing physical aids and Assisted Living Devices for Senior Citizens belonging to the BPL category.
  - ▪ The Scheme is being implemented through the "Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)", a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of SJ&E, as the sole Implementing Agency.

Women

- • **Swadhar Greh Scheme:**
  - o Implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development
  - o For rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
  - o The scheme covers women who are deserted and without any social and economic support, women victims of domestic violence, family tension, and natural disaster.

- • **Universalization of Women Helpline Scheme:**
  - o Envisaged to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence, both in public and private spaces by linking them with appropriate authorities such as police, One Stop Centres, hospital, and legal services.

Empowering the Elderly – Thanking the Hands that Built the Nation

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

Pension scheme for senior citizens age 60 years & above

Assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly for 10 years

Exempted from Service Tax or GST

Loan of upto 75% of purchase price allowed after 3 policy years

Allows for premature exit for treatment of any critical/terminal illness of self or spouse

- • **One-Stop Centre Scheme:**
  - o One-Stop Centres for violence-affected women across the country as part of the Nirbhaya Framework, are established with the help of States/UTs for providing legal and psycho-social counseling along with other facilities including temporary shelter, police facilitation, and medical support to the women needing the same under one roof in an integrated manner.

One stop center scheme: Social Counselling, Medical Support, Legal Support, Emergency Response And Rescue Service, Assistance to Women lodge FIR, Shelter, Video Conference Facility

Transgenders

- The Centre had constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons to formulate policies, programs, and draft legislation for the community for achieving equality and full participation by them.

- A Scheme for Promotion of Transgender Equality & Justice(SWEEKRUTI):

  o The Government of Odisha formulated an umbrella scheme 'Sweekruti' to secure the rights of transgender persons and ensure equitable justice.

  o It recognizes that transgender persons are subject to discrimination and hardships in society.

  o The main objectives of the scheme are to create an enabling environment for transgender persons, ensure their participation and social integration, strengthen the implementation of various schemes and facilities, and promote measures for employment and socio-educational services for transgender persons.

Poor

- **MGNREGA:**

  o The major objective of MGNREGS is to enhance employment opportunities and increase wage rates to provide livelihood security for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized leading to a reduction of poverty in rural areas.

  o The data from 2015-16 tells us that about 22 percent of the households depended on MGNREGA as a source of
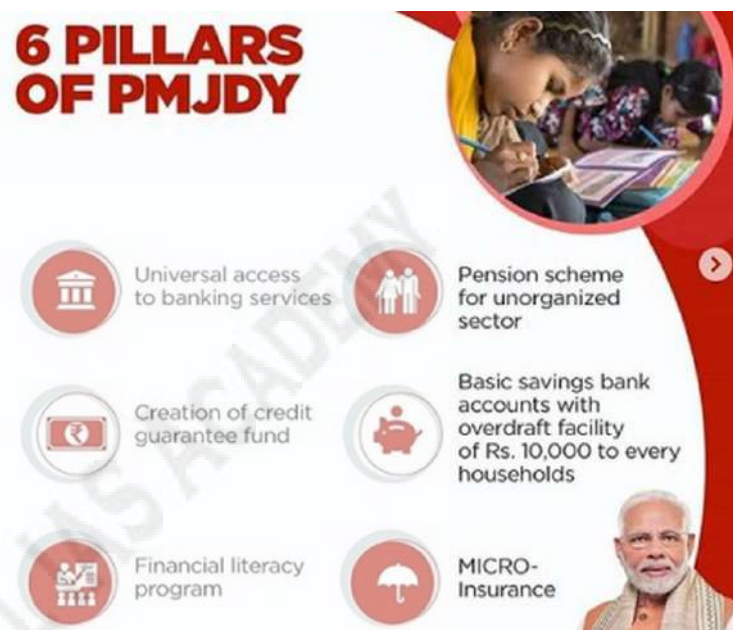
income.

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:**

  o The financial inclusion program of the Government of India open to Indian citizens, which aims to expand affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance, and pensions.

- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana:**

  o Flagship scheme of the Government of India to extend affordable credit to micro and small enterprises.
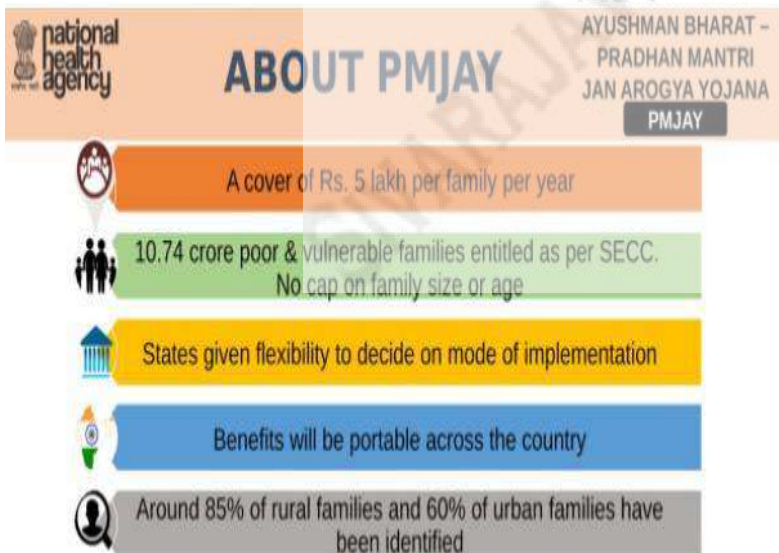
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:**
    - o To provide free access to healthcare for 40% of people in the country.
    - o PMJAY aims to provide healthcare to 10.74 crore poor families.
    - o Aims to help economically vulnerable Indians who require healthcare facilities.

Street vendors
- **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar**

Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):
- To empower street vendors by not only extending loans to them but also for their holistic development and economic upliftment.

-

Homeless
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana:**
    - o Aims to provide houses for the homeless.
    - o The government is offering this scheme to all UTs and states.
    - o It also offers an interest subsidy for home loans for first-time buyers in urban areas.

Others
- **National Social Assistance Programme:**
    - o It is a welfare program being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.
    - o This program is being implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas.
    - o Provides financial assistance to the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.
- Various state governments also announce their own pension scheme.
- **PM-KISAN Scheme:**
    - o PM Kisan is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.

o Under the scheme, income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal installments will be provided to small and marginal farmer families having combined landholding/ownership of up to 2 hectares.

o The fund will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Performance of the welfare schemes

Positives:

- Basic amenities and infrastructure of many government-run schools were improved through Rashtriya Madhyama, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, and Samagra Siskhana schemes of the Centre.

- 10cr children are fed through the mid-day meal scheme every day, which increased their nutritional outcomes and reduced drop-out rates.

- Cash assistance in the form of PM-KISAN will help low-income families to support their household income and attain self-sufficiency.

- Government economic security programs such as food assistance, housing subsidies, and working-family tax credits — which bolster income, help families afford basic needs and keep millions of children above the poverty line.

- There are also longer-term benefits: they help children to do better in school and increase their earning power in their adult years.

- Economic security programs can blunt the negative effects of poverty and bring poor children closer to equal opportunity.

- Health insurance schemes have been found to improve health outcomes at birth and extend longevity.

- Economic security programs help low-paid or out-of-work families afford the goods and services a child may need to thrive — whether it be nutritious food, a safe home, and neighbourhood, transportation.

- Schemes like Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana can help girls acquire financial security and financial independence.

- The government adequately tackled several diseases such as polio, malaria, and HIV when the target was well-publicized and clear.

Negatives:

- **Beneficiary identification:**
  o Use of SECC 2011 data which does not truly reflect the ground reality.
  o Sometimes, those in need are left out.
  o The lapses in Beneficiary identification, due to inclusion and exclusion errors.
  o Thus many poor are excluded and many rich attain benefits.

- **The inefficiency of executives:**
  o The reason for inefficiency can be attributed to improper monitoring, lack of accountability, corruption, and misalignment of incentives.
  o Many scams and irregularities have come up in the implementation of schemes.
  o Lack of policy implementation, diversion of funds, and the failure of monitoring mechanisms.

- o Not involving stakeholders in the policy monitoring process.
- o Lack of awareness about schemes and their benefits.
- **Infrastructural issues:**
  - o Lack of adequate facilities across sectors like health, education, transport, etc further deteriorates the chances of success of welfare schemes.
- **Political bias in schemes:**
  - o Certain schemes are announced considering the political gains and not overall national interest.
  - o For example, farm loan waivers across states were criticized by bankers as such practices are not good for the country's credit culture.
  - o Most welfare Schemes have been mainly centered on individual beneficiaries rather than on integrated development.
- **Shortage of funds with state governments:**
  - o 2/3rd of all government expenditure happens at the state or local government level,
  - o But they have only 1/3rd of revenue-raising autonomy.
- **Underutilization of funds:**
  - o Due to the lack of proper plans and implementation mechanisms the funds allocated often remain underutilized.
  - o For example, Tamil Nadu State Finance Audit Report 2019 revealed that the School Education Department has

surrendered a total of Rs 1,627 crore in 2018-19 due to non-implementation of various schemes under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- o The report on breaking up the funds returned revealed that the State government did not utilize and returned Rs 894 crore meant for developing infrastructure of the schools under the SSA scheme.
- **Current economic policies of the government:**
  - o Largely influenced by globalization and capitalism, are not in conformity with its welfare obligations.
  - o The skewed policies relating to the expansion of capitalism, the forceful acquisition of lands from poor peasants, and neglect for the development of agriculture and rural development reflect the above statement.
  - o The small scale industries have been devastated by the impact of neo-liberal policies.
  - o The agriculture sector is neglected from the focus of economic development
- **Inequalities:**
  - o On the one hand, the economy is growly very fast but its benefit is confined to 10-15% population.
  - o The rich-poor divide is increasing continuously
  - o The regional disparities have been increased substantially.

Way forward

- Need to change the economic policies with a focussed plan both in terms of expenditure and implementation.
- The policies are made in ministries but implemented at the state, district, and village levels. Hence, there is a need to strengthen grassroots governance.
- Also, proper feedback should be channelized to the policymakers to modify the systemic flaws.
- The need of the hour is to simplify procedures, incentivize performance, reduce red-tape, and make the best use of technology to achieve the desired goals.
- A similar type of central and state schemes can be merged, to ensure better convergence and avoid leakage.
- All the major welfare programs need to be gender sensitive.
- The government must ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out and those who don't require must be removed, by using technology like AI, big data, etc.
- Human development can be achieved only when the fruits of welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries.
- India could see growth in many aspects only when the eligible beneficiaries were able to reap the benefits of the welfare scheme introduced by the Union and State governments.

HEALTH

HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS IN INDIA:

Healthcare Problems for the Rural Population

Limited Access to Healthcare Facilities: A significant portion of India's population lives in rural areas, but healthcare infrastructure is concentrated in urban regions. Villages often lack access to primary healthcare centers (PHCs), hospitals, and specialized services, leading to long travel distances for basic care.

Shortage of Healthcare Professionals: Rural areas face a severe shortage of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff. Many healthcare workers are reluctant to work in rural regions due to inadequate facilities and incentives.

Poor Infrastructure: Rural healthcare centers often suffer from poor infrastructure, lack of medical equipment, and inadequate supply of medicines. Many PHCs lack proper sanitation, electricity, and clean water.

Awareness and Health Literacy: Many rural residents have low health literacy, leading to delays in seeking care and reliance on traditional or unqualified healthcare providers. Preventive healthcare measures, like vaccinations and screenings, are often underutilized.

Maternal and Child Health Issues: Rural women face higher rates of maternal mortality due to lack of access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care. Similarly, child malnutrition and high infant mortality rates remain a concern in many rural areas.

2. Healthcare Problems for the Urban Poor

Overcrowded Public Hospitals: Urban slum dwellers and low-income families depend on government hospitals for healthcare. However, public hospitals in cities are often overcrowded, understaffed, and under-resourced, resulting in long waiting times and substandard care.

Inadequate Health Coverage: The urban poor often lack access to health insurance or cannot afford private healthcare services. The high cost of private medical care pushes many into debt or forces them to forego treatment altogether.

Infectious Diseases: Overcrowded living conditions in slums lead to the spread of infectious diseases like tuberculosis, dengue, malaria, and cholera. Poor sanitation and lack of access to clean water contribute to the high incidence of these diseases.

Mental Health Issues: Urban poverty is linked to high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. However, mental healthcare services remain inaccessible and stigmatized, especially for the poor.

3. Healthcare Problems for Women

Maternal Health Challenges: India continues to have a relatively high maternal mortality rate (MMR), especially in rural and marginalized communities. Inadequate access to prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendants, and emergency obstetric services lead to complications in childbirth.

Gender Bias in Healthcare: Women often face gender-based discrimination in accessing healthcare. Societal norms prioritize the healthcare needs of men, leading to women receiving delayed or less medical attention.

Reproductive Health Issues: Access to reproductive healthcare, including family planning, contraceptive services, and menstrual health products, is limited for many women, particularly in rural areas. Unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and reproductive tract infections are significant issues.

Anemia and Malnutrition: Many women, especially in lower-income groups, suffer from nutritional deficiencies like anemia, which affects maternal and child health. Malnutrition during pregnancy can lead to low birth weight and developmental issues in children.

Domestic Violence and Mental Health: Women affected by domestic violence often face physical injuries and mental health challenges like depression and anxiety. However, healthcare support systems for survivors of domestic violence remain weak.

4. Healthcare Problems for Children

High Infant and Child Mortality Rates: Despite improvements, India still grapples with high infant and under-5 mortality rates, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Neonatal deaths due to infections, birth complications, and malnutrition are common.

Malnutrition: Child malnutrition remains a critical issue, particularly in states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Malnourished children are at higher risk of infections, developmental delays, and mortality.

Vaccination Gaps: While India has made progress with its immunization programs, there are still gaps in vaccination coverage, especially in rural areas and urban slums. Lack of awareness, infrastructure, and healthcare access contributes to low immunization rates.

Access to Quality Education and Healthcare Services: Children in low-income families, particularly in rural or marginalized communities, often lack access to healthcare services like regular check-ups, screenings, and treatment for illnesses.

5. Healthcare Problems for the Elderly

Lack of Geriatric Care: India's aging population faces unique challenges, including a lack of specialized geriatric care. Many elderly individuals suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and arthritis, but healthcare services tailored to their needs are limited.

High Cost of Chronic Disease Management: Managing chronic illnesses can be expensive, and many elderly individuals lack health insurance or sufficient savings. The financial burden of healthcare is a significant issue for this demographic.

Social Isolation and Mental Health: Loneliness and social isolation contribute to mental health issues like depression and anxiety among the elderly. Mental health services for senior citizens remain scarce and stigmatized.

Inadequate Pensions and Social Security: Many elderly individuals, particularly in lower-income groups, depend on pensions or family support for their healthcare needs. The lack of comprehensive social security exacerbates their vulnerability.

6. Healthcare Problems for Tribal Communities

Geographical Barriers: Tribal communities often live in remote, forested, or hilly regions with limited access to healthcare services. Many have to travel long distances to reach healthcare facilities, which deters them from seeking timely care.

Poor Health Indicators: Tribals have higher rates of malnutrition, anemia, infant mortality, and maternal mortality compared to other groups. Limited access to healthcare, traditional beliefs, and a lack of awareness about modern medicine contribute to these poor health outcomes.

Cultural Barriers: Many tribal communities rely on traditional healers and are reluctant to seek modern medical care. Language barriers and a lack of culturally sensitive healthcare services further alienate these communities from the healthcare system.

7. Healthcare Problems for the LGBTQ+ Community

Discrimination and Stigmatization: LGBTQ+ individuals in India face discrimination within healthcare settings, making it difficult for them to access medical services. Many are reluctant to seek care due to fear of mistreatment or lack of confidentiality.

Mental Health Challenges: The LGBTQ+ community is at higher risk of mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and suicide due to societal stigma, family rejection, and discrimination. However, mental healthcare services that cater specifically to their needs are limited.

Lack of Comprehensive Healthcare: Transgender individuals face unique healthcare challenges, including lack of access to hormone therapy, gender-affirming surgeries, and mental health support. Comprehensive healthcare services for gender non-conforming individuals are still underdeveloped in India.

HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS IN INDIA:

Programs for the General Population

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) (2018):

Target Group: Low-income families across India.

Objective: PM-JAY is one of the world's largest government-sponsored healthcare schemes. It provides a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 100 million families.

Benefits: It covers hospital expenses for surgeries, treatments, and critical care in both public and private hospitals. Beneficiaries can avail of cashless treatment under the scheme.

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs):

Target Group: General population, with a focus on rural areas.

Objective: To provide comprehensive primary healthcare services at the grassroots level. The centers offer free preventive, promotive, and curative care, including screenings for non-communicable diseases, maternal health, child healthcare, and basic diagnostics.

Benefits: Access to a wide range of health services, including maternal and child health, vaccinations, and treatment for common diseases.

2. Programs for the Rural Population

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005):

Target Group: Rural population, particularly underserved and remote areas.

Objective: NRHM aims to improve healthcare delivery in rural areas by strengthening healthcare infrastructure, providing trained healthcare personnel, and ensuring better outreach through ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers.

Benefits: Enhanced primary healthcare services, maternal and child health programs, communicable disease control, and access to essential medicines and diagnostics.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY):

Target Group: BPL (Below Poverty Line) families in rural areas.

Objective: To provide health insurance coverage to poor families for hospitalization and medical care.

Benefits: Cashless hospitalization coverage up to ₹30,000 per family per annum for most of the diseases that require hospitalization.

3. Programs for the Urban Poor

National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) (2013):

Target Group: Urban poor, particularly slum dwellers.

Objective: NUHM focuses on improving healthcare services in urban areas, especially for slum dwellers and migrant populations. It works alongside NRHM to create an integrated healthcare system for both urban and rural poor.

Benefits: Strengthening of urban healthcare infrastructure, better access to primary

healthcare, preventive services, and public health programs targeted at communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM):

Target Group: Urban poor, including homeless people and slum dwellers.

Objective: Provides healthcare services to urban poor through health camps, community-level interventions, and access to financial assistance for healthcare.

Benefits: Healthcare services for marginalized communities in urban areas, along with employment and livelihood support.

4. Programs for Women

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) (2005):

Target Group: Pregnant women, particularly from low-income families and rural areas.

Objective: To reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional deliveries through cash incentives.

Benefits: Financial assistance to pregnant women to access institutional deliveries, transportation, and antenatal care.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) (2016):

Target Group: Pregnant women, particularly in high-risk areas.

Objective: To provide assured, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care on the 9th of every month to pregnant women across India.

Benefits: Free antenatal check-ups, including diagnostics, nutritional counseling, and screenings for high-risk pregnancies.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) (2015):

Target Group: Girls and young women, especially in districts with low child sex ratios.

Objective: To address the declining child sex ratio, promote the education and empowerment of the girl child, and ensure health services for women.

Benefits: Improved access to healthcare services for young girls and women, along with educational and nutritional support.

5. Programs for Children

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) (2013):

Target Group: Children up to 18 years of age.

Objective: To improve child health by screening children for diseases, deficiencies, disabilities, and developmental delays. The program focuses on early detection and intervention.

Benefits: Free treatment and interventions for health conditions identified through screenings at schools, anganwadis, and health camps.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975):

Target Group: Children under 6 years of age, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

Objective: To provide comprehensive services in health, nutrition, and education for early childhood development.

Benefits: Supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-ups, and preschool education provided through anganwadi centers.

National Immunization Program:

Target Group: Infants and young children.

Objective: To provide free vaccines to protect children from preventable diseases such as polio, measles, diphtheria, and tuberculosis.

Benefits: Free vaccinations under the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) and Mission Indradhanush to cover all children, particularly in underserved areas.

6. Programs for the Elderly

National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) (2010):

Target Group: Elderly population aged 60 and above.

Objective: To provide comprehensive healthcare services to the elderly, focusing on preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services.

Benefits: Free geriatric care services at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels,

including home care, counseling, and management of chronic diseases.

Varishta Mediclaim Policy (2017):

Target Group: Senior citizens aged 60 to 80 years.

Objective: To provide health insurance coverage for senior citizens to manage medical costs associated with old age.

Benefits: Covers hospitalization, critical illnesses, and major surgeries.

7. Programs for Tribal Communities

Tribal Health Plan under NRHM:

Target Group: Tribal populations living in remote and inaccessible regions.

Objective: To reduce health disparities among tribal communities by improving healthcare infrastructure, training tribal health workers, and ensuring access to health services.

Benefits: Special focus on maternal and child health, communicable disease control, and mobile health units in tribal areas.

Aspirational Districts Program (2018):

Target Group: Tribal communities and underdeveloped regions.

Objective: To focus on the development of backward districts, including healthcare, education, and nutrition.

Benefits: Improved healthcare services in tribal districts through health camps, mobile healthcare units, and enhanced healthcare infrastructure.

8. Programs for the LGBTQ+ Community

HIV/AIDS Control Programs:

Target Group: LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly those at high risk of HIV transmission.

Objective: To prevent the spread of HIV and provide treatment for those living with the virus, particularly in vulnerable groups like men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender individuals.

Benefits: Free access to HIV testing, counseling, and antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act (2019):

Target Group: Transgender individuals.

Objective: To protect the rights of transgender individuals and ensure access to healthcare services, including gender-affirming surgeries and hormone therapy.

Benefits: Provision of comprehensive healthcare services for transgender persons, with dedicated health facilities in some states.

9. Programs for Migrant Workers

Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI):

Target Group: Workers in the formal sector, including migrant workers.

Objective: To provide medical care and cash benefits to employees and their dependents in case of sickness, maternity, or occupational injury.

Benefits: Free healthcare services in ESI hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics across the country.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PMSYM) (2019):

Target Group: Informal sector workers, including migrant laborers.

Objective: To provide social security and healthcare benefits to unorganized sector workers, including pension and health insurance.

Benefits: Access to health services through government hospitals and ESI facilities.

SOME OF OUR TNPSC TOPPERS

Mrs.Dhanalakshmi
Deputy Collector

Mrs.Divya Priyadharshini
Deputy Collector

Mrs.Gayathri
Deputy Collector

Ms.Fathima
Deputy Collector

Mr.Aarilus Rebony
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Mrs.Seethalakshmi
District Registrar

Mr.Sasikumar
Asst.Commissioner Commercial Tax

Ms.Janani Priya
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Mr.Ravi Abiram
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Mrs.Banu Priya
District Officer Fire & Rescue Service

Mrs.Punitha
District Registrar

Mr.Vignesh
Commercial Tax Officer

Ms.Rajalakshmi Devi
Asst.Commissioner of Labour

Mr.Thirumalai Rajchander
Asst.Commissioner Commercial Tax

Ms.Arun Mozhi
Asst.Commissioner Commercial Tax

Ms.Benazir Fathima
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Mr.Ganesh
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Ms.Nappinai
Asst.Commissioner Commercial Tax

Ms.Archana
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Ms.Ananthi
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Mr.Mithran
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Ms.Sita Krishnamoorthy
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Ms.LakshmiPriya
District Registrar

Mr.Suresh
Deputy Superintendent of Police

Mr.Iyyappan
Senior Revenue Inspector

Ms.Kavi Shree
Local Fund Audit

Ms.Premalatha
Senior Revenue Inspector

Mr.ArunRaj
Senior Revenue Inspector

Ms.M.Saranya
Senior Co-Operative Inspector

Mr.Praveen
Asst.Inspector Local Fund Audit

Ms.Anjali
Asst.Inspector Local Fund Audit

Mr.Vijay
Local Fund Audit

Ms.Prasannavadhani
Hindu Religious

Ms.Rajeswari
Senior Co-Operative Inspector

Ms.Nizanthi
Asst.Inspector Co-Operative

Mr.Vignesh
Asst.Inspector Local Fund Audit

Mr.Sathiya
Asst.Inspector Local Fund Audit

Mr.Nandagopal
Revenue Assistant

1400+ SELECTIONS

OUR RECENT GROUP -1 TOPPERS 2022

Ms.Sathyanandhi.G
Rank -2
Deputy Collector

Ms.Subhalakshmi.S
Rank -4
Deputy Collector

Ms.Krithika.K
Rank -18
Assistant Commissioner Commercial Tax

Ms.K.Ramali Ramalakshmi
Rank -22
Deputy Superintendent of police

Mr.Vignesh.C
Rank -25
Assistant Director of Rural Development

OUR RECENT GROUP -1 TOPPERS 2024

RANK 01
MARUTHIP PRIYA.R

RANK 20
DEEPIKA. A

RANK 30
BHAVADHARANI.R

RANK 34
PECHIYAAMMAL. M

RANK 43
NALINI. S

SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

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