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# SOCIETY

## PART 2

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# 2021

# MIGRATION

*"I'm big believer that as much as possible, and there's obviously political limitations, freedom of migration is a good thing" - Bill Gates*

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## 1. What is the Need to Study Migration? What is its Significance?

Migration is the third component of population change, the other two being mortality and fertility. However, migration is different from the other two processes, namely, mortality and fertility in the sense that it is not a biological factor like the other two, which operate in a biological framework, though influenced by social, cultural and economic factors. Migration is influenced by the wishes of persons involved. Usually each migratory movement is deliberately made, though in exceptional cases this may not hold true. Thus migration is a response of human organisms to economic, social and demographic forces in the environment.

The study of migration occupies an important place in population studies, because, along with fertility and mortality, it determines the size and rate of population growth as well as its structure and characteristics. Migration also plays an important role in the distribution of the population of any country, and determines the growth of labour force in any area. India has witnessed the waves of migrants coming to the country from Central and West Asia and also from Southeast Asia. In fact, the history of India is a history of waves of migrants coming and settling one after another in different parts of the country. Similarly, large numbers of people from India too have been migrating to places in search of better opportunities especially to the countries of the Middle-East, Western Europe, America, Australia and East and South East Asia. Migration is thus an important symptom of social change in society.

## 2. What is Migration?

In a layman's language, the word 'migration' refers to the movements of the people from one place to another. According to Demographic Dictionary, "migration is a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or place of departure to the place of destination or place of arrival, for a considerable period of time."

Migration, in the social sense refers to the physical transition of an individual or a group from one society to another. This transition usually involves abandoning one social-setting and entering another and different one.

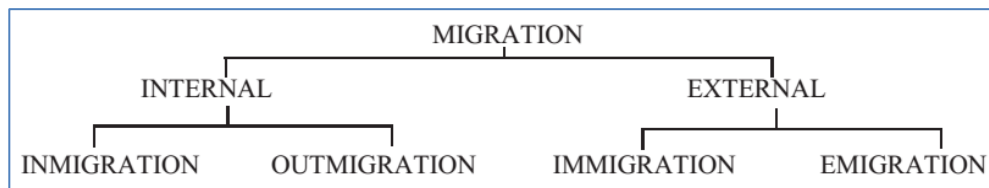
## 3. What are the Different Forms of Migration?

People may move within a country between different states or between different districts of the same state or they may move between different countries. Therefore, different terms are used for internal and external migration. **Internal migration** refers to migration from one place to another within a country, while **external migration** or international migration refers to migration from one country to another.

- a) **Immigration and Emigration:** 'Immigration' refers to migration into a country from another country and 'emigration' refers to migration out of the country. These terms are used only in connection with international migration. For example migrants leaving India to settle down in the United States or Canada are immigrants to the United States or Canada and emigrants from India.
- b) **In Migration and Outmigration:** These are used only in connection with internal migration. 'In migration' refers to migration into a particular area while 'out migration' refers to movements out of a particular area. Thus, migrants who come from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh to Punjab are considered to be immigrants for Punjab and out migrants for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The term 'in migration' is used with reference to the area of destination of the migrants and the term 'outmigration' is used with reference to the area of origin or place of departure of the migrant.

The main forms of migration can be summarized in a chart.



Typology based on time classified migration into **long range migration** and **short range or seasonal migration**. When a move is made for a longer period, it is called long range migration. However, when there is permanent shift of population from one region to another, it is known as permanent migration. But when people shift to the sites of temporary work and residence for some or several months, it is known as **periodic or seasonal migration**. For example, during peak agricultural season excess labour is required, and people from the neighbouring areas come in. The custom of women returning to her parents to deliver her first child also accounts for significant short range internal migration.

Apart from these two important types, migration could be **voluntary or involuntary** or **forced brain drain (migration of young skilled persons)** and **migration of refugees and displaced persons**.

#### 4. How is the Phenomenon of Migration Recorded?

There are three important sources of information on migration in a country. These are **national census, population registers and sample surveys**. In India, the most important sources of data on internal migration are national census and sample surveys.

You are familiar with Census in India. It contains information about migration in the country. Actually migration was recorded beginning from the first Census of India conducted in 1881. This data were recorded on the basis of place of birth. However, the first major modification was introduced in 1961 Census by bringing in two additional components viz; place of birth i.e. village or town and duration of residence (if born elsewhere). Further in 1971, additional information on place of last residence and duration of stay at the place of enumeration were incorporated. Information on reasons for migration were incorporated in 1981 Census and modified in consecutive Censuses.

In the Census the following questions are asked on migration:

- Is the person born in this village or town? If no, then further information is taken on rural/urban status of the place of birth, name of district and state and if outside India then name of the country of birth.
- Has the person come to this village or town from elsewhere? If yes, then further questions are asked about the status (rural/urban) of previous place of residence, name of district and state and if outside India then name of the country.

In addition, reasons for migration from the place of last residence and duration of residence in place of enumeration are also asked.

In the Census of India migration is enumerated on two bases:

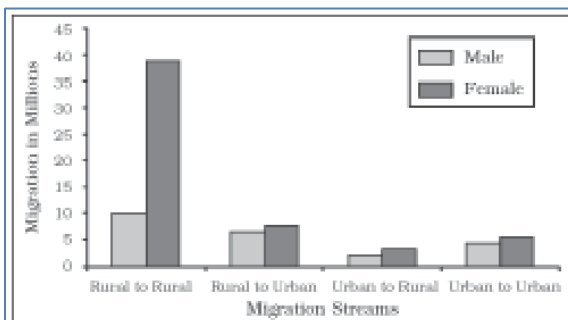
1. **Place of birth**, if the place of birth is different from the place of enumeration (known as life-time migrant);
2. **Place of residence**, if the place of last residence is different from the place of enumeration (known as migrant by place of last residence).

## 5. Observing Migration Trends in Census

A few facts pertaining to the internal migration (within the country) and international migration (out of the country and into the country from other countries) are presented in this section. Under the internal migration, four streams are identified:

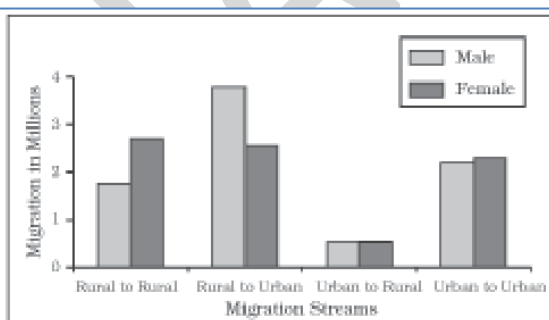
- Rural to rural (R-R);
- Rural to urban (R-U);
- Urban to urban (U-U); and
- Urban to rural (U-R).

In India, during 2001, out of 315 million migrants, enumerated on the basis of the last residence, 98 million had changed their place of residence in the last ten years. Out of these, 81 million were intra-state migrants. The stream was dominated by female migrants. Most of these were migrants related to marriage. The distribution of male and female migrants in different streams of intra-state and inter-state migration is presented in Fig. 1a and 1b below. It is clearly evident that females predominate the streams of short distance rural to rural migration in both types of migration. Contrary to this, men dominate the rural to urban stream of inter-state migration due to economic reasons.



**Fig. 1 a : Intra State Migration by Place of Last Residence Indicating Migration Streams (Duration 0-9 years), India, 2001**

Source: Census of India, 2001



**Fig. 1 b : Inter State Migration by Place of Last Residence Indicating Migration Streams (Duration 0-9 years), India, 2001**

Apart from these streams of internal migration, India also experiences immigration from and emigration to the neighbouring countries. The table (in right) presents the details of migrants from neighbouring countries. Indian Census 2001 has recorded that more than 5 million person have migrated to India from other countries. Out of these, 96 per cent came from the neighbouring countries: Bangladesh (3.0 million) followed by Pakistan (0.9 million) and Nepal (0.5 million). Included in this are 0.16 million refugees from Tibet, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Myanmar. As far as emigration from India is concerned it is estimated that there are around 20 million people of Indian Diaspora, spread across 110 countries.

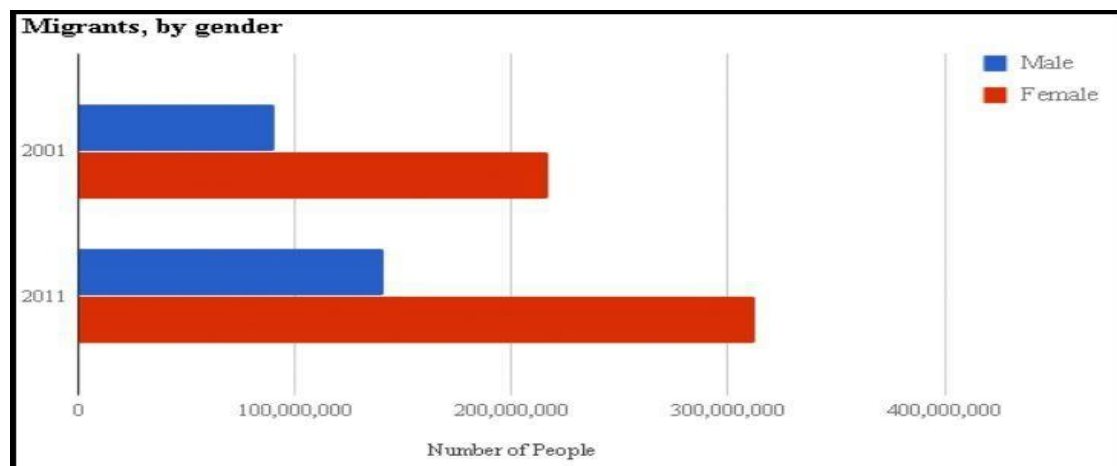
**Table : Immigrants by last residence from neighbouring countries by all duration in India, 2001**

Countries%	No of immigrants	% of total immigrants
<b>Total international migration</b>	<b>5,155,423</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Migration from neighbouring countries</b>	<b>4,918,266</b>	<b>95.5</b>
Afghanistan	9,194	0.2
Bangladesh	3,084,826	59.8
Bhutan	8,337	0.2
China	23,721	0.5
Myanmar	49,086	1.0
Nepal	596,696	11.6
Pakistan	997,106	19.3
Sri Lanka	149,300	2.9

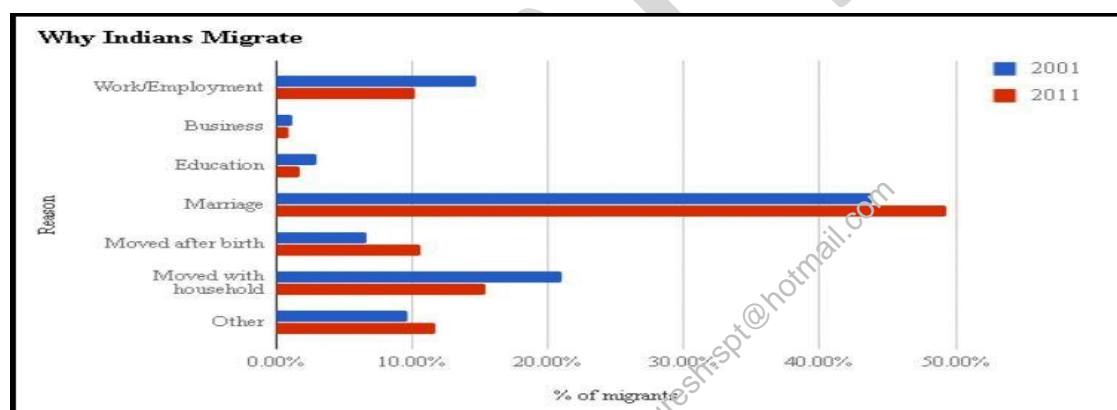
Source : Census of India, 2001

## 6. Comparison of Some Migration Trends Between 2001 and 2011 Census

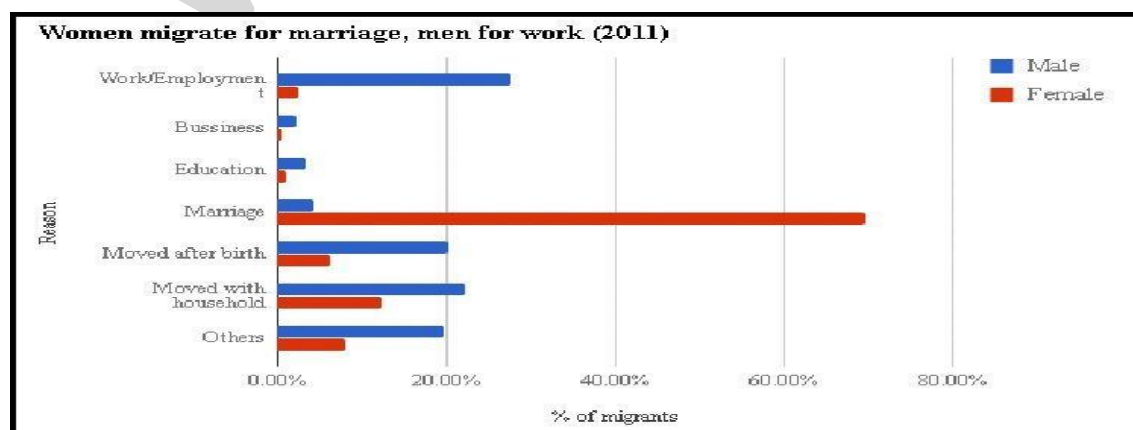
- 45.36 crore people i.e. 37 per cent of the population or every third citizen of India is a migrant — now settled in a place different from their previous residence.
- Between 2001 and 2011, the total number of migrants in India rose by 44.35 per cent from 31.45 crore in 2001. During the same period, India's population grew 17.64 per cent.



- Most of the migrants, around 70 per cent, are females.

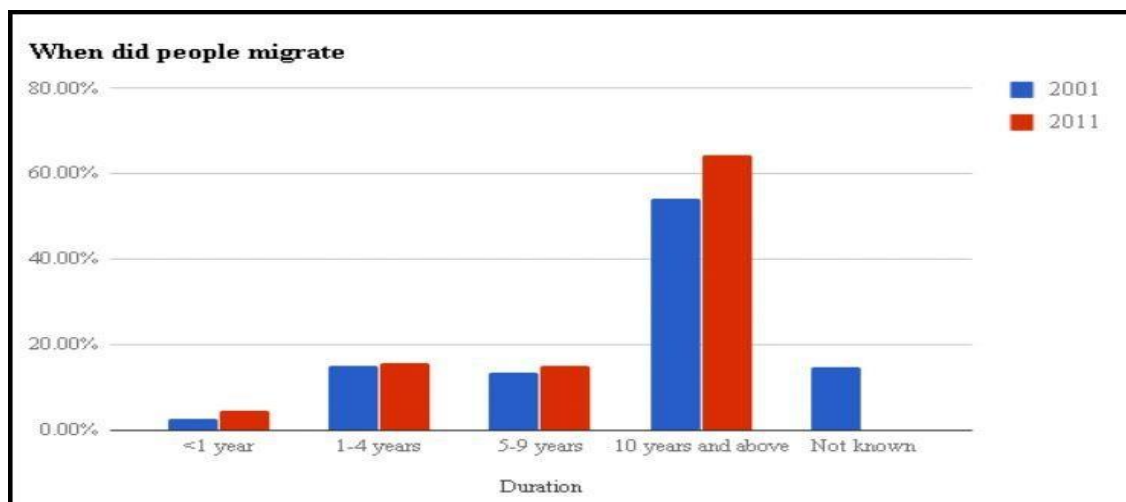


- Most people, 49 per cent, migrate for marriage (While globally, migration is attempt by people to survive and prosper, in India, marriage appears to be the biggest reason why people migrate) Lesser Indians are now relocating for work and employment — 10.2 per cent in 2011, down from 14.4 per cent in 2001.





- Between 2001-2011, marriage was the dominant reason for migration among women, as was the case in previous two decades. Around 21.7 crore of the 31.2 crore female migrants — 69.7 per cent — cited this reason. 65.9 per cent women in 1981-1991 and 64.9 per cent in 1991-2001 migrated due to the same reason. For men, 'work and employment' was the top reason, mentioned by three crore of the 14 crore male migrants.
- Further, data show that bulk of the migrants (64 per cent) moved more than 10 years ago, up from 54 per cent in 2001.



**Spatial Variation in Migration:** Some states like Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana attract migrants from other states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. As per census 2001, Maharashtra occupied first place in the list with 2.3 million net in-migrants, followed by Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh (-2.6 million) and Bihar (-1.7 million) were the states, which had the largest number of net out-migrants from the state. Among the urban agglomeration (UA), Greater Mumbai received the higher number of in migrants. Intra-states migration constituted the largest share in it. These differences are largely due to the size of the state in which these Urban Agglomeration are located.

#### As per Census 2011:

MIGRATION patterns in India are increasingly reflecting the economic divide in the country, with more migrants over the last decade heading to the southern states, which have grown at a faster clip during this period.

STATES WITH HIGH MIGRANT GROWTH RATE					WHY THEY MOVED			
STATE	2001	2011	GROWTH%	GROWTH OF STATE POPULATION	REASON	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Tamil Nadu	1.58 cr	3.13 cr	98%	15.6%	Work	3.90 cr	0.74 cr	4.64 cr
Manipur	0.037 cr	0.073 cr	97%	18.7%	Business	0.32 cr	0.11 cr	0.43 cr
Meghalaya	0.037 cr	0.077	108%	27.8%	Education	0.48 cr	0.32 cr	0.80 cr
Kerala	0.92 cr	1.63 cr	77%	4.9%	Marriage	0.60 cr	21.79 cr	22.39 cr
J&K	0.18 cr	0.28 cr	55%	23.7%	Moved with household	3.15 cr	3.83 cr	6.98 cr
Assam	0.67 cr	1.02 cr	52%	16.9%	Moved at birth	2.85 cr	1.94 cr	4.79 cr
Karnataka	1.66 cr	2.50 cr	51%	15.7%	Other	2.80 cr	2.53 cr	5.33 cr
Andhra Pradesh	2.34 cr	3.32 cr	42%	11.1%	Total	14.10 cr	31.26 cr	45.36 cr
India	31.45 cr	45.36 cr	44%	17.64%	Source: Census 2011			

- Tamil Nadu's migrant population surged 98 per cent from 1.58 crore in 2001 to 3.13 crore in 2011..
- Kerala's migrant population has grown by 77 per cent.

- Karnataka too has shown a 50 per cent increase in its migrant population
- Only Andhra Pradesh, with a 40 per cent rise in migrant population, has shown a growth below the national average (44%).

The only other states which have shown a higher growth of migrant population are Meghalaya and Manipur, where the number of migrants has grown by 108 per cent and 97 per cent respectively.

The socio-economic development of the southern states is considerably higher and that attracts people. Another factor is that because of better education levels and awareness, local residents of these areas get drawn towards better economic opportunities. This vacuum that gets created gets filled up by people from outside. These developed areas face a crisis of manpower, especially for low-skilled jobs, which leads to migration.

#### Internal Remittance economy of some states

- Inter-State labour migration flows surged during the high-growth period of the Indian economy from 2003 to 2013 created work opportunities for millions, especially in the less-developed northern and eastern hinterlands.
- The boom in internal labour migration, in turn, fuelled a domestic remittances market estimated annually at over Rs 1.5 lakh crore, serving a tenth of households in India and financing around 30 per cent of consumption of remittances-receiving families.

This economy has taken a huge hit with the slowdown over the last few years.

## 7. Can We Now Derive any Characteristics of the Migrants in India?

There are some important characteristics of the migrants and migration. An important characteristic is the **age selectivity** of the migrants. Generally, young people are more mobile. Most migration studies, especially in developing countries, have found that rural-urban migrants are predominantly young adults. It is obvious that migration for employment takes place mostly at the young adult ages. Also a major part of the female migration consequential to marriage occurs at the young adult ages. The female migration in India is largely sequential to marriage, because it is a Hindu custom to take brides from another village (village exogamy). Thus people have a tendency to move when they are between their teens and their mid-thirties (15-35 years) than at other ages.

Another important characteristic is that the migrants have a tendency to move to those places where they have contacts and where the previous migrants serve as links for the new migrants, and this chain is thus formed in the process, and is usually called **chain migration**. They usually have kinship chains and networks of relatives and friends who help them in different ways. In some cases, the migrants not only tend to have the same destination but also tend to have the same occupation. For example, in certain hotels in Jaipur almost all the workers belong to one particular sub-region of Kumaon. The agricultural labourers in Punjab and Haryana are mainly from Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The male migrants from rural to urban and urban to urban, employment were the most important reason. Education accounted only for about 3 to 8 per cent of migration according to these migration streams. Among women, as expected, marriage was the most important reason for migration, followed by associational migration. Employment and education accounted for a very small proportion of the females.



## 8. What Can be the Reasons That Make People Migrate?

People, generally are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence. It is important to know why some migrate while others do not. The important factors, therefore, which cause migration or which motivate people to move, may broadly be classified into four categories: economic factors, demographic factors, socio-cultural factors, and political factors.

### 8.1. Economic Factors & Demographic Factors

The major reason of voluntary migration is economic. Low agricultural income, agricultural unemployment and underemployment are the major factors pushing the migrants towards areas with greater job opportunities. Even the pressure of population resulting in a high man-land ratio has been widely recognised as one of the important causes of poverty and rural outmigration. This is true of both internal as well as international migration.

The most important economic factors that motivate migration may be termed as '**Push Factors**' and '**Pull Factors**'. In other words it is to see whether people migrate because of the compelling circumstances at the place of origin which pushed them out, or whether they are lured by the attractive conditions in the new place. Now we shall discuss these factors.

- **Push Factors:** The push factors are those that compel or force a person, due to various reasons, to leave that place and go to some other place. For example, adverse economic conditions caused by poverty, low productivity, unemployment, exhaustion of natural resources, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like healthcare, education, etc. and natural calamities may compel people to leave their native place in search of better economic opportunities. The main push factor causing the worker to leave agriculture is the lower levels of income, as income in agriculture is generally lower than the other sectors of the economy. Due to rapid increase in population, the per capita availability of cultivable land has declined, and the numbers of the unemployed and the underemployed in the rural areas have significantly increased with the result that the rural people are being pushed to the urban areas. The non-availability of alternative sources of income in the rural area is also another factor for migration. In addition to this, the existence of the joint family system and laws of inheritance, which do not permit the division of property, may also cause many young men to migrate to cities in search of jobs. Even sub division of holdings leads to migration, as the holdings become too small to support a family.
- **Pull Factors:** Pull factors refer to those factors which attract the migrants to an area, such as, opportunities for better employment, availability of regular work, higher wages, better working conditions and better amenities of life, etc. There is generally city-ward migration, when rapid expansion of industry, commerce and business takes place. In recent years, the high rate of movement of people from India to the USA, Canada and now to the Middle-East is due to the better employment opportunities, higher wages and better amenities of life, variety of occupations to choose from and the possibility of attaining higher standard of living. Sometimes the migrants are also attracted to cities in search of better cultural and entertainment activities or bright city lights. However, pull factors operate not only in the rural-urban migration, but also in other types of internal as well as international migration.

Sometimes a question is asked which factors are more important, push or pull?

Some argue that the push factor is stronger than the pull factor as they feel that it is the rural problems rather than the urban attractions that play a crucial role in the shift of the population. On the other hand, those who consider the pull factors as more important emphasize high rates of investment in urban areas leading to more employment and business opportunities and greater attraction for the city way of life.

This classification of motives for migration into push and pull factors is very useful in analyzing determinants of migration, but all migratory movements cannot be explained by these factors alone. Moreover, sometimes migration may occur not by push or pull factors alone but as a result of the combined effect of both.

- **Push Back Factors:** In India and in some other developing countries also, another important factor which plays crucial role in migration is 'push back factor'. The urban labour force is sizeable, and the urban unemployment rates are high, and there also exist pools of underemployed persons. All these factors act in combination as deterrents to the fresh flow of migration from the rural to urban areas. He calls this as a 'push back factor'. He further adds that if new employment opportunities are created in the urban areas, the first persons to offer themselves for employment are the marginally employed already residing in those areas, unless of course special skills are required.
- **Pull Back Factors:** This has been a recent phenomenon. With better opportunities for employment (MGNREGA and other schemes, agricultural revolutions) individuals are pulled back to their native places.

## 8.2. Socio-Cultural & Political Factors

Besides these push and pull factors, social and cultural factors also play an important role in migration. Sometimes family conflicts also cause migration. Improved communication facilities, such as, transportation, impact of the radio and the television, the cinema, the urban-oriented education and resultant change in attitudes and values also promote migration.

Sometimes even political factors encourage or discourage migration. For instance, in our country, the adoption of the jobs for 'sons of the soil policy' by the State governments will certainly affect the migration from other states. The rise of Shiv Sena in Bombay, with its hatred for the migrants and the occasional eruption of violence in the name of local parochial patriotism, is a significant phenomenon. Even in Calcutta, the Bengali-Marwari conflict will have far reaching implications. And now Assam and Tamil Nadu are other such examples. Thus the political attitudes and outlook of the people also influence migration to a great extent. There have also been migrations from Kashmir and Punjab because of the terrorist activities.

## 9. What are the Consequences of Migration?

Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety. This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas, people migrate from and migrate to. Consequences can be observed in economic, social, psychological, environmental, political and demographic terms.

### 9.1. Economic Consequences

#### Impact on Source and destination regions

There is a view that migration negatively affects the emigrating region and favours the immigrating region, and that migration would widen the development disparity between the regions, because of the drain of the resourceful persons from the relatively underdeveloped region to the more developed region. But the exodus of the more enterprising members of a community cannot be considered a loss, if there is lack of alternative opportunities in the emigrating areas. As long as migration draws upon the surplus labour, it would help the emigrating region. It will have adverse effects only if human resources are drained away at the cost of the development of the region.

Another important point is that when migration draws away the unemployed or underemployed, it would enable the remaining population of the region to improve their living conditions as this would enable the remaining population to increase the per capita consumption, since the total number of mouths to be fed into is reduced as a result of emigration.

A major benefit for the source region is the remittance sent by migrants. Remittances from the international migrants are one of the major sources of foreign exchange. Remittances in the 80s were mainly driven by the economic prosperity in the oil exporting countries. The policies of liberalization during the 90s led to a lot of Indian information technology professionals migrating to the US for better opportunities, thus leading to an increase in remittances. Since the 1990s, migration to other countries like Canada and Australia has also increased but the number is still less compared to the Gulf countries. In 2016, India received US\$ 62.7 billion as remittances from international migrants and remains the top most remittance receiving country, ahead of China which stands at US\$ 61 billion in 2016. Kerala Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab are the major states which receive international remittance.

The amount of remittances sent by the internal migrants is very meager as compared to international migrants, but it plays an important role in the growth of economy of the source area.

Remittances are mainly used for food, repayment of debts, treatment, marriages, children's education, agricultural inputs, construction of houses, etc. For thousands of the poor villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, etc. internal remittance works as life blood for their economy. Migration from rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to the rural areas of Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh accounted for the success of their green revolution strategy for agricultural development. Besides this, unregulated migration to the metropolitan cities of India has caused overcrowding. Development of slums in industrially developed states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi is a negative consequence of unregulated migration within the country.

#### Indian workforce in Middle east

- Over five million Indian nationals are working in Gulf countries and majority of them are blue-collared workers in labour oriented sectors including construction, industrial sector, transport, supply and service sectors.
- Saudi Arabia has the highest number of Indian migrants and is also India's number one crude oil supplier.
- Five Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries—the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman—contributed 50% of the total value of remittances (2015), despite their economies suffering from a decline in oil prices.
- The slump in crude oil prices is affecting the remittances and number of people traveling to Gulf.

#### Impact on migrants

Job mismatch, labour market discrimination, unemployment and poor household income, poverty, precarious work conditions, occupation, industry, and property ownership are areas of concern for the migrant population.

Employment discrimination can result in differences in access to particular occupations and can also lead to differences in pay between those employed in the same occupation.

## 9.2. Demographic Consequences

### Impact on Source and Destination Regions

Migration leads to the redistribution of the population within a country. Rural urban migration is one of the important factors contributing to the population growth of cities. Age and skill selective out migration from the rural area have adverse effect on the rural demographic structure. However, high out migration from Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Eastern Maharashtra have brought serious imbalances in age and sex composition in these states. Similar imbalances are also brought in the recipients states.

What do you think is the cause of imbalance in sex ratio in the place of origin and destination of the migrants?

Migration of the unmarried males of young working age results in imbalances in sex ratio. The absence of many young men from the villages increases the proportion of other groups, such as, women, children and old people. This tends to reduce the birth rate in the rural areas. Further the separation of the rural male migrants from their wives for long durations also tends to reduce the birth rate. Can you think of consequences in the recipient states?

### **Illegal Migration from Bangladesh**

Illegal immigrants enter into the country without valid travel documents in clandestine and surreptitious means. There is no accurate data with regard to number of Bangladeshi citizens illegally residing in the country. Some Bangladeshi migrants may be prone to Islamic fundamentalism and become easy prey for militancy, communal conflicts, and anti-India elements like Pak ISI etc. Besides, illegal Bangladeshi immigrants are found to be involved in cases relating to theft/burglary, smuggling, human trafficking and drugs trafficking etc.

During the last three years i.e. 2014, 2015 and 2016, more than 250 Pakistani nationals and 1750 Bangladeshi nationals were deported to their respective countries after due process of identification.

## 9.3. Social and Psychological Consequences

### Impact on Source and destination regions

Migrants act as agents of social change. The new ideas related to new technologies, family planning, girl's education, etc. get diffused from urban to rural areas through them. Migration leads to intermixing of people from diverse cultures. It has positive contribution such as evolution of composite culture and breaking through the narrow considerations and widens up the mental horizon of the people at large.

### Impact on migrants

Urban life usually brings about certain social changes in the migrants. Those migrants who return occasionally or remain in direct or indirect contact with the households of their origin are also likely to transmit some new ideas back to the areas of origin. There is technological change to the dynamism of the return migrants, who bring money as well as knowledge and experience of different production techniques, and this may lead to mechanization and commercialization of agricultural activity. A number of ex-servicemen, on retirement go back to their native areas and promote such practices in the villages. Contact with the urban and different cultures also brings attitudinal change in the migrants, and helps them to develop more modern orientation, including even the consumerist culture in their own areas.

But it also has serious negative consequences such as anonymity, which creates social vacuum and sense of dejection among individuals. Continued feeling of dejection may motivate people to fall in the trap of anti-social activities like crime and drug abuse.

Alongside, migration which results in the absence of the adult males for long periods of time may cause dislocation of the family, and, under such circumstances, women and children often have to take over more and different types of work and other more important roles in household decision-making. Very disturbing effects have been revealed because of the male migration from Kerala. Neurosis, hysteria and depression are said to be on the increase among the emigrant workers' wives in Kerala. The gulf boom has also taken a toll of mental health of the families.

Migration (even excluding the marriage migration) affects the status of women directly or indirectly. As seen above, in the rural areas, male selective out migration leaving their wives behind puts extra physical as well mental pressure on the women. Migration of 'women' either for education or employment enhances their autonomy and role in the economy but also increases their vulnerability.

## 9.4. Environmental Consequences

### Impact on Source and destination regions

Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas. This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums and shanty colonies.

Movement of people from 'low-carbon' to 'high-carbon' parts of the world will cause an absolute increase in GHG emissions if migrants from 'low-carbon' areas increase consumption of carbon-intensive products once they have migrated. For example aviation industry which is highly carbon-intensive is bound to grow with migration.

Apart from this, due to over-exploitation of natural resources, cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes.

### Impact on migrants

As the evidence of global environmental change has accumulated over the past decade, academicians and policy makers has given more attention to environmental influences on human migration. Factors such as climate variability and soil degradation may serve as push factors for migration among vulnerable populations, particularly in the rural developing world, where livelihoods are highly dependent on natural resources.

## 9.5. Political Consequences

### Impact on Source and destination regions

- Immigration may adversely affect political stability if conflict becomes endemic among heterogeneous groups of people living in close proximity due to the process of migration.
- A demographic shift in favor of immigrants may adversely affect incumbents control over resources and make them economically vulnerable. Societies may also react unfavorably to immigration if immigrants are perceived to be a social or an economic burden.
- Immigration may impinge upon the capacity of the state to provide the public with adequate housing, education and transportation services, engendering local resentment and backlash against immigrants. For example in the United States the dominant perception of immigrants as nonworking beneficiaries, or even abusers, of a generous welfare system' fuels anti-immigrant sentiments.
- Immigrant receiving countries may find preserving their languages, values, norms and customs challenging in the face of immigration. European security discourses, for example, regularly feature discussions about the threat to European culture coming from the influx of Muslim immigrants who are unwilling or incapable of integrating into the society. In

response to this threat, countries are increasingly adopting stringent residency requirements that stipulate immigrants to study the local language, culture and history to be eligible for residency permit.

- It also adversely affects the quantity and quality of labor available for production as the most skilled and educated workers in the economy flee to avoid persecution (in the wake of political upheaval) or leave in search of better economic opportunities. Consequently, the level of output would decline and the economy would not be on an optimal growth trajectory.

### Impact on migrants

Broadly, this dimension refers to the extent to which migrants and their descendants are included into the democratic process, civic organizations and associations of the host country.

Migrants who are forced to migrate due to civil war or State politics which discriminate against particular categories of its citizens find it difficult to return home due to well founded fear of being persecuted. These migrants are unlikely to receive any protection from their government.

Migrants, notably those in an irregular situation, tend to live and work in the shadows, afraid to complain, denied rights and freedoms, and disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and marginalization.

Human rights violations against migrants, including denial of access to fundamental rights such as the right to education or the right to health, are often closely linked to discriminatory laws and practice, and to deep-seated attitudes of prejudice and xenophobia against migrants.

Political impact may be evident from parameters like citizenship (citizenship rate, single/multiple citizenship, rate of naturalizations, speed of access, pathway), participation in social and civic groups, participation in social activities, volunteering, voting participation, access to services, ability to access support, discrimination, victimization, feelings of safety/trust and cultural diversity.

#### Inner Line Permit

Inner Line Permit is required for Indian citizens to enter Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. Inner Line Permit is issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.

#### Protected Area Permit

Under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 under the Foreigners Act, 1946 all areas falling between the 'Inner Line' (this line is defined by the Ministry of Home Affairs) and the International border of the State have been declared as Protected Area.

Every foreigner except a citizen of Bhutan, who desires to enter and stay in a Protected or Restricted Area, is required to obtain a special permit from a competent authority delegated with powers to issue such a special permit to a foreigner on application.

A foreigner is not normally allowed to visit a protected/restricted area unless the Government is satisfied that there are exceptional reasons to justify it.

However, to promote tourism, some notified tourist circuits can be visited by foreigners after obtaining necessary permit from the competent authority.

#### Restricted Area Permit

Under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 no foreigner can enter or stay in the 'Restricted Areas' without obtaining permit from the competent authorities.



## 9.6. Internal Migration v/s External Migration

Perhaps the single most significant aspect of **internal migration** is that it alters the spatial distribution of population. Moreover, internal migration shapes human settlement patterns. In 19th century for example, internal migration from rural areas was essential to the growth of industrial cities and towns in Britain, where mortality was high.

There is also a longstanding pattern of migration outwards from city cores to the urban peripheries and beyond, driven by new household formation and facilitated by the development of rail and road transport for commuting. This process of suburbanization continues in most countries, although in some cities, central re-urbanisation is occurring.

When advanced urbanisation has been achieved, a reversal occurs as migration cascades down the urban hierarchy leading in some countries to counter-urbanisation.

**International migration** on the other hand plays an important role in adding to populations in metropolises in the developed world but makes a minor contribution to population redistribution in less developed countries.

International migration may be compared to international trade as both are mechanisms for globalization. In most receiving countries, immigrants pay taxes and have the right to draw on at least some public services, changing the net tax burden on native residents. Once they become citizens, immigrants generally obtain the right to vote, altering domestic politics. In sending countries, emigrants cause corresponding fiscal and political disruptions by their departure.

Increased inflows of low-skilled labor may exacerbate distortions created by social-insurance programs, which would possibly increase the net tax burden on native residents and thereby fuel political opposition to immigration.

## 10. Trends in International Migration

Overall, between 1950 and 2015, the major areas of Europe, Northern America and Oceania have been net receivers of international migrants, while Africa, Asia and Latin and the Caribbean have been net senders, with the volume of net migration generally increasing over time.

When countries are grouped by income rather than geography, the attraction of high-income countries is even more evident: from 2000 to 2015, high-income countries received an average of 4.1 million net migrants annually from lower- and middle-income countries. As per UN World population Prospects 2015, Economic and demographic asymmetries across countries are likely to remain powerful generators of international migration within the medium-term future. Large-scale refugee movements have also had a profound influence on the level of net migration experienced by some countries, including those affected recently by the Syrian crisis.

In the future, net migration is projected to be a major contributor to population growth in many high-income countries. Between 2015 and 2050, total births in the group of high-income countries are projected to exceed deaths by 20 million, while the net gain in migrants is projected to be 91 million. Thus, net migration is projected to account for 82 per cent of population growth in the high-income countries.

The movement of people from Asia, Africa and Latin America to Europe, Northern America and Oceania has dominated the world migration patterns for almost half a century, but flows among developing countries have also been important. Several high-income and middle-income countries in the "global south" have also been attracting migrants in large numbers for several years.

Between 2015 and 2050, the top net receivers of international migrants (more than 100,000 annually) are projected to be the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, the Russian Federation and Italy. The countries projected to have net emigration of more than 100,000 annually include India, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and Mexico.

In countries or areas where fertility is already below the replacement level, the total population is expected to contract unless the excess of deaths over births is counterbalanced by a gain due to net migration. However, international migration at, or around, current levels will be unable to compensate fully for the expected loss of population due to low levels of fertility.

#### **WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: MIGRATION TRENDS 2016**

- The number of refugees worldwide will rise to yet new historic levels-Syrian crisis will be compounded by new displacement from Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Libya and Yemen
- The potential for migration to contribute to poverty reduction has been acknowledged in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Over the last 20 years the number of women among migrants has increased worldwide, as the global demand for labour has become focused on domestic work, services, hospitality, and sex. A growing proportion of these women will migrate independently and as breadwinners for their families. A growing proportion will also be trafficked, and suffer human rights abuses.
- The global war for talent will intensify. Continued retrenchment in Europe will place even greater emphasis on employing the best and brightest, but Europe will face growing competition from new skills magnets like Brazil and China. Expect ageing, conservative, and increasingly xenophobic Europe to lose out in this competition.

## **11. Problems of Refugees and Displaced Persons**

The United Nations defines "a refugee as every person, who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." (U.N. 1984)

Thus many international movements of population involving very large numbers have occurred due to compelling reasons of political, religious or racial character. Perhaps the largest movement of people in this century has occurred in the Indian sub-continent. The partition of the British India in 1947 into the Indian Union and Pakistan led to large exodus of the refugees into each nation from the other. Estimates indicate that not less than 7 million persons went to Pakistan from India and more than 8 million people came to India from Pakistan. Indo-Pakistan war in 1971 also caused a large number of people from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) to move into the north-eastern states of India as refugees, and this became a permanent problem for the region, as much as "Bihari" Muslims continue to be problematic for Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Some of the largest forced international migrations in history have occurred through times in Asia. For example, in the 12 years following 1975 more than 1.7 million refugees have left Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos. Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, in 1979, produced a flow of refugees which has led to some 2.7 million being temporarily settled in Pakistan and 1.5 million in Iran. Most of these refugees are still in the camps in the neighbouring countries. Due to political disturbances in Sri Lanka, large numbers of Tamilians have entered India, and are staying in Tamil Nadu.

It is found that on humanitarian grounds the refugees are often given shelter by the governments of various countries. However, the sudden influx of the refugees creates enormous pressure on the native society. It leads to short supply of essential commodities, ecological imbalances and health hazards in the countries of asylum. The large magnitude and the various economic, political and social dimensions of the exodus of the refugees create many problems, particularly for the countries of destination. Sometimes they cause political complications in the receiving countries. They organize themselves by forming groups, and pressurize the governments for some concessions. For example the United Kingdom, Canada and Sri Lanka are facing political and racial crises due to migration. Sometimes this causes clashes between the natives and migrants. Sri Lanka is a recent example of this.

But, in some instances, the refugees do make a positive contribution to the development of the host country, when settled in sparsely populated areas, by clearing and cultivating land.

#### **UNHCR- Global Trends :Forced displacement in 2016**

- **An unprecedented 65.6 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.**
- **More than half of refugees globally come from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan.**
- **Nearly two-thirds of Syrians have been forced to flee their homes.**
- **Developing regions host 84 percent of the world's refugees.**
- **Lebanon cares for the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, with one in six people a refugee, followed by Jordan (one in 11) and Turkey (one in 28).**
- **Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees (2.9 million) followed by Pakistan (1.4 mln) and Lebanon (1 mln).**
- **At least 10 million people are estimated to be stateless.**

#### **Rohingya Crisis**

**On October 9, 2016 border posts on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh were attacked by a group of Islamic militants. The attack, that was reported to have been carried out by Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, was soon followed by a counter terrorism insurgency carried out by the Tatmadaw (Burmese military).**

Myanmar has been under severe attack from the international community in recent times for what is being considered as 'genocide' against the Rohingya Muslims. Considered by the United Nations as the "most persecuted minority group in the world", the Rohingyas are a stateless group of people concentrated in western Myanmar, and facing brutal assaults from the Burmese state and military.

According to a UN report, at present around 5,500 Rohingya refugees have been registered in India. The Rohingyas trace back their ancestry to those who were brought into western Myanmar (referred to as Arakan previously and as Rakhine at present) by the British colonial government when they took over Burma in 1824.

In 1982, the Burmese government passed a Citizenship law under which Rohingyas were classified as 'associate' citizens. The rules laid out for 'associate' citizens deprived Rohingyas of holding any government office and several other citizenship rights. Further clauses of discrimination restricted their movements and even marriages and birth rates within the community were closely monitored and inhibited.

The assault on the Rohingyas has been fast gaining attention from Jihadists around the world, making the ground ripe for extremism.

An advisory commission chaired by Kofi Annan was tasked with finding solutions to the ethnic conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine state. The report recommends urgent and sustained action on a number of fronts to prevent violence, maintain peace, foster reconciliation and offer a sense of hope to the State's hard-pressed population.

## 12. Way Forward

### 12.1. Interstate Migration in India

The 'Working Group on Migration' set by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation in 2015 has recommended necessary legal and policy framework to protect the interests of the migrants in the country, stating that the migrant population makes substantial contribution to economic growth and their Constitutional rights need to be secured.

It has recommended a caste based enumeration of migrants so that they can avail the attendant benefits in the States to which migration takes place. It also recommended that migrants should be enabled to avail benefits of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the destination State by providing for inter-State operability of PDS.

Referring to Constitutional Right of Freedom of Movement and residence in any part of the territory of the country, the Group suggested that States should be encouraged to proactively eliminate the requirement of domicile status to prevent any discrimination in work and employment. States are also to be asked to include migrant children in the Annual Work Plans under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) to uphold their Right to Education.

The Working Group suggested that the vast network of post offices need to be made effective use of by reducing the cost of transfer of money to avoid informal remittances. It also suggested that migrants should be enabled to open bank accounts by asking banks to adhere to RBI guidelines regarding Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and not insist on documents that were not required.

It also suggested that the hugely underutilized Construction Workers Welfare Cess Fund should be used to promote rental housing, working Women Hostels etc., for the benefit of migrants.

Quoting data of Census 2011 and National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the Group stated that migrants constitute about 30% of the country's population and also of the total working force. The recent Economic Survey noted that annual migration in the country increased from 3.30 million in 2011 to 9.00 million in 2016.

### 12.2. International Migration

As per World Economic Forum, Demographic forces, globalization, and environmental degradation mean that migration pressures across borders will likely increase in the coming decades. And cross-border challenges demand cross-border solutions.

Global policy efforts, therefore, must focus on better cooperation and dialogue among the affected countries. This includes promoting fair burden-sharing, facilitating remittance flows, protecting labor rights, and promoting a safe and secure working environment for migrants.

A well-designed integration policy for international migrants includes:

- First, strengthening the ability of labor markets to absorb migrants—by enabling immediate ability to seek work and providing better job matching services.

- Second, enhancing access to education and training—by providing affordable education, language and job training.
- Third, improving skill recognition—by adopting simple, affordable and transparent procedures to recognize foreign qualifications.
- Finally, supporting migrant entrepreneurs—by reducing barriers to start-ups and providing support with legal advice, counseling and training.

A second issue related to international migration is that of Brain drain. Outflow of trained manpower is cause for concern, as it adversely affects the quality and quantity of local human capital formation. As a democratic country built on the cornerstone of individual rights, India cannot forbid its citizens to leave. It can, however, put in place systems that would make it possible for the country to benefit from the investment made in the young through subsidized education, particularly technical and medical.

One way to ensure this would be to adopt a system like Australia's deferred tuition plan. Under this system, all tertiary education is subsidized by the government, with students paying only a portion of the cost as fees. Graduates who go on to work in sectors deemed as priority by the government are not required to pay any additional amounts, but those who migrate or move to non-priority sector have to pay the subsidy amount over a set number of years. This ensures that higher education remains affordable and that government's education subsidy is not misused.

### 13. Vision IAS GS Mains Test Series Questions

1. *Discuss the various aspects of the issue of development displacement. Suggest means to address the same. 2013-2(f)-291*

**Approach:**

- Broad outline of development displacement issues
- Way forward

**Answer:**

Various aspects of the issue of development displacement –

1. **Landlessness:** Expropriation of land removes the main foundation upon which people's productive systems, commercial activities, and livelihoods are constructed.
2. **Joblessness:** The risk of losing wage employment is very high both in urban and rural displacements for those employed in enterprises, services or agriculture. Yet creating new jobs is difficult and requires substantial investment.
3. **Homelessness:** Loss of shelter tends to be only temporary for many people being resettled; but, for some, homelessness or a worsening in their housing standards remains a lingering condition. In a broader cultural sense, loss of a family's individual home and the loss of a group's cultural space tend to result in alienation and status deprivation.
4. **Marginalisation:** Many individuals cannot use their earlier-acquired skills at the new location; human capital is lost or rendered inactive or obsolete. Economic marginalisation is often accompanied by social and psychological marginalisation.
5. **Food Insecurity:** Forced uprooting increases the risk that people will fall into temporary or chronic undernourishment.
6. **Increased Morbidity and Mortality:** Displacement-induced social stress and psychological trauma, the use of unsafe water supply and improvised sewage systems, increase vulnerability to epidemics and chronic diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery etc.

7. **Loss of Access to Common Property:** For poor people, loss of access to the common property assets that belonged to relocated communities (pastures, forest lands, water bodies, burial grounds, quarries and so on) result in significant deterioration in income and livelihood levels.
8. **Social Disintegration:** Displacement causes a profound unraveling of existing patterns of social organisation.

**Few means to address the same:**

1. States should ensure that eviction impact assessments are carried out prior to the initiation of any project which could result in development-based displacement
2. Exploration of all possible alternatives to any act involving forced eviction.
3. Sufficient information shall be provided to affected persons, groups and communities relating to the resettlement.
4. The State must provide or ensure fair and just compensation for any losses of personal, real or other property or goods
5. Resettlement must occur in a just and equitable manner and in full accordance with international human rights law.
6. States should ensure that adequate and effective legal or other appropriate remedies are available to any persons claiming that his/her right of protection against forced evictions has been violated
7. To make new Law on rehabilitation and change the LAA (1894), integrating rehabilitation as an integral part of acquisition.

2. ***Internal migration not only affects the migrant but also the source and destination regions. Discuss. Suggest some measures to tackle the issues related to internal migration.***

**Approach:**

- Bring out the challenges and difficulties that are faced by the migrants.
- Discuss the impact of the migration on the source and destination regions. Bring out the social, economic and political dimensions of the challenges.
- Students should then suggest the reforms that need to be taken to resolve the issues generated due to inter-state migration.

**Answer:**

Migration results in varied impact upon the migrants as well as source and destination region. These challenges and impacts are discussed as follows:

**Migrants:**

- Problem of document and identity which deprives them of social security benefits and government socio-economic programmes.
- Migration and slums are inextricably linked. Most slums are inhabited by the migrants. Such slums are deprived of basic healthcare and sanitation facilities.
- Slum dwellers who are migrants sometimes face the added challenge of establishing tenure—the right to remain on a particular piece of urban land, and the right to compensation if the dwelling on that land is seized by the government for redevelopment. Many migrants are not even able to live in slums but live at work site or pavements.



- **Limited Access to Formal Financial Services results in them being exploited by their employers and they face risk of theft and personal injury in saving and transferring their earnings.**
- They face political exclusion because most of the times they don't have voting rights at the destination. Further they are target of political rhetoric of local identity politics and sometimes subjected to violence and abuse.
- Migration flows are mediated by an elaborate chain of contractors and middlemen. There are no written contracts, no enforceable agreements regarding wages or other benefits, and no commitments regarding regular provision of work. This leads to rampant exploitation of migrants.

#### Source Region:

- Results in loss of human resource for the state, especially if the migration is of employable people.
- A change in the demographic profile of the region. Generally young population migrates in search of employment or education. The remaining population is elderly and less productive. This has resulted in deserting of erstwhile urban areas, a phenomena being observed in some cities of Uttar Pradesh.
- States also gain from the remittance that is sent in by the migrants.
- States can employ greater focus and energy in improving the socio-economic conditions of the reduced population.

#### Destination Region:

- Migrants are perceived to take away the jobs of the local, compete for basic amenities and city services such as water and sanitation, which has resulted in friction and violence.
- Incessant mismanaged migration has resulted in the formation of slums and ghettos, which sometimes act as source for outbreak of disease etc.
- Areas inhabited by migrants often report high criminal incidents owing to their relative deprivation.
- Natives dislike migrants as they fear that their culture and tradition is being destroyed by migrants.

Thus, interstate migration throws multiple challenges along with few opportunities. The challenges can be tackled and opportunities utilized if the following steps are taken earnestly:

- Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act of 1979 protects the rights of migrants and prevents their exploitation. However, this act is overwhelmingly ignored by state governments. As such, it articulates ideal working conditions for interstate migrants, but lacking provisions for enforcement, it has not been used to create a better policy environment in practice. It should be implemented strictly by the government to protect the migrants.
- Rather than treating migration as problem, destination states should aim to accommodate them into the economy of the state. There is ample evidence to support the fact that migrants generally take up those jobs and businesses which are not done by the locals.
- The planning of cities should keep in mind the needs of the migrants.

- Political class, civil society and NGOs should conduct inter group interactions to ward off mistrust between natives and migrants. Development of a composite culture without the distortion of local traditions should be aimed at.
- Schemes like Adhaar and Jan Dhan Yojna be implemented selectively for migrants to provide them social, financial and legal inclusion.
- Source states should re-orient their development policies so as to prevent the loss of their precious human resource and productive asset.
- Feminisation of labour in rural areas.

**3. *Growing spatial inequalities in economic opportunities have significantly impacted the pace and pattern of internal migration in India. Discuss. Also give an account of the challenges that have been arising due to high internal migration and steps that should be taken to tackle these challenges.***

**Approach:**

- Briefly explain internal migration and it being the consequence of economic inequalities. Give some examples and facts to reinforce your points.
- Then bring out challenges caused by internal migration.
- Finally suggest some steps to be taken to tackle the challenges.

**Answer:**

Internal migration can be defined as the movement of people from one state to another or from one region to another in search of employment opportunities, better life conditions etc. The trend in India shows that among many factors playing role in internal migration growing spatial inequalities in economic opportunities have significantly impacted the pace and pattern of internal migration in India which can be established as follows:

- From lesser developed states to more developed states. Among the major losers, where out-migration has been more than in-migration are Andhra-Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, UP and West Bengal. In contrast, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and all Union Territories have gained.
- The growing spatial inequalities in terms of industrialization, better infrastructure, work opportunities, schools, colleges etc. are working as major pull factors.
- Less developed states and BIMARU states are facing agrarian distress and populations are more vulnerable to natural hazards like crop failure, flood etc. in comparison to the developed states.

Challenges that have been arising due to high internal migration:

- Demographic and social challenges: It changes age composition and skewed sex ratios. Also, it leads to social vacuum and dejection leading to crime and drug abuse.
- Economic challenges: Most of migrants are adjusted in informal sectors.
- Huge pressure on infrastructure: Huge pressure on infrastructure such as transport, water etc. creating difficulty on part of government in providing basics
- Proliferation of slums distorting landscape and planned infrastructure of urban areas.
- Feminization of agriculture and paucity of agricultural labour.

- Environmental: Pollution, over exploitation of resources and encroachment on agricultural and forest lands.
- Cultural: Lack of cohesion, backlash from the natives.

Steps that can be taken to tackle these problems:

- Revitalizing the rural economy with focus on agriculture, agro-based industries and through various initiatives on the line of MGNREGA, as studies show that male out migration from rural areas have declined after its implementation
- Providing low cost houses in urban areas so that slums can be eradicated
- Formulation of migration policies linked with employment and well-being of the migrant living in urban areas.
- Development of tier 2 and tier 3 cities to divert migration.

**4. *Mass exodus of people inhabiting mountain regions to plains is fast turning hamlets into haunted villages, in places like Uttarakhand. Discuss the causes, implications and possible remedies for this phenomenon.***

**Approach:**

- Discuss the causes of mass migration from mountain regions and its implications (social, economic, strategic).
- Suggest solutions to address the issue.

**Answer:**

Hilly states in India harbor diverse biodiversity and culture. For centuries, these areas have experienced harmonious co-existence with the environment. However, exodus of highland people to the plains in search of livelihood opportunities has become a major problem. For example of the 13 districts of Uttarakhand, migration has hit nine hill districts over the last decade. According to 2011 census, two hill districts, Pauri and Almora, has a negative growth in population.

**The various reasons for this situation include:**

- water shortage and degradation of grazing land due to furious dam-building activity
- Limited economic avenues, educational and skill development opportunities.
- Agriculture turning an unprofitable venture due to lack of irrigation infrastructure. For example in the Uttarakhand's 11 mountain districts, a mere 18 percent of land remains irrigated, compared to over 95 percent in the plain districts of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar.
- Poor connectivity which makes living hard in these remote regions. According to a 2011 Planning commission report 5,000 villages (almost 58 percent of villages) in Uttarakhand remain cut off from proper roads
- Most highland farmers cannot compete with the high production volume of lowlands and are frequently paid only a fraction of the value of their produce due to long supply chains that increase transportation and other costs.
- Unplanned and unchecked tourism which adds to the pressure on existing limited mountain resources like water and biodiversity.
- Rising aspirations of young generation.

**Implications of excess outward migration:**

- The traditional knowledge of mountain people is getting destroyed.
- Skewed sex ratio

- Negative implications for essential services like health services in hill regions.
- Strategic aspects like depopulation in border areas which may pose threat due to foreign incursions or growth of Maoist influence.
- Delimitation exercises tend to shift more political constituencies towards plain region which defies the initial objectives of hill states like Uttarakhand.
- Emergence of ghost villages and hamlets. Uttarakhand statistics department claims that 1,065 villages have permanently turned into 'ghost villages'.
- Pressure on few plain regions of the hill state, rising inequalities and overall skewed development.
- Mass migration has also checked the local utilization of the Chir pine needles, leaving more fuel for forest fires.

**Possible solutions include:**

- Generating employment and income: creating a niche tourism circuit which promotes sustainable mountain tourism, empowering local entrepreneurs through adequate finance and know-how, Value chain development for enhancing livelihoods of local people.
- Inviting industries to the mountains that don't pollute the fragile ecosystem, Promoting efficiency in irrigation and promoting horticulture, Beekeeping, agro-forestry and organic farming for additional income.
- Promoting mini hydro power projects and other renewable sources of energy like wind and solar power.
- establishing skill development centers and re-looking at the existing education and the healthcare systems in hills
- Capacity building of local bodies keeping in mind effects of Climate Change.
- Capacity Building is also required in use of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing Technologies for efficient monitoring and implementation of various programmes and integrated hazard management.

## 14. Previous Year UPSC GS Mains Questions

1. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.

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# URBANIZATION

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## 1. Introduction

Urbanization, indeed is the process of becoming urban, moving to cities, changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities, such as trade, manufacturing, industry and management, and corresponding changes of behaviour patterns. It is the process of expansion in the entire system of interrelationships by which population maintains itself in the habitat.

An increase in the size of towns and cities leading to growth of urban population is the most significant dimension of urbanization. In ancient times there have been great many cities such as Rome or Baghdad, but ever since industrialization and increasing industrial production cities have grown phenomenally and now urbanization is very much part of our contemporary life.

### GLOBAL URBAN POPULATION

As per World Urbanization Prospects, 2014 just a few countries are home to half of the world's urban population. China has the largest urban population (758 million), followed by India (410 million). These two countries account for 30 per cent of the world's urban population and, with another five countries, the United States of America (263 million), Brazil (173 million), Indonesia (134 million), Japan (118 million) and the Russian Federation (105 million), account for more than half of the world's urban population.

Urbanization in India was mainly a post-independence phenomenon, due to adoption of mixed system of economy by the country, which gave rise to the development of private sector. Urbanization has been taking place at an increasingly fast rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%. This count increased to 28.53% in the 2001 census, and has crossed 30% as per the 2011 census, standing at 31.16% to be exact.

## 2. Urbanization and Associated phenomenon

There is no common global definition of what constitutes an urban settlement. As a result, the urban definition employed by national statistical offices varies widely across countries, and in some cases has changed over time within a country. The criteria for classifying an area as urban may be based on one or a combination of characteristics, such as: a minimum population threshold; population density; proportion employed in non-agricultural sectors; the presence of infrastructure such as paved roads, electricity, piped water or sewers; and the presence of education or health services.

In this section, we will discuss different definitions and phenomenon's associated with the urban areas. It includes Census definition of Urban areas, Urban Agglomeration, Over-Urbanization, Sub Urbanization, Counter Urbanization and Census towns.

**In 1961 census, 'town'** was defined and determined on the basis of number of empirical tests:

- a minimum population of 5000
- a density of not less than 1,000 per square mile,
- three-fourth of the occupations of the working population should be outside of agriculture.
- the place should have a few characteristics and amenities such as newly founded industrial areas, large housing settlements and places of tourist importance and civic amenities.

### 2.1. Urban Agglomeration

This term was introduced in 1971 census. Very often large railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military camps etc. come up outside the statutory limits of the city or town but adjoining it. Such areas may not themselves qualify to be treated as towns but if they form a continuous spread with the adjoining town, it would be realistic to treat them as urban.



Such settlement has been termed as outgrowths, and may cover a whole village, or part of a village. Such towns together with their outgrowths have been treated as one urban unit and called 'urban agglomeration'.

## 2.2. Over-Urbanization

It refers to the increased exemplifications of the characters of urbanization in a city or its surrounding rural area. It results from excessive development of urban traits. Due to the expansion of the range of urban activities and occupations, greater influx of secondary functions like industry, increasing and widespread development of an intricate bureaucratic administrative network, the increased sophistication and mechanization of life and the influx of urban characters into the surrounding rural area, over urbanization gradually replaces the rural and traditionalistic traits of a community. Mumbai and Kolkata are two such examples of cities.

## 2.3. Sub-Urbanization

It is closely related to over-urbanization of a city. When cities get over-crowded by population, it may result in sub-urbanization. Delhi is a typical example. Sub-urbanization means urbanization of rural areas around the cities characterized by the following features:

- a sharp increase in the 'urban (non-agricultural) uses' of land
- inclusion of surrounding areas of towns within its municipal limits, and
- intensive communication of all types between town and its surrounding areas

## 2.4. Counter-Urbanization

It is a demographic and social process whereby people move from urban areas to rural areas. It first took place as a reaction to inner-city deprivation and overcrowding. Counter urbanization occurs when some large cities reach a point where they stop growing further or actually begin to decrease in size as their population start moving into suburban areas or smaller cities thereby leapfrogging the rural-urban fringe. There are instances which show that the phenomenon of counter urbanization is occurring in India.

## 2.5. Census Towns

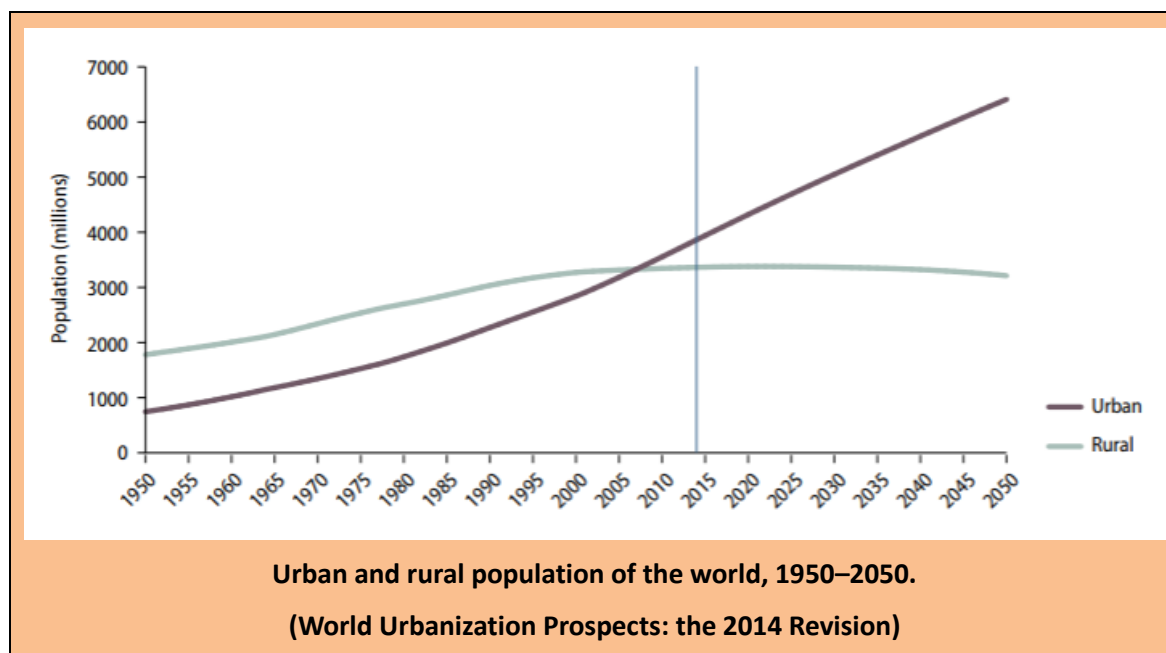
In 2011, a new definition of census town has been developed. This urban classification of 'census towns' helps differentiate between India's small farming communities and the larger market town-type settlements that are experiencing rapid and haphazard growth.

To be classified as a census town, a village must fulfil three criteria;

- it need at least 5,000 inhabitants,
- a density of 400 people per sq. km, and
- at least three quarters of its male working population must be "engaged in non-agricultural pursuits".

### GLOBAL TRENDS IN URBANIZATION

Globally, **more people live in urban areas than in rural areas**. In 2007, for the first time in history, the global urban population exceeded the global rural population, and the world population has remained predominantly urban thereafter. The planet has gone through a process of rapid urbanization over the past six decades. The urban population is expected to continue to grow, so that by 2050, the world will be one third rural (34 per cent) and two-thirds urban (66 per cent).



### 3. Process of Urbanization

Urbanization as a structural process of change is generally related to industrialization but it is not always the result of industrialization. Urbanization results due to the concentration of large-scale and small scale industrial, commercial, financial and administrative set up in the cities; technological development in transport and communication, cultural and recreational activities. The excess of urbanization over industrialization that makes it possible to provide employment for all persons coming to urban areas is, in fact, what sometimes leads to over urbanization. In India, a peculiar phenomenon is seen: industrial growth without a significant shift of population from agriculture to industry and growth of urban population without a significant rise in the ratio of the urban to the total population. While in terms of ratio, there may not be a great shift from rural to urban activities, but there is still a large migration of population from rural areas to urban areas. This makes urban areas choked; while at the same time there is lack of infrastructural facilities to cope with this rising population.

In context of India, the process of urbanization is seen as a socio-cultural process, economic process and a geographical process.

- As a **socio-cultural phenomenon**, it is a melting pot of people with diverse ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds.
- As an **economic process**, the city is a focal point of productive activities. It exists and grows on the strength of the economic activities existing within itself.
- Under the **geographical process**, it deals with migration or change of location of residence of people and involves the movement of people from one place to another.

The process of urbanization has thus been associated with important economic and social transformations, which have brought greater geographic mobility, lower fertility, longer life expectancy and population ageing.

#### 3.1. Expanding Cities

- Most megacities and large cities are located in the global South. Four of India's cities with 5 to 10 million inhabitants presently are projected to become megacities in the coming years (Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad), for a total of seven megacities projected in the country by 2030.

- Tokyo is the world's largest city with an agglomeration of 38 million inhabitants, followed by Delhi with 25 million.
- Several decades ago most of the world's largest urban agglomerations were found in the more developed regions, but today's large cities are concentrated in the global South.
- Some cities have experienced population decline in recent years. Most of these are located in the low-fertility countries of Asia and Europe where the overall population is stagnant or declining. Economic contraction and natural disasters have contributed to population losses in some cities as well.

(World Urbanization Prospects: the 2014 Revision)

## 4. Urbanization in India

India has a long history of urbanization with spatial and temporal discontinuities. It is an ongoing process that has never stopped and has rarely, slowed down since its beginning. Urbanization in India is divided into different phases, beginning from Indus valley civilization to reaching watermark during the Mughal period and also contribution from the British made to the process of urbanization in India. Post-independence witnessed rapid urbanization in India on a scale never before achieved. The major changes that have occurred in India's urban scene after India's urban independence are the building of new administrative cities, the construction of new industrial cities and township near major cities, the rapid growth of one-lakh and one million cities, the massive growth of slums and rural-urban fringe, the introduction of city planning and the general improvement in civic amenities.

The pace of urbanization in India is now set to accelerate as the country sets to a more rapid growth. Economic reform has already unleashed investment and growth offering its citizens rich opportunities. Surging growth and employment in cities will prove a powerful magnet. If not well managed, this inevitable increase in India's urban population will place enormous stress on the system.

For India to be more inclusive, it is imperative that both economic growth and urban population be more equitably distributed. Therefore, any meaningful long-term vision for India would be incomplete without planning for the cities of tomorrow.

Urban India today is "distributed" in shape—with a diverse range of large and small cities spread widely around the nation. India will probably continue on a path of distributed model of urbanization because this suits its federal structure and helps to ensure that migration flows aren't unbalanced toward any particular city or cities.

As the urban population and incomes increase, demand for every key service such as water, transportation, sewage treatment, low income housing will increase five-to seven fold in cities of every size and type. And if India continues on its current path, urban infrastructure will fall woefully short of what is necessary to sustain prosperous cities.

There has been an incomplete devolution of functions to the elected bodies as per 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, possibly because of the unwillingness of the state governments. In addition, very few Indian cities have 2030 master plans that take into account peak transportation loads, requirements for low-income affordable housing and climate change. In general, the capacity to execute the urban reforms and projects at the municipal and state level has been historically inadequate.

As per 2011 Census, 377 million Indians comprising 31.1% of the total population live in urban areas. The United Nations (UN) Habitat World City's 2016 Report estimates that urban population in India reached 420 million in 2015.

During 1981-2001, urbanization in India was mainly driven by natural increase in the population of cities (around 60%), followed by rural-urban migration, expansion of boundaries of cities and re-classification of rural areas into urban areas. However, between 2001 and 2011, the share of natural increase in the cities' population declined to 44% while the share of reclassification of rural areas into urban areas strengthened and the share of rural-urban migration increased to 24%.

While this progress is welcome, the extent of urbanization in India remains significantly below those in other major developing countries. According to the World Bank, urban population as a proportion of the total population in 2015 stood at 86% in Brazil, 56% in China, 54% in Indonesia, 79% in Mexico and 82% in South Korea

## 5. Social effects of Urbanization

Urbanization has far reaching effects on larger societal process and structures. Following are some of the sections-

### 5.1. Family and kinship

Urbanization affects not only the family structure but also intra and inter-family relations, as well as the functions the family performs. With urbanization, there is a disruption of the bonds of community and the migrant faces the problem to replace old relationships with new ones and to find a satisfactory means of continuing relationship with those left behind.

**I.P. Desai (1964)** showed that though the structure of urban family is changing, the spirit of individualism is not growing in the families. He found that 74 percent families were residentially nuclear but functionally and in property joint, and 21 percent were joint in residence and functioning as well as in property and 5 percent families were nuclear.

**Aileen Ross (1962)** in her study of 157 Hindu families belonging to middle and upper classes in Bangalore found that

- about 60 percent of the families are nuclear
- the trend today is towards a break with the traditional joint family form into the nuclear family form into the nuclear family unit.
- Small joint family is now the most typical form of family life in urban India.
- Relations with one's distant kin are weakening or breaking.

### 5.2. Urbanization and Caste

- It is generally held that caste is a rural phenomenon whereas class is urban and that with urbanization, caste transforms itself into class. But it is necessary to note that the caste system exists in cities as much as it does in villages although there are significant organizational differences.
- Caste identity tends to diminish with urbanization, education and the development of an orientation towards individual achievement and modern status symbols. **It has been pointed out that among the westernized elite, class ties are much more important than caste ties.**
- However, caste system continues to persist and exert its influence in some sectors of urban social life while it has changed its form in some other sectors. Caste solidarity is not as strong as in urban areas as in the rural areas. Caste panchayats are very weak in cities. There exists a dichotomy between workplace and domestic situation and both caste and class situations co-exist.

### 5.3. Urbanization and the Status of Women

- Women constitute an important section of rural urban migrants. They migrate at the time of marriage and also when they are potential workers in the place of destination. While middle class women get employed in white collar jobs and professions, lower class women find jobs in the informal sector. Women are also found in the formal sector as industrial workers.
- Increasing number of women have taken to white-collar jobs and entered different professions. These professions were instrumental in enhancing the social and economic status of women, thereby meaning increased and rigorous hours of work, professional loyalty along with increased autonomy. The traditional and cultural institutions remaining the same, crises of values and a confusion of norms have finally resulted. The personally and socially enlightened woman is forced to perform dual roles - social and professional.
- The status of urban women, because of being comparatively educated and liberal, is higher than that of rural women. However in the labour market, women continue to be in a disadvantaged situation.

## 6. Problems of Urbanization

The patterns of urbanization in India has been marked by regional and interstate diversities, large scale rural to urban migration, insufficient infrastructural facilities, growth of slums and other allied problems. Some of the major problems of urbanization faced in different parts of India are as follows:

### 6.1. Housing and Inflated Land Prices

A key factor contributing to inflated land prices in India has been the flow of illicit money into real estate. Therefore, attacking black money would have the important beneficial side effect of bringing land prices down and making housing more affordable for low-income families. One important factor encouraging the flow of black money into land is high stamp duty. Working with states to lower this duty would help bring land prices down.

At least four supply side factors have also contributed to the artificially high urban property values in India.

- First, as a legacy of the Urban Land Ceilings and Regulation Act, 1976, large chunks of vacant land have disappeared from urban land markets.
- Second, many sick public sector enterprises (PSEs) own large pieces of unused land in prime urban areas. Closure of these units can help bring substantial land on the market.
- Third, central and state governments own substantial urban land that remain unused or subject to encroachment. For example, railway, defence and civil aviation ministries of the central government own valuable unused urban land that they could monetize to finance infrastructure and other critical expenditures while also making the land available for housing and other uses.
- Finally, the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 fixes compensation for acquired land at rather high levels. In turn, this makes land acquired for affordable housing expensive and contributes to high costs. Short of amending the Land Acquisition Act 2013 for the purpose of acquiring land for affordable housing, there is no simple solution to this source of high price of land.

A further constraint on the supply of urban land is the stringency of land conversion rules. Vast tracts of land on the outer periphery of cities are potentially available for urban expansion. But this requires conversion of the tracts from agricultural to non-agricultural uses. For historical reasons, the power for such conversion has been vested in the state revenue departments, which are reluctant to allow the conversion. Shifting this power to agencies in charge of

urbanization and making conversion transparent and flexible would go a long way towards creating a vibrant land market in Indian cities.

Scarcity of horizontal space can be countered by expanding space vertically through the construction of taller buildings. The availability of this avenue depends on the permitted floor space index (FSI), which measures the floor-space in a building as a proportion of the area of the plot on which the building stands. Unfortunately, permitted FSI in Indian cities is extremely low, ranging from 1 to 1.5. Consequently, tall buildings are virtually absent from Indian cities. The topology of Mumbai closely matches that of Manhattan and Singapore but it has few tall buildings when compared to the latter cities. Available urban space can be expanded manifold by relaxing the permitted FSI.

Traditional rent control laws which disproportionately protect the tenant have led to paradoxical situation of unsatisfied demand for rental housing while many units lie vacant. There is clearly need for replacing the current rent control laws by a modern tenancy law, which would give full freedom to tenant and owner to negotiate the rent and the length of the lease.

## 6.2. Housing and Slums

There is acute shortage of housing in urban areas and much of the available accommodation is of sub-standard quality. This problem has tended to worsen over the years due to rapid increase in population, fast rate of urbanization and proportionately inadequate addition to the housing stock.

With large scale migration to urban areas many find that the only option they have is substandard conditions of slums. Slums are characterized by sub-standard housing, overcrowding, lack of electrification, ventilation, sanitation, roads and drinking water facilities. They have been the breeding ground of diseases, environmental pollution, demoralization and many social tensions.

## 6.3. Over Crowding

In major cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune and Kanpur, somewhere between 85% and 90% of households lives in one or two rooms. In some homes, five to six persons live in one room. Over-crowding encourages deviant behaviour, spreads diseases and creates conditions for mental illness, alcoholism and riots. One effect of dense urban living is people's apathy and indifference.

## 6.4. Water supply, Drainage and Sanitation

No city has round the clock water supply in India. Intermittent supply results in a vacuum being created in empty water lines which often suck in pollutants through leaking joints. Many small towns have no main water supply at all and are dependent on the wells. Drainage situation is equally bad. Because of the non-existence of a drainage system, large pools of stagnant water can be seen in city even in summer months.

Removing garbage, cleaning drains and unclogging sewers are the main jobs of municipalities and municipal corporations in Indian cities. There is a total lack of motivation to tackle the basic sanitation needs of the cities. The spread of slums in congested urban areas and lack of civic sense among the settlers in these slums further adds to the growing mound of filth and diseases.

## 6.5. Transportation and Traffic

Absence of planned and adequate arrangements for traffic and transport is another problem in urban centres in India. Majority of people use buses and tempos, while a few use rail as transit system. The increasing number of two-wheelers and cars make the traffic problem worse. They



cause air pollution as well. Moreover, the number of buses plying the metropolitan cities is not adequate and commuters have to spend long hours to travel.

The design and maintenance of city roads is a major challenge in Indian cities. The roads are notorious for being pedestrian-unfriendly, poorly surfaced, congested, and constantly dug up. An important and urgent transformational reform is to draw up national design standards and contracting standards for city roads to address these challenges.

The flow of traffic also needs special attention in Indian cities. Unlike western cities, motorized vehicles in India change lanes with high frequency and in unpredictable ways. This creates unnecessary traffic jams and delays.

Metro rails can be an efficient source of public transportation in many cities. The success of some initial metro projects has led to demands for the same in other cities.

## 6.6. Pollution

Our towns and cities are major polluters of the environment. Several cities discharge 40 to 60 percent of their entire sewage and industrial effluents untreated into the nearby rivers. Urban industry pollutes the atmosphere with smoke and toxic gases from its chimneys. All these, increase the chances of disease among the people living in the urban centres. According to UNICEF, lakhs of urban children die or suffer from diarrhoea, tetanus, measles etc. because of poor sanitary conditions and water contamination. As a long-term remedy, what is needed is using new techniques of waste collection, new technology for garbage-disposal and fundamental change in the municipal infrastructure and land-use planning.

The above is not an exhaustive list of the problems of urbanization. A whole lot of other problems including increasing rate of crime in the cities, increasing old age population and absence of social security for them, enhanced role and sphere of market has led to the poor and marginalized suffering the most. Studies have also shown that stress levels are found high in cities, which in turn has deleterious impact on the health of the people.

## 7. Urbanization and Governance

Governance forms an integral part of Urbanization. Governance is the weakest and most crucial link which needs to be repaired to bring about the urban transformation so urgently needed in India. Financing the large sums required to meet the investment needs of urban infrastructure is crucially dependent on the reform of institutions and the capacity of those who run the institutions for service delivery and revenue generation. It is seen that large expenditures on Indian cities and towns have to be combined with better governance structures, strong political and administrative will to collect taxes and user charges, and improved capacity to deliver. Cities must be empowered, financially strengthened, and efficiently governed to respond to the needs of their citizens and to contribute to the growth momentum.

The municipal entities need to be strengthened as local governments with 'own' sources of revenue, predictable formula-based transfers from state governments, and other transfers from the Government of India and state governments to help them discharge the larger responsibilities assigned to them by the 74th Constitutional Amendment. Improved tax revenues combined with rational user charges will enable cities to leverage their own resources to incur debt and also access new forms of financing through public private partnership (PPP). Only then can they augment the urban infrastructure base, provide improved quality of services on a sustainable basis to their residents, and contribute to the growth momentum of the Indian economy.

**Administrative reforms commission** in its 6th report mentioned measures to strengthen the urban governance. Some of its important recommendations are-

- Urban local bodies should be given responsibility for water supply and distribution in their territorial jurisdiction whether based on their own source or collaborative arrangements with other service providers.
- Sanitation, as a matter of hygiene and public health, must be given priority and emphasis in all urban areas. In all towns, advance action for laying down adequate infrastructure should be taken to avoid insufficiency of services.
- Community participation and co-production of services should be encouraged by municipal bodies. This should be supplemented by awareness generation.
- In all towns and cities with a population above one lakh, the possibility of taking up PPP projects for collection and disposal of garbage may be explored.
- Municipal bodies should be encouraged to take responsibility of power distribution in their area.
- Urban Transport Authorities, to be called Unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities in the Metropolitan Corporations, should be set up in cities with population over one million within one year, for coordinated planning and implementation of urban transport solutions with an overriding priority to public transport.

As per NITI Ayog, well-run ULBs should have the power to raise financial resources including through municipal bonds. Introduction of Standardised, time-bound, audited balance sheets across ULBs would help improve financial management as well as spur further reforms in this area. Indian cities also need to overhaul their municipal staffing and introduce appropriate skills to achieve administrative efficiency

Similarly, to speed up the process of cleaning up municipal solid waste, NITI Ayog suggests the creation of an authority at the Centre to spread the use of Waste to Energy plants. Such an authority may be called Waste to Energy Corporation of India (WECI) and placed under the Ministry of Urban Development. WECI may set up world class Waste to Energy plants through PPP across the country. It can play a key role in fast-tracking coverage of waste to energy plants across 100 smart cities by 2019. Its mandate may include key functions of preparing standard tender documents, prequalify vendors and allot to ULBs and cluster of ULBs, and ensure priority clearance for qualified vendors, among others.

Strict enforcement of traffic rules through fines in case of violations can induce behavioural change and could greatly reduce both the travel time and pollution. Additionally, incentives may be created to encourage vehicle-sharing systems such as Ola and Uber. This will reduce the number of vehicles on the road reducing both congestion and pollution. Also, there is a need for a national metro rail policy that will ensure that metro projects are not considered in isolation, but as part of a comprehensive plan of overall public transportation. Further, the policy should provide clear guidelines on various aspects of metro projects, such as planning, financing, PPP, etc.

## 8. Major Programmes Currently in the Area of Urban Development

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** - Housing for All (HFA) (Urban Mission) was launched in June 2015 to provide housing to all in urban areas by 2022.
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**- launched with the objective to provide hard infrastructure for universal coverage of piped drinking water, sewerage and green spaces and parks. AMRUT also incentivizes governance reforms in the cities.
- **Developing Smart Cities**- Launched in June 2015, Smart Cities Mission aims at driving economic growth and improving the quality of life through area based development and city-level smart solutions. The mission would convert 100 existing cities into smart cities

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**- Launched on 2nd October 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Urban) is the key mission driving the campaign to make our cities clean. The mission aims to eliminate open defecation in all statutory towns by 2nd October 2019. It also proposes to eradicate manual scavenging, introduce modern and scientific solid waste management, induce behavioural change with respect to healthy sanitation practices and generate awareness for sanitation and its link to public health, augment the capacity of ULBs and create an enabling environment for the private sector in waste management.
- **Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY – NULM)**- aims at creating opportunities for skill development leading to market based employment and helping the poor to set up self-employment ventures. This Mission's interventions are implemented through five key components: 1) Social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SMID); 2) Self-Employment Programmes (SEPs); 3) Employment through Skill, Training & Placement (EST&P); 4) Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH); and 5) Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV).
- **National Heritage City Development & Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) Mission** was launched in January 2015 with an aim to rejuvenate the heritage cities, with special attention to others issues such as sanitation, tourism, and livelihood. The Mission is targeted for completion by November 2018. The HRIDAY mission will be concluded in 12 heritage cities as per the Detailed Project Reports submitted upon commencement.

## 9. Way Forward

India needs to work on several areas to manage its urbanization: The following are perhaps the most important: Inclusive cities, funding, planning, capacity building and low-income housing. India also needs to start a political process where the urban issues are debated with evolution of meaningful solutions:

### 9.1. Inclusive Cities

The poor and lower income groups must be brought into the mainstream in cities. Regulations intended to manage densities and discourage migration both limit the supply of land **and** require many households to consume more land than they would choose. This drives urban sprawl and pushes up the price of land and the cost of service delivery for all. High standards for parking, coverage limits, setbacks, elevators, road widths, reservations for health centres, schools etc. (often not used) prevent the poor from choosing how much to consume of the costliest resource (urban land) to put a roof over their heads, and comply with legal requirements.

### 9.2. Financing

Devolution has to be supported by more reforms in urban financing that will reduce cities' dependence on the Centre and the states and unleash internal revenue sources. Consistent with most international examples, there are several sources of funding that Indian cities could tap into, to a far greater extent than today: Monetizing land assets; higher collection of property taxes, user charges that reflect costs; debt and public-private partnerships (PPPs); and central/state government funding. However, internal funding alone will not be enough, even in large cities. A portion has to come from the central and state governments.

### 9.3. Planning

India needs to make urban planning a central, respected function, investing in skilled people, rigorous fact base and innovative urban form. This can be done through a "cascaded" planning structure in which large cities have 40-year and 20-year plans at the metropolitan level that are binding on municipal development plans. Central to planning in any city is the optimal

allocation of space, especially land use and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) planning. Both should focus on linking public transportation with zoning for affordable houses for low-income groups. These plans need to be detailed, comprehensive, and enforceable.

## 9.4. Local capacity building

A real step-up in the capabilities and expertise of urban local bodies will be critical to devolution and improvement of service delivery. Reforms will have to address the development of professional managers for urban management functions, who are in short supply and will be required in large numbers. New innovative approaches will have to be explored to tap into the expertise available in the private and social sectors.

Over the longer term, India needs to introduce more fundamental changes to turn our cities into 21st century spaces. We need to introduce spatial planning that simultaneously addresses developmental needs of metropolitan, municipal and ward-level areas. We need to genuinely devolve power to urban local bodies and financially empower them.

The outcome of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", recognized both the plight of the urban poor and the need for sustainable cities as matters of great urgency for the United Nations development agenda. Time has come to forge a new model of urban development that integrates all facets of sustainable development, to promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity in an urbanizing world.

## 10. Vision IAS GS Mains Test Series Questions

1. ***"As opposed to conventional urban sprawls, the new urbanization is rapidly incorporating villages into its fold." Elaborate this statement in the context of the growth of census towns in 2011 census.***

### Approach:

- First, give some facts / statistics from the census to 'show' that the given statement in the question is indeed correct.
- Then explain 'what' are census towns and how are they classified.
- Then briefly explain 'why' census towns have indeed grown at faster pace.
- The question doesn't demand a response about the constraints faced by census towns, so there is no need to go into that aspect.

### Answer:

- Between the two censuses of 2001 and 2011, India's urban population grew by 33 per cent.
- During this period, the combined population growth of India's six largest urban centres (metro cities), was quite close to the overall population growth of India. Thus the growth in these urban centers was not the main reason for this urban growth. It wasn't even the growth in the population of smaller towns and the booming state capitals that drove this urbanisation.
- It was a dramatic 54 per cent increase in the number of habitations called urban - almost all of this increase came from a tripling of the number of "census towns", rising from around 1300 to 3900.
- This urban classification of 'census towns', which exists on census paper only, helps differentiate between India's smaller farming communities and the larger market town-type settlements that are experiencing rapid and haphazard growth.
- To become a census town, a village must fulfil three criteria—

- it needs at least 5,000 inhabitants,
- a density of 400 people per sq. km, and,
- at least three quarters of its male working population must be “engaged in non-agricultural pursuits”.
- Simply put, census towns are populous places where farming is no longer viable and people have turned to other professions.
- Census towns are poised on the threshold of the rural-urban divide. Semi-urban though they might feel, census towns are still run by *panchayats* and classified as rural for all official purposes, allowing them to draw on Union government development schemes and exempting them from property taxes.
- Studies show that there is a sharp drop in male employment in agriculture over the last few years. This is mainly due to the available machine inputs for agriculture and also due to creation of better job opportunities in manufacturing and service sectors
- Due to factors like lower real estate prices in rural India, improving education facilities and improving infrastructure like roads, electricity etc, over 75 per cent of new factories during the last decade came up in rural India. Manufacturing in rural India is now 55 per cent of India's manufacturing GDP. Growth in services is equally robust in rural India.
- Thus we can see census towns as a growing number of village clusters coming together to create viable production and consumption units.

## 2. Describe “counter-urbanization” and “suburbanization” in the context of India.

### Approach:

- Define both counter urbanization and suburbanization
- Then mention, how they are being manifested in India

### Answer:

- **Counter-urbanization** is a “**demographic and social process whereby people move from urban areas to rural areas as a reaction to inner-city deprivation, pollution and overcrowding**”
- **Suburbanization** is the “**growth of areas on the fringes of cities**”. It is one of the many causes of the increase in urban sprawl. Many residents of metropolitan regions work within the central urban area, and choose to live in satellite communities called suburbs and commute to work via automobile or mass transit. Others have taken advantage of technological advances to work from their homes. The skyrocketing real estate prices are one of the main reasons for suburbanization process.
- In India, suburbanization as a process is being **witnessed in areas around metropolitans**. The trend is strongest in cities like Delhi where a more efficient public transport system allows people residing on the periphery of the urban sprawl to commute to the cities.
- True counter-urbanization marked by taking up typical rural occupations is almost non-existent in India, notwithstanding the mushrooming ‘farm houses’ on city outskirts. The situation as it exists may be taken as a cross between sub-urbanization and counter urbanization.

3. **Urbanisation and migration have increased the vulnerability of elderly in India. Comment. Also, discuss the measures which should be taken to address their vulnerabilities.**

**Approach:**

Basic theme of the Question is vulnerabilities faced by elderly people due to social changes engendered by increased urbanisation and migration. Answer can be structured in following ways:

- Explain how elderly people in Indian demography have become vulnerable due to Urbanization and migration. What are the challenges or drawbacks they face should be listed.
- Suggest some measure to deal with issues of elderly.

**Answer:**

Growing number of elderly people (60 years or above) in India (7.4% of total population in 2001) and various vulnerabilities they faces demands an urgent attention from policy makers and society. The elders are increasingly susceptible to issues of health care, livelihood and security. The vulnerabilities of elderly can be largely attributed to the phenomenon of migration and urbanization in following ways:

- Migration and urbanisation gradually weakens traditional family patterns that provide centrality and social roles for older persons.
- The drift away from rural areas to urban centres is not only causing a high rate of unemployment and overcrowding in towns, among other social and economic problems, but it is also contributing to the isolation of the aged in rural areas and the deprivation of their usual sources of social and economic support.
- Moving to plantations, mines and factories is now causing physical separation of family members, often by great distance, thus weakening the traditional family ties.
- The ability of modern families to care for their elderly relatives in the urban context is seriously impaired by crowded housing, limited financial resources and increasing education and employment of women, who are the main caregivers of the elderly.
- Urban accommodation is subject to the number of persons entitled to live in a place which mainly depends on landlord's decision pressures on families, especially where family size is large, which leads to subdivision of smaller family units (rural/urban).

The following recommendations are specially aimed at improving the living standards of older persons in India to deal with problems of Urbanisation and migration that is affecting elderly.

- Since older people constitute an increasing portion of the rural agriculture labour force, economic policies should aim at enhancing their farming performance.
- They will need credit and extension services and assistance in adopting improved farming practices and technologies that are suited to their capabilities.
- Efforts should be made to encourage older persons to engage in self-employment, which would not only enable them to do things at their own pace but would also encourage them to introduce innovations for productivity and profit.
- Cooperative ventures can play a key role in strengthening the capacity of the ageing to contribute to rural development.
- Although old age signifies an increase in the need for health care, there is low utilization of health care services among older people, the primary health centres



should also take care of the rural old people like the importance is given to Children.

- The utilisation of all the social schemes is abysmally low, therefore awareness of concessions and benefits should be made to reach them through various media, and policies should be strengthened.

Income insecurity, illiteracy, age related morbidity, and physical and economic dependency are factors that tend to make the Indian elderly vulnerable. So the approach needs to be holistic and multidimensional; at the individual, family, community, governmental and non-governmental levels.

**4. *In post-independence India, cities were expected to be a vehicle for social change, but they also became the symbols of contradictions, which had been plaguing the countryside for a long time. Comment.***

**Approach:**

Basic theme of the question is failure of cities to realize goals of modernity in Indian context. The answers can be structured in the following ways:

- Explain how establishment of modern cities was considered as transformative method of social change and panacea for all social ills plaguing Indian society.
- Explain in detail how Indian cities is known more for reproducing the socio-economic disparities which is present in rural India.

**Answer:**

In post-independence period, the state gave modern cities the primary responsibility to develop Indian society on lines of democratic values enshrined in the Constitution.

The development of cities in India however shows that cities in India have failed to fulfill the promises invested in them. Instead of reforming the social ill present in the countryside, they have reproduced the social disparities existing there in following manner:

- **India:** Urban Poverty Report 2009 (UNDP) identifies that poverty in India has become urbanized and it is more widespread in large cities. Overall It is over 25 percent; some 81 million people live in urban areas on incomes that are below the poverty line.
- Large cities like Mumbai (41.3%), Vishakhapatnam (44%), Kolkata (30%), Chennai (29%) and Delhi (15%) have the high proportion of slum-dwelling households. Lack of proper housing and basic services like health and education in cities has reproduced the precarious living conditions due to segregation as present in villages for poor.
- In the process of economic development, cities were believed to provide dignified employment opportunities to majority of working poor who become surplus in rural economy. However, Indian cities have become home to large informal sector as in villages providing subsistence jobs to poor.
- Women security has been the major issue in villages known for regressive attitude towards them. However modern cities which are supposed to provide safe living for them have itself become most unsecured place for them. e.g. recent incidence of rape in Delhi.
- Political mobilization based on ascriptive identities are widely prevalent in cities as it has been in countryside.

In this scenario there is an urgent need to rethink what role the cities will play in our social progress. Cities should be made more inclusive space according to civic and democratic values promoted by our constitution.

**5. *Rapid urban growth in the context of scarce socio-economic and legal support to the poor is an inevitable recipe for mass production of slums. Discuss in the context of India.***

**Approach:**

Basic theme of the Question is about determinants of increasing slum population in India in contemporary times. Answer can be approached in following ways:

- Explain in brief how urban growth is growing with slum population in India.
- Discuss in detail how lack of socio-economic support (housing, amenities etc.), legal support (lack of laws for social security) combined with increasing urban growth is creating conditions for higher incidence of slum population in India.

**Answer:**

According to 2011 Census, for the first time since Independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas. Also number of million plus cities have increased from 23 (1991), 35 (2001) to 63 (2015). This tremendous urban growth however is taking place with equally high slum population growth in India as roughly 17.4% of urban households lived in the slum in 2011 (Census 2011).

One of the concerning issue with the urban growth in India is that it's happening in the situation of lack of basic amenities like housing, health, education and social security to the poor. As a result urban growth instead of positive social development is becoming nightmare for people who flocked to cities from countryside in search of livelihood and living due to following reasons:

- Slow growth in agriculture and distressed rural sector is pushing the people to urban areas for livelihood in non-agricultural sector. Most of the people are poor small/marginal farmers or landless labour or artisans who cannot afford living in cities unless some kind of social support is provided by the government. Urban area in India starkly lack such facilities as a result urban poor has to survive in slums.
- Indian city planners increasingly overlooking the need of poor for low cost housing as a result poor are flocking to urban slums.
- Most of migrants have no legal identity hence they can not avail the existing facilities available in urban areas hence they have to live in slums for living.
- Little enforcement of migrants rights as workers as their coverage with social protection programmes of government mean for the poor, also left large gaps. Such condition push further poor into poverty trap and in abject conditions of living in to slums.
- Lack of formal sector employment in urban areas pushes the migrants to informal sector for subsistence living. Due to prevalence of low wages and absence of social support informal sectors workers have to live in informal settlements.

6. ***With overpopulated cities and their strained infrastructure, India is in the midst of an urban crisis. How far can the Smart Cities Mission help in upgradation of existing cities in the country? What are the reservations of local bodies with respect to this mission?***

**Approach:**

- Briefly describe the issue of unplanned cities and how the current state of affairs is seemingly an urban crisis.
- Mention the features of a smart city- ICT enabled features, healthcare, policing etc. How will this help in overcoming the aforementioned problems in existing cities?
- Finally, mention the reservations of local bodies wrt the features of this Mission. Conclude by giving some suggestions to overcome these issues.

**Answer:**

Most Indian cities are examples of unplanned urbanization. Physical infrastructure like public transport, housing, hospitals and schools etc is inadequate for sustaining the growing population pressure, both quantitatively and qualitatively resulting in urban dreams becoming urban nightmares.

The Smart Cities Mission is an attempt to upgrade existing infrastructure and ensure sustainable development through focus on sustainable and inclusive development. It is concerned with converting certain areas of an existing city into a “smart city” by city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment) or city extension (Greenfield development). Assured water and power supply, sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, robust IT connectivity, e-governance and citizen participation along with safety of its citizens are its aims.

With credible financial backing promised by the government, the mission if implemented earnestly has potential to transform the urban landscape.

The Mission puts the onus on Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in providing the roadmap of smart city. However, centre has proposed Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) constituted in each city with powers to implement the mission. It will plan, appraise, approve, release funds, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate the Smart City development projects.

Many Municipal Corporations fear that they would get side-lined and their autonomy compromised due to SPVs. ULBs will have a stake in SPVs, but an SPV is also empowered to enter into PPPs.

The Mission encourages State government and urban local bodies to delegate the rights and obligations of the municipal council with respect to the project to SPV. Hence the influence of private investors and consulting firms in urban governance is likely to increase with Smart Cities and this is worrying for ULBs.

Concerns regarding the stifling of local autonomy and democracy are valid since, instead of the democratically elected local government, it will be an SPV mandated by a central policy that will govern the smart city.

Admittedly, our local governments are not the most efficient or responsive, but an SPV-driven Smart City is not a lasting solution to the ills of city governance.

A sustainable urban future would require comprehensive governance reforms that empower city governments with more administrative and financial powers and devolve functions further to lower units within the city government in true democratic spirit.

7. *Give an account of the factors driving people to migrate from the countryside to urban areas even if it entails living in slums. Highlight some important facts about slums unique to India. Also discuss some strategies which can be adopted for transforming India's slums.*

**Approach:**

- Introduce upon Rural-Urban migration in India and resultant growth of slums.
- Discuss the factors that drive people to migrate to cities and even live in slums.
- Discuss the important facts about slums unique to India.
- Discuss strategies to transform India's slums.

**Answer:**

Urbanization accompanied by large scale migration leads to mushrooming slums. India's slum population will constitute roughly 9% of the total projected national population of 1.28 billion in 2017.

**Driving factors**

- **A Higher and More Stable Income:** Productive employment opportunities in an urban centre likely generate a higher and more consistent personal disposable income than in the place of origin – likely a rural, farming centre.
- **Social Mobility for the Next Generation:** Raising children in an urban environment creates a higher “option value” for the next generation. Typically, cities offers a wider choice of education and employment opportunities.
- **Distress Migration:** Political disturbances and inter-ethnic conflicts forces people away from their homes. People also migrate to urban areas in the aftermath of major natural disasters.
- **No other option except slums:** Poor migrant families are unable to afford decent housing and transportation cost which forces them to settle in slum areas in the city near to their work place.

**Unique Facts**

- **Unprecedented Scale:** No country has or is facing the issue of slums on the scale at which India is. By 2017, India is expected to have over 100 million people living in slums and another 10 million migrants moving to the cities each year.
- **Political Clout Cuts Both Ways:** India's slum-dwellers are fully enfranchised and actively vote for national and local leaders who they feel will protect their interests. Slum-dwellers' today know they represent a strong and highly influential vote and politicians know that delivering things of value to this constituency plays an important part in their ability to win their vote.
- **No Control:** Some other developing countries have more effective political tools to control urban migration. However, India's democracy which assures the free movement of people throughout the country prevents any such controls from being even remotely feasible.

**Strategies for Transformation**

A viable solution to transform the slums would have to take a holistic view dealing with India's larger macro challenges. Such a solution should include the following strategies:

- **Rural Re-Visioning and Investment:** There is need to create other cities as counter-magnets so that the migration to major cities like Mumbai can be arrested.

Infrastructure, employment opportunities and the overall quality of life in India's small towns and rural areas should be improved.

- **Industrial Revolution and Continued Development:** The solution to slums is not to reverse industrialisation or to try and contain urbanisation, but indeed to press forward with it more aggressively so that businesses can afford to provide jobs to slum-dwellers and pay them a proper wage.
- **Slum Architecture:** Building high-quality, low-cost, multi-storied, diverse formats in the current slum areas such that these become integrated with the rest of the city.
- **Sustainable Continuous Dynamic Infrastructure Provisioning:** The government needs to create a framework for gradual and continuous upgrading of slum infrastructure.

8. *Whereas the UN Habitat report calls cities "the highest pinnacles of human creation", the moot question is what form the cities of developing world should take. In context of this statement, examine the contending strategies of urbanisation, with respect to India.*

**Approach:**

- In the introduction briefly explain the context in the statement and provide the reason for a careful consideration of the shape cities would take in developing world.
- Further delineate the strategies involving large and small cities as models of urbanisation.
- Conclude by underlining the optimal combination required for future urban growth.

**Answer:**

Cities have been termed as pinnacles of human creation owing to their historic role and future potential as sites of human collaboration, engines of growth and vehicles of social mobility. The UN habitat estimates that by 2050 2/3rd of the global population would reside in cities. According to the World Bank 90 % of the urban growth would occur in the developing world. Thus, the inevitability of urbanization and concerns of sustainability call for greater attention to cities in the developing world.

In this context cities in India have largely grown organically and in an unplanned manner, this has led to pressure on the resources at disposal. Similarly the tier two cities would be expanding in the future. Thus, India requires strategies suited to both traditional urban centers as well as future ones:

- **Megacities and Concentred Urbanisation:** Cities like Mumbai or Delhi are examples of megacities (10 million or more population) and Concentred Urbanisation. They have attracted large number of immigrants and over the years have proven to be engines of growth. However, these cities have increasingly become dependent on resources from outside and face pressure of density over land resources, housing and public amenities. As such they would require strategies of urban renewal and rejuvenation.
- **Smaller Cities and Distributed Urbanisation:** The growth of a number of tier two cities is a future trend for India. This would require Distributed urbanization where a large number of cities are developed simultaneously. United States which has many medium-sized cities with population in the range 1.5-5 million. These are easily manageable, minus the problems of large cities, and provide services to surrounding countryside as well. By functioning in a typical 'hub-and-spoke' model

these cities can complement each other in terms of services and resources. With the right resources, they can provide better services and environment for its inhabitants. The 12th plan also leaned towards this trend which is reflective of India's federal structure as well.

Learning from international experience, models such as Transport Oriented Development (TOD) with dense core district of high rises such as in Hong Kong can be adopted. Similarly, many argue that the Houston or Atlanta Models i.e. population spreading further away from the core should be avoided.

There are strategies suited for both small and large cities. A rapidly urbanising India needs cities that are planned and inclusive hubs with enough fiscal resources and institutional decentralisation.

**9. *Rather than being a transitory phenomenon of fast-growing economies, today's slums pose deeper, persistent structural problems and represent major policy challenges. Discuss in the context of India.***

**Approach:**

- Discuss how slums have become a persistent issue.
- Enumerate policy challenges in this context.
- Conclude with government efforts, SDG 11 and other recommendations.

**Answer:**

Slums have often been defined by developmental theories as a transitional phenomenon characteristic of fast-growing economies. But these theories are being proven wrong as slums have become a persistent problem. Millions of households find themselves trapped in slums for generations. According to 2011 census, around 17.4 % urban Indian households live in slums. (Slum population is projected to increase from 93.1 million in 2001 to 104.7 million in 2017).

Today's slums pose a deeper, persistent structural problem caused by multiple market and policy failures, poor governance and management hindering investment, and poor and unsanitary living conditions. Issues include:

- The slum region is marked by lack of adequate living space, insufficient provision of public goods, and the poor quality of basic amenities like clean drinking water and sanitation. All of which lead to extremely poor health and diminishing human capital not only for the slum dwellers but for the vicinity as well.
- Congestion, environmental mismanagement, degradation of natural resources.
- Poor education and opportunities, increased incidence of crime, vulnerability of women, substance abuse, crowding and depersonalisation and other social and humanitarian problems.
- Other issues relate to displacement of population from settlements, unregulated encroachment cases such as Kathputli Colony in Delhi.

**Policy challenges**

- **Tackling rural urban migration**—It is closely relate to factors like globalisation and lack of income opportunities in rural areas. Experts estimate that by 2050 approx. 60 % of the population shall live in cities. This invariably requires complimentary schemes to develop smart villages on the lines of smart cities.
- **Developing social security nets** for slum dwellers in cities.



- **Sustainable urban development**-Making cities safe and sustainable means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, upgrading slum settlements, ensuring basic necessities like clean drinking water, health clinics and toilets. It also includes reducing vulnerability of women and elderly.
- **Employment generation**-need to create opportunities for migrants and avenues for skill development.
- **Capacity building in urban local bodies**- This will include devolution of authority, ensuring availability of funds (for example through Municipal bonds, devolving taxes like entertainment tax etc.) and developing human resources.
- **Affordable housing**- With rising cost of land there exist an urgent need to develop affordable housing for slum dwellers. One of the major components of "Housing for All by 2022" is to utilize in-situ slum rehabilitation, through which the government has devised a strategy to incentivize private developers to use land as a resource. The policy also includes a slum upgradation component.

As SDG-11 talks about making cities sustainable, it is imperative that Government initiatives such as AMRUT, SMART cities etc. must extend the benefits of these initiatives to slum dwellers who are currently excluded from the benefits of social and economic security.

**10. While suburbanisation is a common phenomenon in most urbanising countries, it is occurring at a relatively early stage of India's urban development. Enumerating the reasons behind this development, highlight the challenges it is creating for Indian cities.**

**Approach:**

- Give a brief introduction about suburbanisation phenomenon in most urbanising countries.
- Enumerate the reasons as to why it is occurring at a relatively early stage of India's urban development.
- Highlight the challenges it is creating for Indian cities and ways to tackle them.

**Answer:**

A 2013 World Bank report, "**Urbanization beyond Municipal Boundaries**", found that suburban areas are generating higher economic growth and employment than the city. Although "suburbanization" is a worldwide phenomenon, it usually occurs in middle to advanced stages of development. In India, it's happening much more quickly than expected.

**Reasons:**

- Suburbs are seen as safer and cheaper place to live and raise a family due to lower population density, lower crime, and a more stable population.
- Increasing land prices and office rents have pushed companies to suburban areas.
- With increased incomes, people have the ability to pay more for travel and commute longer distances to work and back home.
- Indian cities impose quite draconian land use regulations, rent control system and building height restrictions on their cities leading to excessive suburbanization.
- Suburban municipalities offer tax breaks and regulatory incentives to attract industrial land users to their area.
- The development of robust and sophisticated infrastructure is possible only in the peripheries of the city where land is available in plenty and the cost of acquisition is low.

Growth of urban agglomerations poses many **economic, ecological and institutional challenges** which are as follows:

- Access to – and the quality of – water, sanitation, and electricity is much worse in the urban periphery than at the core.
- Access to quality and affordable health and education services.
- With commercialization of agricultural land and encroachment on forest areas ecosystem of the region is threatened.
- Unplanned urbanisation and uncontrolled encroachment of natural water storage and drainage systems has spelt disaster.
- The fiscal deficit grows as a result of suburbanization, mainly because in less densely populated areas, property taxes tend to be lower.
- Proponents of containing suburbanization argue that it leads to urban decay and a concentration of lower income residents in the inner city.

Third and fifth five year plans advised urban planning to adopt regional approach and to create metropolitan planning regions to take care of the growing areas outside administrative city limits.

#### Way Forward:

- Address the lacunae in the current rural-urban categorization system. This would ensure that new areas come under municipality limits and enjoy municipal services.
- Affordable and modern housing within already developed area with intelligent use of space.
- Provide efficient services and reform governance structures to boost overall economic development.
- Use zoning and other land use regulations to create development patterns that make active transportation, in the form of walking and cycling, practical for shortest of trips.
- Assuring that development is spread out fairly city-wide so that issues of accessibility to housing and work don't arise.
- Ensuring that tax incentives given by one suburb do not penalize other suburbs or the central city.

Inadequacy of cities to provide affordable and quality options has resulted in suburbanization. We need to improve existing urban amenities while simultaneously addressing the problems of suburban sprawls.

## 11. Previous Year UPSC GS Mains Questions

1. Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. (2013)
2. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration. (2015)
3. With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme.' (2016)

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# IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN SOCIETY

*Globalization-A process of the “reconfiguration of geography, so that social space is no longer wholly mapped in terms of territorial places, territorial distances and territorial borders.”*

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## 1. Introduction

**Globalization** is a process of increasing interdependence, interconnectedness and integration of economies and societies to such an extent that an event in one part of the globe affects people in other parts of world.

The effect of globalization is far reaching. It affects us all but affects us differently. Thus, while for some it may mean new opportunities, for others the loss of livelihood. Women silk spinners and twisters of Bihar lost their jobs once the Chinese and Korean silk yarn entered the market. Weavers and consumers prefer this yarn as it is somewhat cheaper and has a shine. Similar displacements have come with the entry of large fishing vessels into Indian waters. These vessels take away the fish that used to be earlier collected by Indian fishing vessels. The livelihood of women fish sorters, dryers, vendors and net makers thereby get affected. In Gujarat, women gum collectors, who were picking from the 'julifera' (Baval trees), lost their employment due to the import of cheaper gum from Sudan. In almost all cities of India, the rag pickers lost some of their employment due to import of waste paper from developed countries.

It is obvious that globalization is of great social significance. But its impact on different sections of society is very different. There are, therefore, sharply divided views about the impact of globalization regarding its effect. Some believe that it is necessary to herald a better world. Others fear that the impact of globalization on different sections of people is vastly different. They argue that while many in the more privileged section may benefit, the condition of a large section of the already excluded population worsens. There are yet others who argue that globalization is not a new development at all.

## 2. Impact of Globalization on Indian Culture

There are many ways that globalization affects culture. Over the ages India has had an open approach to cultural influences and has been enriched because of this. The last few decades have seen major cultural changes leading to fears that our local cultures would be overtaken. Thus there are heated debates in our society not just about political and economic issues but also about changes in clothes, styles, music, films, languages, body language. The debate is not new and 19th century reformers and early nationalists also debated on culture and tradition. The issues today are in some ways the same, in some ways different. What is perhaps different is the scale and intensity of change.

### 2.1. Homogenization versus Glocalization of culture

A central contention is that all cultures will become similar, that is homogeneous. Others argue that there is an increasing tendency towards **glocalisation** of culture. Glocalisation refers to the mixing of the global with the local. It is not entirely spontaneous. Nor is it entirely delinked from the commercial interests of globalization. It is a strategy often adopted by foreign firms while dealing with local traditions in order to enhance their marketability. In India, we find that all the foreign television channels like Star, MTV, Channel V and Cartoon Network use Indian languages. Even McDonald sells only vegetarian and chicken products in India and not its beef products, which are popular abroad. McDonald's goes vegetarian during the Navaratri festival. In the field of music, one can see the growth of popularity of 'Bhangra pop', 'Indi pop', fusion music and even remixes.

Ritzer(2004) has coined another word **grobalization** that refers to what he calls "growth imperatives(pushing) organisations and nations to expand globally and to impose themselves on the local". For Ritzer, Globalization is the sum total of 'glocalization' and 'grobalization'.

### Homogenization of Culture

- **Family structure:** Joint family has been adversely affected due to globalization. There has been an increase in nuclear families. This can be clearly manifested in the increasing number of old age homes that are present now. The diversity in family forms has given way to a dominance of nuclear family in the globalized India
- **Food:** due to opening up of food joints like McDonalds, KFC across the country, there has been a homogenization of food available across the country, but there has also been heterogenization in food. Old restaurants are now replaced by Mc. Donalds. Fast food and Chinese dishes have replaced juice corners and Parathas.
- Borrowing of money has become more acceptable now as compared to the past. Taking loans is very common due to increasing access to financial institutions
- In place of old cinema halls, multiplex theatres are coming up.
- Use of English has increased manifold in urban areas, this has led to a homogenization in language across the country, but the rural areas have been less affected by it.

### Glocalization of Culture

- **Food:** India has its unique cuisine, but the cuisines of foreign countries have become more easily available, they are modified to suit the taste buds of Indians (like Paneer Tikka Burger in McDonalds). This has led to a wide variety of food being available, leading to heterogenization
- French, German and Spanish are taught to students right from school level along with indigenous languages, this is an exemplification of hybridization of culture
- **Movies:** popularity of foreign movies has increased, Hollywood, Chinese, French and Korean movies are quite popular among the urban youth. Along with this, dubbing of these foreign movies in local languages is testimony of increased glocalization.
- **Festivals:** celebrations of Valentines' day, Friendship day are examples of change in cultural values related to festival. However, along with these new days, traditional festivals are celebrated with equal enthusiasm.
- **Marriage:** Importance of marriage is decreasing, there has been an increase in divorce, increase in live-in relationships, and single parenting is increasing. Marriage used to be considered as bonding of the souls; but today marriage is becoming professional and contractual. However, despite change in forms of marriage, it has not declined as an institution.

## 2.2. Revival of Culture

- Revival of Yoga in the country as well as in the international level. This can be seen in the popularity of the 'Art of Living' course by Ravi Shankar, or the celebration of International Yoga day across the world
- There has been a revival of ayurvedic medicines in the country as well as outside it
- Due to increasing uncertainty by inter-linkage with the outside world, there has been religious revivalism. This can be manifested in the use of religion to attract voters, or mobilizing people on the basis of religion.
- Increasing demand for local handicraft products in global market: such as Chikankari or bandhani.
- Due to increasing global tourism, locals are making efforts to preserve their diversity and revive their traditions.

All these changes have led to drastic changes to Indian culture, though most of these changes are confined to the urban areas, but the rural areas are fast catching up. We can see that the western culture is influencing the Indian culture, but it is not replacing it, rather there is a mixture of both cultures.

It is to be noted that culture cannot be seen as an unchanging fixed entity that can either collapse or remain the same when faced with social change. What is more likely even today is that globalization will lead to the creation of not just new local traditions but global ones too.

### 3. Impact of Globalization on Women in India

Globalization affects different groups of women in different places in different ways. On the one hand it may create new opportunities for women to be forerunners in economic and social progress on the other it may take away job opportunities by providing cheaper avenues in the form of assembly line production or outsourcing.

With the advent of global communication networks and cross-cultural exchange there seems to be a change in the status of women albeit not to a very large extent. Globalization has indeed promoted ideas and norms of equality for women that have brought about awareness and acted as a catalyst in their struggle for equitable rights and opportunities.

However, Globalization may exacerbate gender inequality in a patriarchal society, especially in the developing world. In the economic realm it may lead to further marginalization of women in the informal labor sector or impoverishment through loss of traditional sources of income. According to a United Nations Development Fund for Women's report, over the past two decades the process of globalization has contributed to widening inequality within and among countries

#### 3.1. Positive of Globalization

- Opened up broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations into India- this provides more opportunities for women who are becoming a larger part of the workforce
- With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence
- It has increased rate of urbanization. Women in urban areas have become more independent and self-sufficient.
- The lower middle class is experiencing a shift in the way family relations worked. Traditionally women stayed at home taking care of domestic needs and children. Now most of the women are setting out of their private spaces to earn a living. For example: Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India is a union of women laborers willing to work hard and seize any work opportunities they might get
- Feminist movement has spread to India due to globalization, making women more vocal about their ideas.
- Globalization has led increase in education of women, it has led to an improvement in health care facilities, leading to reduction of MMR and IMR
- Different non-profit organizations have been brought to India from around the globe. These organizations have given women the skills they need to advance, such as literacy and vocational skills.
- It has led to an increase in independence of women especially in urban areas. This has been manifested through inter-caste marriages, single mothers, live-in relationships
- The women in rural settings have been influenced by globalization through media and through numerous intervention programs like non-profit organizations, increasing self-confidence of women and motivating them to fight for their rights



- Changes in attitude of women- more acceptance of western clothes, dating has become common in urban areas, increased use of contraception in rural as well as urban areas.

### 3.2. Negative Aspects of Globalization

- Though employment opportunities for women are increasing, they are mostly crowded in low paying jobs, have less social security.
- Women are suffering two fold. As women in developing countries move into the work force, their domestic responsibilities are not alleviated. Women work two full time jobs.
- Exploitation of women in work place has emerged as a new issue
- Globalization has occurred with the persistence of patriarchal mindset of Indians, this has led to problems for women like commodification of women, use of social media to harass women, increase in violence against women
- As consumers, women are increasingly facing a consumer culture which reduces them to commodities and as producers, women are exposed to work exploitation and occupational hazards
- Additionally, prostitution, abuse and dowry related suicides are on the increase despite globalization.

### 4. Impact of Globalization on Youth in India

Globalization offers clear economic opportunities and benefits, but comes with substantial social costs that often appear to affect young people disproportionately, given their tenuous transitional status within an uncertain and rapidly evolving global context.

The majority of India's population is young. The population growth among youth is one of the most critical factors in the way India responds to globalization. Indian youth are fuelling both positive and negative perceptions given to globalization. They are embracing globalization in a way that the previous generation never imagined.

Economic globalization has led to increased urban poverty as people move from the rural areas to the cities in search of opportunity. Youth make up the large majority of urban migrants. Young people are experiencing the encouragement and the freedom to break from traditional family norms and practices of the rural areas to find opportunities in the city.

But youth face a high level of unemployment in urban centres. Young migrants are pushed and pulled into the cities only to find a stressed local economy. In the absence of critical infrastructure many youth suffer from the mismanagement of scarce resources, corruption, and sometimes natural calamities that devastate overpopulated areas. Religious, civic and ethnic conflicts also undermine economic prosperity available in cities, which often directly involve young people.

The primary ambition of young Indians from the smallest villages to the largest cities is to "become rich." Young people hope to achieve this goal through enterprise and education. The most highly regarded careers like civil service, engineering, and medicine are giving way to high-paying jobs in high tech and the media.

Present day youth, with its more materialistic ambitions and more globally informed opinions, are gradually abandoning the austere ways and restricted traditional Indian markets. Youth demand a more cosmopolitan society that is a full-fledged member of the global economy.

In addition to the dynamic, global, economic forces effecting India, globalization has brought change to India's rich culture. Youth see themselves as global teenagers. They belong to a much bigger community than the community they were born into. The younger generation is embracing western popular culture and incorporating it into their Indian identity. There is a subtle and powerful hybridization of western and Indian values occurring – particularly evident among Indian youth.

Consumerism has permeated and changed the traditional beliefs and practices of the Indian people. The traditional Indian dress is declining, especially among urban youth, in favour of new fashions from the west. Buying the latest cars, televisions, electronic gadgets, and trendy clothes has become quite popular. The younger poor population is particularly susceptible to the allure of expensive products seen in advertisements and when they cannot respond to these ads, they get frustrated. Crime can be the result of their frustration.

Globalization also is changing family institutions, and the nuclear family is increasingly the norm. Youth are not as close to their grandparents as were earlier generations and spend less time with the older generation resulting in loss of wisdom handed down from generation to generation.

Globalization has led to an increase in uncertainty among youth; this underlying instability may serve to magnify the tensions and lack of control they experience on a daily basis. Uncertainty is because of the breakdown of traditional norms, weakening of social relations like that of family and marriage, uncertainty in career due to market economy. This has led to an increase in cases of depression and suicide among the youth.

Most religious activities are becoming irrelevant to the youth. They want to see changes in religion. They are not internalizing traditional ideas; rather, they are merely tolerating them. Though they do find some indirect value with religion.

The evaluation of the effects of globalization is as a mixed bag, both good and bad. Economic globalization has improved study and job opportunities and provided greater employment opportunities. But it has also made the poor even poorer. But importantly, there is no going back from globalisation. The youth enjoy having the opportunity to be modern, progressive, and be a part

## 5. Impact of Globalization on Family

Traditionally, in India, the basic unit of society was not individual but the joint family. Ever since independence, Indian Society has undergone and continues to undergo great change in every walk of life. Family is becoming progressively weak due to globalization and individualism is growing rapidly.

### Structure of the family

- Increasing mobility of younger generation in search of new employment and educational opportunities has weakened the family relations. It has led to disintegration of the joint family. Gradual change in family structure from joint/extended families to nuclear family pattern.
- New forms of family are emerging: for example Single parent households, live-in relationship, female headed households, dual-career family (both husband and wife are working) etc.

### Functions of the family

- The family bonding and ties have started loosening due to physical distance as it rendered impracticable for family members to come together as often as earlier. This affected the earlier idealized notion of 'family' as the caring and nurturing unit for children, the sick and elderly.
- With more women joining the workforce system, the care of aged within families has declined.
- Finding partners: younger generations have started depending on internet marriage sites like 'Shadi.com, Bharat Matrimony' etc. Family involvement in finding a groom / bride is reducing. However, the tradition of arranged marriages is still relevant in Indian society.

- Traditionally family served the role of providing education to the younger generation. However this role has been taken over by the specialised institutions due to growing division of labour and specialization of the work.
- However, despite changes in the functions of the family, even today there are certain functions still specific to family i) Primary socialization of children, ii) Agency of social control

### Inter-personal relations

- Traditional authority structure has changed. The head of the family- father/grandfather have started losing their authority to the bread winner of the family
- In nuclear families, there has been a change in marital rules and distributions of powers.
- Total subordination of women to men and strict disciplinarian role of father towards children are changing
- Individualism in younger generation is increasing, many of them don't believe in total surrender of their individual interests to family interests.
- However, due to penetration of technology connectivity with extended kins has improved.

## 6. Impact on Caste System

The traditional caste system is based on the principles of Purity and pollution. It had following characteristics:

- Hierarchy
- Separation of contact
- Occupational division of labour

Due to globalization, there has been changes in the traditional caste system in following ways:

- Due to globalization, there has been expansion of economic opportunities, education and liberal thoughts, which has resulted in weakening of the caste system.
- Inter caste marriages are becoming more common and are being accepted gradually
- Traditional division of labour was breaking down due to industrialization; this was given a boost by globalization.
- Increasing use of modern communication facilities, increased interaction between members of different castes has led to decrease in feeling of Casteism.
- Globalization has resulted into growing urbanization, which has facilitated secular pattern of living and hence impacted "separation of contact" aspect of caste system.

However, despite changes, caste system has shown immense resilience and still continues to exist as one of the significant feature of Indian society.

## 7. Socio-Economic Impact of Globalization

Globalization has intensified interdependence and competition between economies in the world market. This is reflected in Interdependence in regard to trading in goods and services and in movement of capital. As a result domestic economic developments are not determined entirely by domestic policies and market conditions. Rather, they are influenced by both domestic and international policies and economic conditions. Direction and depth of all economic activities in India is now governed largely by global Economy.

### Positive Impact includes

- Policies of Privatization and liberalization of economy, along with the process of globalization, had a dramatic effect on Indian Economy which responded swiftly and positively to these measures. The growth rate of the Indian economy accelerated from 5.29

per cent per annum during the 1980s to 6.06 per cent per annum during 1991-92 to 2005-06. The Indian economy has been recording a growth rate of about 8-9 per cent per annum since 2003-04.

- Globalization has led to an increase in innovations in the economy and has pushed the culture of start-ups in the country.
- Access to global capital resources via the stock market and international debt depending on the economic potential of nations and their markets.
- Sharp reduction in industries reserved exclusively for public sector.
- Decision to go for disinvestment in public sector enterprises thus promoting efficiency and merit.
- Increase in tourism and development of tourist destinations in India- leading to increase in foreign reserves
- Boost to urbanization and industrialization, which has also led to unplanned growth of urban centres leading to formation of more slums.
- Vast expansion of sectors like IT, telecommunication and aviation. A notable revolution has occurred in the telecom sector. In the pre reforms era, this was entirely in the hands of the central government and due to lack of competition, the call charges were quite high. Further, due to lack of funds with the government, the government could never meet the demand for telephones. In fact, a person seeking a telephone connection had to wait for years before he could get a telephone connection.
- The biggest contribution of globalisation is in the field of quality and development of products with various features to suit the Indians. Now wide choices are available to select goods, which has led to better quality of products due to greater competition.
- Access to global capital resources via the stock market and international debt depending on the economic potential of nations and their markets.
- Globalization has improved access to health technology (medicines, vaccines and medical equipments and knowhow). This has led to improvement of health care system. But globalization has also led to a greater threat of spread of communicable diseases like Ebola.
- Globalization has also affected the education sector in India. Globalization has increased the demand for education due to the economic payoffs of higher education to global, science based, knowledge. University training has become more of a necessity to get good job in a globalized world. Moreover, socio-political, demographic and democratic ideals increase pressure on universities to provide access to groups that traditionally have not attended universities. Opening Indian higher education to foreign competition will benefit education sector further.
- In theory, globalisation, by promoting economic growth in developing countries, tends to reduce poverty. Some scholars have argued that 'trade is good for growth, growth is good for the poor and so trade is good for the poor' (Dollar and Kray, 2001). The empirical experience of developing countries generally supports this proposition as the incidence of poverty declined significantly in many fast growing countries like China, India and Vietnam. However, some critics have argued that the reduction of poverty in China was only because of its exceptional growth—in fact, absolute poverty increased in Sub-Saharan Africa and relative poverty has increased in a majority of countries.
- Globalization has through greater exposure liberalized our attitudes, reduced our biases and predispositions about people, situations and communities worldwide.

### Negatives

- Indian Economy has become more vulnerable to global shocks like East Asian crisis 1997, European crisis, Global Financial crisis (2007-08) etc.

- Globalization has adversely affected many established companies (like organisations manufacturing Ambassador Cars or Fiat cars etc) which failed to face competition from established global players.
- Steep and fast reductions in custom duties have snatched large part of Indian market from Indian Industry and passed it on to imports from established global players.
- For its survival in the face of global competition, Indian industry has transformed itself from labour intensive processes to Capital intensive processes by adopting global technologies and automatic machinery. This has resulted in high rate of unemployment in India. Unemployment is the biggest challenge for Indian Government today.
- There has been a tremendous increase in consumerism for goods and services.

We may call globalization, at best, a double edged weapon. It has helped Indian consumers to enjoy all high Quality global brands. It did help Government of India to tide over its serious foreign exchange problem, though temporarily, by enabling it to get loan from World Bank. But critics cite serious erosion of control of Indian Government over its economy and the loss to local Industry as setbacks.

## 7.1. Impact of Globalization on Employment in India

Globalization affects the employment situation through trade liberalisation, through encouraging exports and imports and through increasing incentives for investment and innovation. It also encourages FDI which supplements domestic investment and leads to higher growth of the economy. Globalization, which is often combined with domestic liberalisation, also results in reducing the power of trade unions and encourages informal contractualization and lock outs.

No wonder, the advocates of globalization have always been of the firm view that globalization would result in significant increases in labour intensive exports thereby promoting employment and income generation in developing countries. Simultaneously, larger flows of FDI would result in increased investment in Greenfield areas and would lead to accelerated direct and indirect employment and income growth in the developing countries.

In the Indian context of post economic reforms, the rate of growth of the economy and the rate of growth of employment have accelerated, but the economy as also employment remains undiversified. Both interpersonal and inter-regional income inequalities remain high and seem to have increased. The quality of employment remains very poor for a major portion of workers. The following points may be noted in Indian context:

- Globalization has resulted in **casualization of labour**. Global competition tends to encourage formal firms to shift formal waged workers to informal employment arrangements without minimum wages, assured work or benefits. It encourages informal units to shift workers to piece-rate or casual work arrangements without assured minimum wages, or benefits.
- Real wages of casual labour increased faster than in the past- both among agricultural and industrial workers.
- There has been a **shift in the composition of labour force in favour of the skilled labors**, in general, and more significantly in the unorganised sector. As a natural consequence, labour productivity indicated faster improvement both in organized and unorganised sectors
- **International mobility of labors**: The migration of labours across international boundaries is one of the most striking features of globalization worldwide.
  - Since Independence, migration from India has been characterized by movement of persons with technical skills and professional expertise to the industrialized countries, and flow of unskilled and semi-skilled workers to the oil exporting countries of the Middle East.

- During the 1990s, however, there has been a clear shift in the pattern of labour demand in the Middle East away from unskilled and semi-skilled categories towards service, operations and maintenance workers requiring high skills.
- Besides, there has been a runaway growth in exports of IT and software services from India
- All these have enhanced the employment opportunities for the Indian labour, particularly when the country boasts to have very large pool of English speaking people.
- In the process, sustained remittances from the Indian Diaspora, which is in fact the largest in the world, have imparted an element of stability in the country's balance of payments.
- Woman labour: feminization of the workforce increased after liberalization.
- Child labour: Though undesirable, child labor persists primarily in rural and agricultural activities on account of socio-economic compulsions. But there has been a decline in participation of children aged 5- 14 years in the workforce. There has been a substitution effect, which favors the employability of adult females.
- Industrial relations: Increasingly, consultation, co-operation and consensus are taking the place of coercion and confrontation. This is reflected in the reduced number of man days lost.

## 7.2. Impact of Globalization on Informal sector

Informal sector includes the large amalgam of men and women, who eke out a living unprotected by a regular salary and job security. This includes the large and amorphous category called the self-employed, daily wage laborers, as also those who are salaried employees but do not have job security, wage revisions and other benefits.

- Globalization often leads to shifts from secure self-employment to more precarious self-employment, as producers and traders lose their market niche.
- Globalization tends to benefit large companies which can move quickly and easily across borders but poses disadvantage to labour, especially lower-skilled workers that cannot migrate easily or at all. This puts a pressure on low skilled workers and petty producers by weakening their bargaining power and subjecting them to enhanced competition.
- Lack of opportunities in the formal sector due to lack of skill/education and slow pace of job creation in the country push people to informal sector.
- As more and more men enter the informal economy, women tend to be pushed to the lowest income end of the informal economy.
- Thus, globalization of the economy tends to reinforce the links between poverty, informality, and gender.
- But globalization can also lead to new opportunities for those who work in the informal economy in the form of new jobs for waged workers or new markets for the self-employed.
- There has been a radical restructuring of production and distribution in many key industries characterized by outsourcing or subcontracting through global commodity chains. The net result is that more and more workers are being paid very low wages and many of them have to absorb the non-wage costs of production

However, a collaborative effort on the part of grassroots organizations of those who work in the informal economy with sympathetic representatives of non-governmental, research, government, private sector, and international development organizations is needed to enable the most vulnerable segments of society to seize these opportunities.

## 7.3. Impact of Globalization on Agriculture

With a view to move towards liberalizing the agricultural sector and promoting free and fair trade, India, a member nation of the World Trade organization (WTO) signed the Uruguay



Round Agreements on 1st January 1995. The Agreement On Agriculture of the WTO, was the first multilateral agreement, meant to curb unfair practices in agricultural trade and set off the process of reforms in the agricultural sector.

Indian agriculture has shown a slow average annual growth rate. It was 3.1 % during the decade 1980-1990 prior to liberalization of the economy. But since then the annual growth rates have declined consistently relative to annual growth rate of the population. Several factors were responsible for this fall in growth rate; lack of credit, inadequate irrigation cover, and indebtedness, continuing use of obsolete technology, improper use of inputs and decline in the public investments

Since the non-agricultural sectors of the economy have been growing at a much faster rate than the agricultural sector, this has resulted in a declining share of agriculture in the total GDP. Although the share of agriculture in GDP declined rapidly, its share in employment declined at a much slower rate.

The notable effects of Globalization on Indian agriculture may be listed as under:

- With globalization farmers were encouraged to shift from traditional crops to export-oriented 'cash crops' such as cotton and tobacco but such crops needed far more inputs in terms of fertilizers, pesticides and water.
- Appropriate use of agricultural equipment's, suited to the crops and the region of cultivation, lead to efficient utilization of farm inputs, making farming financially viable and profitable. Though there has been considerable progress in farm mechanization, its spread across the country still remains uneven.
- Introduced new water saving practices in India such as drip irrigation.
- There has been a gradual shift from Subsistence farming to capitalist farming and contract farming
- Increased access to developed country markets. However Indian farmer still find it difficult to export their products to rich countries because of their inferior technology and stringent quality parameters imposed by foreign consumers. (Due to sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, example temporary ban of Mangoes by EU in 2014)
- Seed prices have increased due to entry by seed producing MNCs like Monsanto and Cargill. There are also concerns related to patent rights on seeds. The large scale suicide by Indian farmers in Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana under the burden of heavy loans is attributed to rising cost of inputs and thin margins on profit.
- Trading of agricultural commodities has increased which at times lead to fluctuation of prices of these commodities.
- It has led to feminization of agriculture.

## 8. Globalization and Environment

The architects of globalization have ignored the social, biological and physical constraints on their created system. Critics of globalization have noted that global free trade promotes the social and economic conditions most likely to undermine its own existence. The same can be said of the biological and physical limiting factors-especially, in the short term, the dwindling supplies of cheap energy.

The effects of Globalization on environment include, but are not limited to, reduced genetic diversity in agriculture (loss of crop varieties and livestock breeds), loss of wild species, spread of exotic species, pollution of air, water and soil, accelerated climatic change, exhaustion of resources, and social and spiritual disruption.

## 8.1. Ways in Which Globalization Affects Environment

- Globalization has led to an increase in the consumption of products, which has impacted the ecological cycle. Increased consumption leads to an increase in the production of goods, which in turn puts stress on the environment.
- Globalization has also led to an increase in the transportation of raw materials and food from one place to another. The amount of fuel that is consumed in transporting these products has led to an increase in the pollution levels in the environment. It has also led to several other environmental concerns such as noise pollution and landscape intrusion. Transportation has also put a strain on the non-renewable sources of energy.
- Ozone layer depletion and enhanced greenhouse effect pose additional challenges.
- The industrial waste that is generated as a result of production has is dumped in oceans. This has killed many underwater organisms and has deposited many harmful chemicals in the ocean. Oil spills from oil tankers threat pose threat to marine environment.
- Due to globalization and industrialization, various chemicals have been thrown into the soil. This toxic waste has caused a lot of damage to plants by interfering in their genetic makeup. It has put pressure on the available land resources.
- In various parts of the world, mountains are being cut to make way for a passing tunnel or a highway. Vast barren lands have been encroached upon to pave way for new buildings.
- Globalization increases the vulnerability of ecosystems and societies, and the least resilient ecosystems. The livelihoods of the poorest communities are most at risk.

It is important to highlight that not only does globalization impact the environment, but the environment impacts the pace, direction and quality of globalization. For example: environmental resources provide the fuel for economic globalization. Similarly social and policy responses to global environmental challenges constrain and influence the context in which globalization happens.

## 8.2. Ways in Which Environment Affects Globalization

- Natural resource scarcity or/and abundance are drivers of globalization, as they incite supply and demand forces in global markets.
- The need for environmental amelioration can extract costs from economy and siphon resources away from development goals.
- Environmental stress can trigger alternative technological paths, e.g., dematerialization, alternative energy, etc., which may not have otherwise emerged.
- Environmental standards influence patterns of trade and investment nationally and internationally.

The current debate on globalization has become de-linked from its environmental roots and contexts. These links between environment and globalization need to be re-examined and recognized. To ignore these links is to misunderstand the full extent and nature of globalization and to miss out on critical opportunities to address some of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by humanity.

## 9. Way Forward

International trade in goods and ideas will and should continue, but the only form of globalization that is acceptable is one that unites nations in meeting global threats and in preserving the environments, life forms and civilizations of this planet.

## 10. Vision IAS GS Mains Test Series Questions

### 1. *How has globalization affected Indian culture? Does it pose a threat to our indigenous crafts and knowledge systems?*

#### Approach:

- The first part demands briefly explaining what culture is. A short definition such as “a way of life” would suffice. Then explain that it has been affected by globalization in three ways primarily – some parts of culture have been wiped out, some new elements such as new festivals have become its part and finally some existing elements have been enriched
- Second part must deal with cases of intellectual property theft such as bio-piracy and exploitation of local crafts (buying cheap, selling dear by the MNCs)
- Finally, suggest some measures to counter this threat such as traditional knowledge digital library must be mentioned.

#### Answer:

There are divergent views on the cultural dimensions of reforms in the content of globalization. Three clashing notions of cultural change have been identified in Indian context in the era of globalization.

- **Homogenization:** It refers to increasing global interdependence & interconnectedness which would lead towards growing cultural standardization & uniformisation for e.g.: increasing homogeneity of world values (market competition, human rights, commodification); Cocacolisation, Walmartization, Corporate culture, fast food chains, concept of e-money etc.
- **Cultural Clash:** The market-centred globalization is making deep inroads into local & regional cultures, which is seen as a threat by many. As a result, there is increasing assertion of identities to defend against onslaught of globalization for eg : Reactionary movements like assertion by elders against western culture of live-in-relationship or against public display of affection.
- **Glocalisation:** It emphasises on the process of translocal cultural mixing, manifested in cultural heterogeneity and hybridisation e.g. Mcdonalidization (Mcdonald's going vegetarian during Navratris etc.); resorting to both allopathic & homeopathic treatments; knowledge economy.

Moreover, Indian society has also witnessed in recent times rebirth of many long – lost culture for e.g.: Yoga, Transcendental meditation etc.

Globalization is generally perceived as an attempt to establish cultural imperialism and hence considered as a threat to Indigenous craft & knowledge systems.

For e.g. Many theatre groups have become defunct, traditional weavers and craftsman due to their inability to invest in technology have failed to adapt to the changing customer tastes.

However, it is in the realm of knowledge systems globalization poses a real challenge. In India various forms of traditional knowledge systems especially in the fields of medicine and agriculture have been preserved and passed on from one generation to the other. Recent attempts by some multi-national companies to patent the use of Tulsi, Haldi (turmeric), Rudraksha and Basmati rice has highlighted the need for protecting the base of its indigenous knowledge systems. To protect its indigenous crafts and knowledge systems, the Government of India has initiated a project to identify and digitalize all such knowledge.

Thus globalization can be both helpful as well as detrimental to Indian culture and its crafts and knowledge systems. It's incumbent upon the governments to frame policies which maximized the benefits and minimizes the losses for its citizen.

## 2. *Intensified globalization has resulted in a transformation of youth in India. Comment.*

### **Approach:**

- Answer should focus on effect of globalisation on youth and not a general debate on globalisation.
- Coverage should include all aspects like cultural and social along with economic aspects.

**Answer:** [Student Note: Answer is long to discuss major points of the issue.]

- The majority of India's population is young. The population growth among youth is one of the most critical factors in the way India responds to globalization. Indian youth are fuelling both positive and negative perceptions given to globalization. They are embracing globalization in a way that the previous generation never imagined.
- Economic globalization has led to increased urban poverty as people move from the rural areas to the cities in search of opportunity. Youth make up the large majority of urban migrants. Young people are experiencing the encouragement and the freedom to break from traditional family norms and practices of the rural areas to find opportunities in the city.
- But youth face a high level of unemployment in urban centres. Young migrants are pushed and pulled into the cities only to find a stressed local economy. In the absence of critical infrastructure many youth suffer from the mismanagement of scarce resources, corruption, and sometimes natural calamities that devastate overpopulated areas. Religious, civic and ethnic conflicts also undermine economic prosperity available in cities, which often directly involve young people.
- The primary ambition of young Indians from the smallest villages to the largest cities is to "become rich." Young people hope to achieve this goal through enterprise and education. The most highly regarded careers like civil service, engineering, and medicine are giving way to high-paying jobs in high tech and the media.
- Present day youth, with its more materialistic ambitions and more globally informed opinions, are gradually abandoning the austere ways and restricted traditional Indian markets. Youth demand a more cosmopolitan society that is a full-fledged member of the global economy.
- In addition to the dynamic, global, economic forces effecting India, globalization has brought change to India's rich culture. Youth see themselves as global teenagers. They belong to a much bigger community than the community they were born into. The younger generation is embracing western popular culture and incorporating it into their Indian identity. There is a subtle and powerful hybridization of western and Indian values occurring – particularly evident among Indian youth.
- Consumerism has permeated and changed the traditional beliefs and practices of the Indian people. The traditional Indian dress is declining, especially among urban youth, in favour of new fashions from the west. Buying the latest cars, televisions, electronic gadgets, and trendy clothes has become quite popular. The younger poor population is particularly susceptible to the allure of expensive products seen in

advertisements and when they cannot respond to these ads, they get frustrated. Crime can be the result of their frustration.

- Globalization also is changing family institutions, and the nuclear family is increasingly the norm. Youth are not as close to their grandparents as were earlier generations and spend less time with the older generation resulting in loss of wisdom handed down from generation to generation.
- Most religious activities are becoming irrelevant to the youth. They want to see changes in religion. They are not internalizing traditional ideas; rather, they are merely tolerating them. Though they do find some indirect value with religion.
- The evaluation of the effects of globalization is as a mixed bag, both good and bad. Economic globalization has improved study and job opportunities and provided greater employment opportunities. But it has also made the poor even poorer. But importantly, there is no going back from globalisation. The youth enjoy having the opportunity to be modern, progressive, and be a part of the development which is taking place. Indians should formulate popular strategies to influence state policies stressing the need to wipe out illiteracy, to develop educational facilities, and to train young people in skills according to the new trends.

**3. Critically evaluate if globalization is transforming “social inequalities” into “economic inequalities”.**

**Approach:**

The answer should seek to define social inequalities and their relationship with globalisation. The student should also critically examine whether globalisation is really transforming social inequalities into economic inequalities. Specific examples can be given in the global and Indian context to support your answer.

**Answer:**

- Social inequality refers to the ways in which socially-defined categories of persons (according to characteristics such as gender, age, class and ethnicity) are differentially positioned with regard to access to a variety of social ‘goods’, such as the labour market and other sources of income, the education and healthcare systems, and forms of political representation and participation.
- The current process of globalisation has resulted in the globalisation of national policies and policy-making mechanisms of national governments. Under pressure from international organisations and MNCs the national governments have had to restructure their economies which demands more thrust on free trade and less spending on social sector. Governments have had to reduce expenditures on social sectors such as education, healthcare, sanitation, transportation etc. Hence, social inequalities particularly in developing economies continue to fester as government’s role in ensuring social justice is reduced.
- On the other hand, the net result of the globalisation and its attendant processes of liberalisation and privatisation has been the concentration of wealth in the hands of few as economic inequalities widens across both the developed and developing world.
- Also, this growing economic inequality is positively correlated with the social inequalities based on gender, age, class and ethnicity. Examples of this phenomenon are:

- Feminisation of labour force, i.e. concentration of women in low-paid jobs labour-intensive or service-intensive jobs in apparel, shoe-making, semiconductor assembling jobs and in the hospitality sector.
- Casualisation or informalisation of work force leading to low wages for labourers and less job security.
- Reduction in pensions and other forms of social support for the elderly.
- Huge gaps between the incomes of the dominant racial groups and the minority racial groups/immigrants particularly in western countries.
- In conclusion, it can be argued that globalisation has neither led to the eradication of social inequalities, nor led to its transformation. Rather, globalisation has led to a situation where a socially deprived person is more and more likely to be economically deprived too.

**4. *Instead of ushering in a classless society, globalization has in fact brought about a distinct class divide and also strengthened the caste system in India. Critically examine.***

**Approach:** The following sub-questions need to be answered:

- What is globalization?
- How does it bring about a class divide?
- How has caste system fared in the era of globalization?

**Answer:**

Globalization involves the free movements of goods, services and capital across borders. It is a contentious process and some groups of scholars and activists view globalization as an ideological project of economic liberalization that subjects states and individuals to more intense market forces.

The proponents of globalization have argued that by bringing greater opportunities to people, globalization decreases the social and economic equality between people and alleviates the problems of poverty and hunger. However there have been opposite effects as well as listed below:

- Globalization has led to widening income inequalities, as measured by India's increasing Gini coefficient. This has contributed to the solidification of class structure in Indian society
  - Globalization has led to the informalisation/contractualisation of labour in industry which has further widened the gap between salaried professionals (the middle class), capitalists (the upper class) and the lower classes
  - There has been a growth of capitalist farming in rural areas which has widened inequality between the capitalist farmer and the peasant and also between different regions in India
  - Globalization has led to the growth of a distinct middle class which is populated by professionals (in sectors such as IT, BPO), smaller capitalists and traders. This class has developed its own subculture which has characteristics such as achievement-orientation, focus on higher education and consumerism
  - In India, caste structure has certain parallels with the class structure. Therefore, the upper classes or capitalist farmers are the erstwhile middle castes in regions such as Punjab, Haryana and Western UP. Similarly, the urban middle class nurtured by globalization is dominated by the traditional upper castes



such as Brahmins and Vaishyas, at the expense of the lower castes (SCs) and tribes.

- Globalization has also brought about information technology and the internet which have also helped, though indirectly, in consolidating and even promoting caste solidarity e.g. matrimonial websites help in locating same-caste grooms for people in different regions of the country. Similarly, caste-based forums are mushrooming on the web and social media.

However, Globalization to some extent has spread the values of equality, freedom and liberty of every human being. These values in a sense militate against the caste structure of India which is based on the principles of tradition, hierarchy and inequality. Also, the jajmani system which was hitherto an important component of the caste system has lost some of its vitality with the growth in employment opportunities for all sections of population. Hence the overall impact of globalization on caste and class distinctions has been mixed.

**5. “Globalization will end up making all cultures of the world homogeneous”. Critically examine the statement taking examples from socio-cultural and economic life of India.**

**Approach:**

The question wants to elicit an understanding of multiple responses of globalization from homogenization/standardization to Hybridization/Globalization.

- Introduce the answer by discussing the process of globalization and how it aids in spreading cultural uniformity or homogeneity.
- Then discuss specifically how this process has elicited multiple responses i.e. i) Homogenization ii) Glocalization iii) Spreading of Indian culture in the West.
- In the end also discuss briefly that how Globalization has negatively impacted Indian culture. (because the question is critically examine) and then conclude the answer.

**Answer:**

Due to economic liberalization and globalization, the world has become a “global village”. As social relations expand globally through the creation of global networks and communities, as technologies of communication and transportation make a wide range of standardized products available to global audiences, societies become more homogenous, more alike.

Cultural homogeneity due to globalization in India can be seen at 2 levels:

- Socio-cultural level:** Certain common values of Globalization like modernization, promotion of democracy, promotion of English, food habits (macdonaldization, pizza culture) consumerism (mall culture, inroads of various international brands in India ) etc. have led to the uniformity and imposed American culture and way of life everywhere. Use of ‘English’ as a global language has been rapidly increasing Many Indian restaurants are keeping cuisines belong to different parts of the world.
- Economic level:** The spread of MNCs, corporate culture has made inroads in the economic life and work culture in India. The opportunities opened up by the information technology revolution has created in the metropolitan cities in India class of upwardly mobile professionals working in software firms, multinational banks, stock markets, and other allied fields.

Globalization has not only led to imposing of Western and modern ideas in India but also led to Glocalization (refers to the mixing of the global with the local). In India, we find that all the foreign television channels like Star, MTV, Channel V and Cartoon Network use Indian languages. Even McDonald sells only vegetarian and chicken products in India and not its beef products, which are popular abroad. McDonald's goes vegetarian during the Navaratri festival. In the field of music, one can see the growth of popularity of 'Bhangra pop', 'Indi pop', fusion music and even remixes. Many English movies being dubbed in Hindi to increase the marketability and to cater to large number of audiences.

Also, due to the process of Globalization, there has been an impulse towards understanding the local cultures and preserving them which help in spreading Indian culture in the West. Global tourism is spurring cultural revival as well as homogeneity in response to touristic demands, and also helping in preserving diversity. Indian's spiritual and cultural power like YOGA, AYURVEDA, Meditation, spirituality, etc. has spread and become global. eg. Sri Sri Ravishankar, Ramdev have become 'global-gurus' and are aiding in exchange of spiritual ideas, naturopathy, yoga, etc. which are increasingly becoming popular and are also being adapted by the people all across the world.

However, the Indian society and its culture is drastically changing as a result of globalization due to following reasons-Contemporary changes are taking place like from Joint families, more number of nuclear families are becoming a norm; youth are increasingly becoming westernized and consumerist in their thinking, clash of values among the elders leading to 'generation-gap'; many marriages are breaking up for many reasons like modern lifestyles, professional ambitions and unrealistic expectations; TV channels or Mass Media, Internet, 'FTV MTV' culture etc. have often been accused of leading to 'cultural degeneration' of Indian society esp. among youths.

Thus, despite the negative fallouts of globalization on Indian culture, we can say that culture cannot be seen as an unchanging fixed entity that can either collapse or remain the same when faced with social change. What is more likely even today is that globalisation will lead to the creation of not just new local traditions but global ones too.

**6. Discuss the impact of globalization on mass media in India. Also examine whether cinema influences society or it is vice-versa.**

**Approach:**

- First of all, give an introduction of globalization and bring out in brief its evolution in India.
- Then analyze how it has affected the various forms of mass media.
- Finally analyze the influence of cinema on society and vice-versa.

**Answer:**

Globalization is a process by which various cultures, societies and economies get integrated in a global network of trade and communication. Globalization in India followed the Liberalization of economy in 1990's. It has transformed the mass media landscape by enormous growth in quantity and quality of media content available for consumption.

The various forms of mass media have been impacted by Globalization in different ways:

- **Print Media** - The easy availability of print media like newspapers, magazine, and books from across the world has immensely helped in spreading information. Related **issues** include copyright infringements, issues of journalistic standards, ownership of publishing houses by industrialists and politicians etc.
- **Broadcast media** - Liberalization of economy and consequent growth in the number of global players led to the exponential growth in the number of television channels - both Indian and foreign, thus giving more options to consumers.
  - Indian cinema became a powerful vehicle for culture, education, leisure and propaganda.
  - Boost to Indian television industry as globalization occurred.
  - Role of All India radio in reaching out to residents of other countries. For example "Akashvani Maitree"

**Challenges** in Broadcast media include cultural-imperialism, crumbling of journalistic and investigative reporting and concentration of power with few media houses.

- **Digital Media-Internet and mobile mass media** - Internet is quickly becoming the center of mass media in India. Internet has affected the traditional pattern of social interaction by capturing the social space via social websites like Facebook, twitter, Instagram whereas at the same time it has greatly increased threats like cybercrime and fraud etc.

#### **Cinema influences society or vice versa**

Cinema undoubtedly is reflective of the society itself. The themes of cinema change with region and time. For example, post-independence Indian movies captured the growing pains of infant democracy while 1970-80's displayed common man's struggle with the system.

Cinema on the other hand also influences society by diffusing culture and creating awareness about sensitive and controversial topics ranging from illiteracy, corruption gender disparity, environment degradation, communalism etc. However, sometimes it leads to proliferation of crimes, especially juvenile delinquency, so need is to filter it as a medium of conveying right message to its target audience.

7. ***Even though globalisation has led to increased employment opportunities for women, it has also created a new set of challenges for women workers. Discuss with examples.***

#### **Approach:**

- Briefly state the definition of globalisation and its impact on Indian society as a whole.
- In the main body, discuss the status and growth of employment opportunities for women in the wake of globalisation.
- Highlight the multiple forms of challenges faced by women workers in the changed economic scenario along with relevant examples.
- Briefly suggest some measures to overcome these challenges, so as to enable women to reap the benefits offered by globalisation in the coming future.

#### **Answer:**

- **Globalisation** is a process in which people and countries are getting integrated economically and culturally, through trade, labor, information technology, travel, cultural exchanges, and mass media. . Besides other sections of Indian society, the

wave of globalisation has also touched economic and social lives of women profoundly. It has opened up various avenues for women workers-

- **Formal sector-** Various MNCs have opened up multiple economic pathways for women, thus making them more mobile and economically independent.
- **Informal sector-** Due to strengthened trade and export flows, absorption of women in main economic fold has grown significantly. **Kutchcraft**, an association of 110 craftswomen's groups has generated over 6,000 job opportunities since India embarked on the path of globalisation.
- New jobs and higher pays, raise self-confidence, economic independence, and enhanced decision making power in financial and family settings. It has promoted equality between sexes, and challenged gender stereotypes.
- Globalization has a darker side as well as seen from following challenges-
  - Gender inequalities in form of **wage differentials** and **lesser career** mobility in formal sector of economy. Unemployment, underemployment and temporary work are more common among women than among men.
  - **Health Hazards-** Since availability of work is irregular particularly in unorganized sector, women are forced to work for 12 hours which gives rise to respiratory problems, pelvic inflammatory disease etc.
  - **Patriarchal attitude and cultural norms-** Challenged by globalization often manifested in the form of violence, sexual offences, glass ceiling, domestic and workplace harassment etc.
  - **Gender insensitivity-** Maternity benefits and minimum wages provisions are rarely enforced.
  - Working in nights-Inadequate transport facilities and security for women working with call centers and EPZs makes them more vulnerable to crimes.
  - **Mechanisation-** Several traditional industries where women work in large numbers like handloom and food processing have undergone changes in the forms of production with introduction of machines, power looms etc.
  - Informalization: 95% of female workers are in unorganized sector. Globalisation has led to many MNCs outsourcing their production to cheap labor countries like India. For ex: sports, apparel etc. These women don't have protection from labor laws or unions to articulate their problems.

In India, GDP could rise by 8% if the female/male ratio of workers went up by 10%. In the long run, it is necessary to mitigate the negative consequence of globalisation by enhancing women's skills, innovations, developing policies and insurance products to minimize risks, so as to create an enduring environment for their economic and social empowerment.

## 11. Previous Year UPSC GS Mains Questions

1. Critically examine the effect of globalization on the aged population in India.
2. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India?
3. To what extent globalisation has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.

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# WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VULNERABLE SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION BY THE CENTRE AND STATES AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE SCHEMES; MECHANISMS, LAWS, INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES CONSTITUTED FOR THE PROTECTION AND BETTERMENT OF THESE VULNERABLE SECTIONS

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## 1. Vulnerable Sections

The term **vulnerability** is defined as “proneness to harm or damage originating from external forces”. According to a widely quoted description, vulnerable groups are: “Groups that experience a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population. Ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled people, the homeless, those struggling with substance abuse, isolated elderly people and children all often face difficulties that can lead to further social exclusion, such as low levels of education and unemployment or underemployment”.

In **common understanding**, **vulnerable sections** are those sections of population who are at higher risk of suffering due to imperfect or unjust system - social, political, cultural, economic, physical, family structure, environmental or any other factor that has a bearing on these groups. Some common characteristics of vulnerability faced by these vulnerable sections are as follows:

- They, as a **group**, are vulnerable
- This vulnerability is due to **many factors** - socio-cultural, economic
- This vulnerability is **systematic and structured**

**Various groups** in India can be **included under vulnerable sections** viz.- children, women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minorities, senior citizens, disabled persons, LGBT communities, poor persons etc.

## 2. Rationale of Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections

### Constitutional and Philosophical Basis

- **Preamble** to the Constitution of India seeks to ensure “**Justice**, social, economic and political” and “**Equality** of status and of opportunity”.
- **Fundamental Rights** in various articles provide for various rights such as – Right to Equality, Right to Live with Dignity, Right to Education, Right against Untouchability, Right against Exploitation etc.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy** also enjoins upon the state the primary responsibility of welfare of all its citizens, in effect, making it a **Welfare State**.
- **Various Conventions under United Nations** also provides for state support to vulnerable sections, like - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Humanitarian Grounds

- These vulnerable sections **need special assistance and care** from the state for their well-being.
- Without state help, they will have to **face many disadvantages** and will **not** be able to **avail fair and equal life choices** as those enjoyed by other citizens.

### Economic Imperative

- **Inclusive Growth** - Inclusive growth is necessary for high economic growth and they in fact hold a symbiotic relationship with each other.
- The **objective** of inclusive growth will **remain unfulfilled** if these sections are not provided help.
- Welfare schemes **protect the poor and disadvantaged and equip the labour force** in the lower rungs of the skill/economic welfare thus enabling them to better participate in the process of **accelerating economic growth**.

### Nation Building

- Vulnerable sections will always be at a disadvantage which will lead to lower quality of life and choices enjoyed by them, which will lead to **resentment and friction in the society**.

- These sections will see the socio-cultural and political system as unjust and it will **hinder the work of nation building** and **instilling a feeling of oneness in all citizens**.

### 3. Vulnerable Sections of Society

#### 3.1. Children

All children due to their age are considered to be at risk for exploitation, abuse, violence and neglect. However, children in especially difficult circumstances including orphans and street children, refugee or displaced children, child workers, children trapped in prostitution or sexual abuse, disabled children and delinquent children are particularly vulnerable.

But vulnerability cannot be defined simply by age. While the term vulnerable children refer to an age group that is considered at risk, but vulnerability of children is further compounded by the following factors:

- Physical disabilities
- Mental disabilities
- Provocative behaviours: due to ignorance or misunderstanding of children's mental health or behavioural problems, some people can become irritated or frustrated and hence lash out against children or neglect them completely.
- Powerlessness: comes of the situations and people that surround the children. If a child is given the power by the state, family or community to participate and fulfil their own rights and responsibilities they are less vulnerable.
- Defencelessness: comes from the lack of protection provided by the state or parents or community. If there is no child abuse law then how is a child suppose to defend himself/herself against abuse.
- Passivity: due to situation or treatment of the child. For example, a child who is enslaved or oppressed does not have the ability to seek help or protection.
- Illness
- Invisible: Children who the system doesn't even recognise are highly vulnerable.
- Younger children, especially those below the age of six, are much more dependent on the protection system.

Vulnerable children in India face further problems, such as the following:

- Some of them are exploited as **child labourers**
- Children facing poverty and discrimination are more vulnerable to **malnutrition, bad health, poor educational facilities, poor resources**, thus **restricting their freedoms and opportunities**
- Girl babies are at an even greater disadvantage due to prevailing **social norms** that tend to value males much more than females, which leads to son 'preference'
- A girl child faces different forms of violence like infanticide, neglect of nutrition needs, lack of education and healthcare facilities etc.

#### Facts about Children

- 1 in 4 children of school-going age is out of school in our country (Census 2011)
- There are 33 million child labourers between the ages of 5-18 years in India and 10.13 million between the ages of 5-14 years. (Census 2011)
- Every day, around 150 children go missing in India – kidnapping and abduction is the largest crime against children in our country (National Crime Record Bureau 2016)
- 19.8 million children below age 6 in India are undernourished (ICDS 2015)
- 38% (1 in 3) of children between 0-5 years are stunted in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 42% of married women in India were married as children (District Information System for Education (DISE) 3)

### 3.1.1. Schemes Related to Children

#### Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

This centrally sponsored scheme was launched on October 2, 1975 for **early childhood care** by providing for supplementary nutrition, immunization and pre-school education to the children.

##### Objectives

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; 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.

##### Beneficiaries

- Children in the age group of 0-6 years
- Pregnant women and Lactating mothers

The ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services, viz. supplementary nutrition; pre-school non-formal education; nutrition & health education; immunization; health check-up; and referral services.

##### Performance Evaluation of ICDS

The services under the ICDS scheme are provided at the platform of Anganwadi Centre (AWC). As per a report by Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of NITI Aayog submitted in June 2015, ICDS covers 8.4 crore out of the total 16.45 crore children of age below 6 years in the country and 1.91 crore pregnant and lactating mothers through 7,066 projects and 13.42 lakh AWCs. Major highlights of report are following-

- It was found that 75.7% of AWCs are maintaining records properly, however, problems were noticed in records maintained by the remaining 24.3% of AWCs.
- It was noticed that 99% of AWCs are providing mothers counselling on the child healthcare and 68.6% of AWCs are intervening on children's malnutrition.
- Further, 22.5% of AWCs do not have the required medicines for the children.
- Scrutiny of health records maintained by AWCs for the month of December, 2013 revealed 74.6 %, 19.7 % and 5.7 % of children had Normal (N), moderately malnourished (MM) and severely malnourished (SM) health respectively.
- The on the spot weight measurement carried out by the evaluation teams during April, 2014 revealed that 77.4 %, 17.6% and 5 % of the sample children had N, MM and SM health status.
- Physical verification of the infrastructure and supports provided to AWCs revealed that 59% of them have adequate space, and thus the remaining 41% have either shortage of space or unsuitable accommodation. It was also found that 40% of AWCs have their own accommodation and the remaining 60% are located in rented accommodations.
- Study found that 86.3% of AWCs have drinking water facilities and the remaining 13.7% do not have safe drinking water facilities. Further, the hygiene conditions at AWCs require improvement as only 48.2% of them are maintaining good hygiene condition.

##### Suggestions

- Adequate space should be provided to accommodate the enrolled children and the Centers should be located at a convenient and hygiene friendly area of the locality.

- AWC accommodation should be equipped with proper facilities viz. sanitation facilities, safe drinking water, toilets, sufficient medicines, electricity/power supply, playing instruments/toys, etc. The centers should be protected with boundary walls or barbed wires.
- Adequate number of workers should be engaged in each AWC. The monthly honorarium fixed for AWC workers/helpers seems to need enhancement. Further, the AWC workers should not be deployed for other works.
- Regular training should be provided to AWC workers and their supervisors. Further they should get refresher training to handle registers and other records independently.
- Doctors should visit AWCs regularly.
- AWCs should keep complete health records of all the children enrolled with them. At present, AWCs are required to maintain around 30 registers which appears to be too many. Review should be carried out to reduce/minimize their number.
- The mothers of the malnourished children should be provided regular counselling.
- On the spot monitoring and supervision of centers should be done by the Block and District level Officers regularly.
- Food provided at AWCs should be of good qualities and nutrition. Enhancement of financial norms may increase the quality of AWC food. Provision of LPG gas for cooking purpose may also be supplied to every AWC.

### Conclusion

The Union Government has been spending thousands of crore of rupees every year through the networks of AWCs for reducing malnutrition among the children from the age group of zero to five+ years. One of the important findings of the study is that the children in the Normal grade are found to be 77.4% of the total sample size which means that in spite of a lot of bottlenecks, the malnutrition has been reduced among the children of 0 to 5 years of age. As envisaged from the field study, people are well aware of the ICDS Programme and are sending their children to AWCs. However, the children from remote areas are not able to avail these facilities. The opening of public nursery school in urban and rural areas poses a great threat to the enrollment of children in AWCs nowadays unless the infrastructural and other facilities of AWCs are upgraded. The working conditions and remuneration of AWC workers needs to be looked at sympathetically.

### Integrated Child Protection Scheme

Integrated Child Protection Scheme is being implemented by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 2009-10. It is based on the cardinal principles of "protection of child rights" and the "best interest of the child". Its objective is of creating a safe and secure environment for children in conflict with law as well as children in need of care and protection. It is a comprehensive scheme to bring several existing child protection programmes under one umbrella, with improved norms. Key programmatic components of the ICPS include:

- Emergency outreach services through the Childline 1098 helpline
- Open shelters for children in urban and semi-urban areas
- Family based non institutional care through sponsorship, foster-care, adoption and after-care,
- Institutional care through children's homes, shelter homes, observation homes, special homes and specialised homes for children with special needs, and
- Grant-in-aid for specific need-based or innovative projects.

## Performance Evaluation of ICPS

A report published by "Save The Children" has highlighted following points about the implementation of ICPS:

### Benefits

- The implementation of the ICPS has resulted in creditable improvement in the funding and monitoring of childcare institutions (CCIs), as well as in the functioning of statutory bodies like CWCs and JJBs.
- As a programme, the ICPS has aided in the improvement of the existing infrastructure for child protection. Yet, the scheme is still very much in a scale up mode.

### Challenges

- The Scheme has been marred by limited capacity and poor fund utilization.
- Survey for vulnerability mapping is a key mandate for the District Child Protection Units. However, budget for the same under ICPS is a constraint.
- Presently, crucial aspects of the scheme of high relevance for street children, such as foster care, sponsorship programmes and after care for older children remain highly underdeveloped.
- Emergency outreach services through the Childline 1098 helpline are also facing issues of inaccessibility, especially after the advent of mobiles and vanishing of PCOs. Access to these numbers has become difficult for street children and the homeless.
- There has also been little focus on the training and sensitisation of functionaries and awareness generation activities.

As a result, despite its commendable aims, the ICPS lacks a structured mechanism to reach out to children in need of care and protection through proactive and sustained efforts for their identification, rescue and rehabilitation.

## Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)

The programme seeks to open new schools in those habitations which do not have schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure through provision of additional class rooms, toilets, drinking water, maintenance grant and school improvement grants. Existing schools with inadequate teacher strength are provided with additional teachers, while the capacity of existing teachers is being strengthened by extensive training, grants for developing teaching-learning materials and strengthening of the academic support structure at a cluster, block and district level. SSA seeks to provide quality elementary education including life skills. SSA has a special focus on girl's education and children with special needs. SSA also seeks to provide computer education to bridge the digital divide.

## Performance Evaluation of SSA

- Significant reduction in the number of out-of-school children on account of SSA interventions has been noted. The number of out-of-school children has come down from 134.6 lakh in 2005 to 81.5 lakh in 2009 as per an independent study conducted by the Social and Rural Research Institute (SRI)-International Marketing Research Bureau (IMRB).
- The RTE Act stipulates to have a school within 1 km of radius of every habitat to ensure every child gets the opportunity of having a school within his habitation which has made positive dent in availability of schools.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said the country has progressed the most in the world in sending children to schools by committed implementation of its right to education law and universal elementary education programme.

- India has made the largest progress (in absolute terms) by any country in the world reducing out-of-school (children) numbers from 20 million in 2000 to 2.3 million in 2006, and (around) 1.7 million in 2017.

Despite the progress made in SSA, there are some shortcomings and problems as well. The status of education in India in various reports highlights the following:

- Many schools set up under the stipulation of 1 km radius did not have the required number of students to have separate rooms for each class. In some cases, four classes were operational with only two teachers in two classrooms.
- A single school instead of many schools nearby could have served the purpose better with optimization of resources to augment better infrastructural facilities.
- Parents prefer to send their sons to private schools where as the girl child is sent to government schools.
- Though enrolment rate has increased but attendance rate was around 76.0 per cent in 2009-10 and the dropout rate was nearly 40.6 per cent in 2010-11 at the upper primary level. Thus SSA has failed to achieve its goals in bigger states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- The ASER report says there has not been much progress in compliance with various RTE-related norms. Despite the increase in SSA infrastructure budget, the proportion of schools with shortfall in the number teachers, classrooms, drinking water facilities, kitchen/shed, playground, complete boundary wall, a separate room for the headmaster has not increased much or remained more or less unchanged.

#### Way Forward

- The stipulation of having schools within 1 km radius of every habitat needs to be reconsidered to avoid mushrooming of schools nearby without adequate infrastructure and teachers.
- What is needed is only the transport facility and not a school for every 1 km radius of habitat.
- There is also a need to have teachers who can teach special subjects like Maths and English

#### Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme

Mid-day meal (MDM) is a wholesome freshly-cooked lunch served to children in government and government-aided schools in India. Mid-Day Meal Scheme aims to:

- avoid classroom hunger
- increase school enrolment
- increase school attendance
- improve socialisation among castes
- address malnutrition
- empower women through employment

#### Performance Evaluation of MDM

**Positive results of MDM have been following:**

- The MDM scheme is working well with some schools even using donations to supplement this effort and serve better food.
- While some schools had good storage facilities like tin boxes, some schools used gunny bags and did not have proper doors for the store rooms.
- However, greater involvement of teaching staff for this activity was at the cost of their primary activity of teaching. So teaching staff should be involved only in the supervision of serving of meals to students.



- Delivery of foodgrains to the schools should be the responsibility of the PDS dealers under the supervision of panchayats to ensure good quality and adequate quantity.
- The midday meal scheme has succeeded in improving nutritional status of school going children and enhanced school attendance enrolment and retention especially for girls and children of disadvantaged groups (SCs and STs) .

### Challenges of MDM

- Unhygienically cooked and under-nutritious foods are major issues affecting the scheme. The cooks in government schools do not wear caps or gloves, and are not checked for disease. This could lead to food poisoning.
- Some schools do not have adequate infrastructure and have no running water.
- The scheme suffers from structural problems, the biggest being the lack of a proper monitoring mechanism and lack of proper accountability.
- There is no clear defined structure, and every state runs it functions according to its wish. Besides the huge corruption at all levels is destroying the scheme.
- Most of the states, it was observed, did not follow the guidelines of Government of India to deliver foodgrains at the school point by PDS dealer, thereby resulting in the leakage of foodgrains.

### Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour

PENCIL is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.

#### Components of the PENCIL

- Child Tracking System
- Complaint Corner
- State Government
- National Child Labour Project and
- Convergence

### National Child Labour Project (NCLP)

NCLP is a project of Ministry of Labour. Its basic objective is to suitably rehabilitate the children withdrawn from employment thereby reducing the incidence of child labour in areas of known concentration of child labour.

#### The NCLP Scheme seeks

- To eliminate **all forms of child labour through** identification and withdrawal of all children in the Project Area from child labour, preparing children withdrawn from work for mainstream education along with vocational training, ensuring convergence of services provided by different government departments/agencies for the benefit of child and their family
- To contribute to the **withdrawal of all adolescent workers** from Hazardous Occupations and their **Skilling and integration** in appropriate occupations through facilitating vocational training opportunities through existing scheme of skill developments
- **Raising awareness** amongst stakeholders and target communities, and orientation of NCLP and other functionaries on the issues of 'Child Labour' and 'employment of adolescent workers in hazardous occupations/processes'
- Creation of a **Child Labour Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting System**

#### Target Group

- All child workers below the age of 14 years in the identified target area.

- Adolescent workers below the age of 18 years in the target area engaged in hazardous occupations.
- Families of Child workers in the identified target area.

### Strategy

- To create an enabling environment in the target area, where children are motivated and empowered through various measures to enroll in schools and refrain from working
- Households will be provided with alternatives to improve their income levels.

### Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA)

Empowerment of adolescent girls has multiple dimensions, and requires a multi-sectoral response. SABLA is a comprehensively conceived scheme which involves inputs from key sectors of health, education and employment, each of which addresses needs fundamental to the holistic growth of an adolescent girl. Its intended beneficiaries are adolescent girls of 11–18 years old under all ICDS projects in selected 200 districts in all states/UTs in the country. Salient features of the Scheme include:

- Nutrition provision
- Iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation
- Health check-up and referral services
- Nutrition & health education (NHE)
- Counselling/guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices and home management.
- Upgrade home-based skills, life skills and integrate with the national skill development program (NSDP) for vocational skills.
- Mainstream out of school adolescent girls into formal/non formal education.
- Provide information/guidance about existing public services such as PHC, CHC, post office, bank, police station, etc.

### Performance Evaluation of SABLA

Performance of SABLA scheme can be gauged from following findings in a report submitted to Women and Child Development Ministry in 2013-

- Sabla has strengthened the recognition of adolescent girls as a group with distinct needs. The scheme's design and delivery has endeavoured to address their health, social, economic, and psychological needs in a comprehensive manner.
- The utilization of funds and delivery of the ration to beneficiaries is occurring on a regular basis. The various activities under the Non- Nutrition component have been implemented with varying extent of success and ease across States. Health Check-ups, delivery of IFA tablets, nutrition and health counselling and ARSH counselling, life-skills education including exposure visits have been taking place more smoothly than activities like school mainstreaming and vocational training
- Convergence with the Department of Health has been well implemented and coordination needs to be improved with Education, Youth Affairs, and Labour and Employment sectors.
- Not all states have effectively involved NGOs; where they have, such as in Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan, the scheme components are working well.
- The study found that 100% of the beneficiaries in sample were aware of the 'nutrition', 'counselling', 'health check-ups' and 'life- skills' components of the scheme. Among non-beneficiaries interviewed, the level of awareness was high at about 69%. Other stakeholders like Panchayat members, parents, and representatives of community organisations were also aware of the scheme.
- Most of the respondents (75%) consume their IFA tablets at home, while only 24.5% consumed them at the AWC.

- The study reveals that at least 48% (1612) out-of-school-girls (OOSGs) reported being counselled on joining school.
- Around half (44.1%) of the eligible girls in the age-group 15-18 years had received any information about vocational training

### Positive Findings of the Report

- **Positive Perceptions Regarding Sabla** among Government officials, beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, parents, community members, civil society organisations and other stakeholders
- **High Awareness** among beneficiaries and AWWs, stakeholders, and government officials
- **Nutrition Component:** The nutrition component has been implemented effectively due to the streamlining of its delivery on pre-existing mechanism of ICDS.
- **Good Design:** Key stakeholders at multiple levels have agreed and underscored that the Scheme is comprehensively designed and covers the physical, nutritional, health, psychological and social dimensions of adolescent development
- **Good Convergence:** Convergence in the current scenario has worked well with the Health Department and components of the scheme such as health Check-ups, nutrition and health education (NHE) and distribution of IFA tablets have been streamlined.

### Negative Findings of the Report

- **Non-Nutrition Component:** The implementation and service delivery of the non- nutrition component needs to be further improved.
- **Limited capacity of Anganwadi Workers:** AWWs have received only limited sustained training and support across the states, due to which they have limited capacity.
- **Limitations of Anganwadi Centers** also acts as limitations of this scheme.
- **Fund Adequacy:** For non-nutrition components, the budgetary provisions have been studied to be insufficient.

Overall Performance of the SABLA scheme can be understood from following table

#### Scheme Performance

Table A: Overall Performance

	Parameters	Good	Average	Poor
Scheme Inputs/Delivery	Awareness regarding Sabla	✓		
	Monitoring Committees	✓		
	Receipt and Use of Kishori Cards	✓		
	Convergence with Health	✓		
	Convergence with Labour and Employment			✓
	Funds Utilisation Trend		✓	
	Field Capacity including Workload and Space adequacy			✓
Scheme Outputs	Nutrition Component Receipt	✓		
	IFA Tablets	✓		
	Health Check-ups	✓		
	Health Referrals		✓	
	VT			✓
	Counselling Attendance		✓	
	Sakhi Saheli Training		✓	
	Coverage (NC)	✓		
	Coverage (NNC)			✓
	Mainstreaming in Education			✓

Source: Based on Analysis of Secondary Data and Primary ASCI Field Survey data, 2013

## Other Schemes Related to Girl Child

- **The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP)** Scheme has been introduced in October, 2014 to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)
- **'Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna'** is a small deposit scheme for girl child, launched as a part of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign, which would fetch an interest rate of 9.1 per cent and provide income tax rebate.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme - **National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education** was launched in May 2008. It aims to promote enrolment of girl child in the age group of 14-18 at secondary stage, especially those who passed Class VIII.
- The **Adolescent Girls (AG) Scheme** under ICDS, primarily aims at breaking the inter-generational life-cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantage and providing a supportive environment for self-development.
- **Girls' Hostel Scheme in Educationally Backward Blocks** is being implemented from 2009-10 to set up a 100-bedded Girls' Hostel in each of 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the country.
- **Udaan** is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to enable girl students to soar to higher education from schools, and to eventually take various leadership roles in future.

## 3.2. Women

India has traditionally been a patriarchal society and therefore women, irrespective of their class, caste or religion, they have always suffered from social handicaps and disabilities. It thus became necessary to take certain ameliorative steps in order to improve the condition of women in the traditionally male dominated society.

- Women face different forms of violence like infanticide, neglect of nutrition needs, education and healthcare.
- They have little or no property in their name and with little or poor formal education, they become dependent on their male counterpart.
- They have little control over the resources and important decisions related to their lives.
- Early marriage and childbearing affects the health of the women adversely. Maternal mortality rate is still very high.
- Adult women face violence due to unwanted pregnancies, domestic violence, sexual abuse at the workplace and sexual violence including marital rape and honor killings.
- Even working women are expected to do household work (double burden).
- Women, in general, are given low status as compared to men in the Indian society.

### Facts about Women

- Majority of crimes against women are "cruelty by husband or his relatives" (NCRB 2016).
- Child Sex Ratio declined from 927 in 2001 to 918 (Census 2011).
- Labour force participation rate for women in 2017 was 28.5% compared to 82% for men.
- Women earn 62% of what their male colleagues earn for performing the same work.
- In 2012, only 27 percent of adult Indian women had a job, or were actively looking for one, compared to 79 percent of men.
- In 2017, India ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in having women in leadership role.

### 3.2.1. Schemes

#### Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

STEP is being administered by Central Government since 1986-87 as a 'Central Sector Scheme'. It aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill

that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country. The grant under the Scheme is given to an institution/organisation including NGOs directly and not the States/UTs. The assistance under STEP Scheme will be available in any sector for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship, including but not limited to the Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zari etc., Handicrafts, Computer & IT enable services along with soft skills and skills for the work place such as spoken English, Gems & Jewellery, Travel & Tourism, Hospitality.

### **Swadhar Greh - A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances**

Swadhar Greh Scheme targets the women victims of difficult circumstances. Under the Scheme, Swadhar Greh will be set up in every district with capacity to house 30 women. The Scheme through the provisions of shelter, food, clothing, counselling, training, clinical and legal aid aims to rehabilitate women in difficult circumstance i.e. women rendered homeless due to family discord, crime, violence, mental stress, social ostracism or are being forced into prostitution and are in moral danger.

The Scheme has following **objectives**:

- To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are without any social and economic support.
- To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.
- To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
- To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.
- To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress
- To enable them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.

### **Working Women's Hostel**

The Government of India launched the working women's hostel scheme in 1972-73 in order to promote greater mobility of women in the employment market. The objective of the Scheme is to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day care facility for their children, wherever possible, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.

### **Performance Evaluation of Working Women's Hostel**

SWOT analysis of Working Women's Hostel scheme by a study instituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2017 has been presented below-



STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Affordability</li> <li>2. Security</li> <li>3. Implementing Agencies operate hostel on not-for profit basis</li> <li>4. Central Location and Accessibility through public transport</li> <li>5. Quality Facilities</li> <li>6. Accountability</li> <li>7. Diversity due to people from diverse backgrounds and states</li> <li>8. Discipline</li> <li>9. Caters to women from disadvantaged and rural backgrounds</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of Maintenance</li> <li>2. Lack of Stringent Monitoring</li> <li>3. Inflexible timings</li> <li>4. Lack of Upgraded Facilities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Internet connectivity</li> <li>o AC Rooms</li> <li>o Adjoined bathrooms</li> <li>o Power back up</li> <li>o Visitors rooms</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Poor Quality of services such as               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o medical facilities</li> <li>o laundry facilities</li> <li>o Mess facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Overcrowding due to Occupants beyond sanctioned limit</li> <li>7. Insufficient capacity leads to long waiting lists</li> <li>8. Lack of specialized facilities for differently abled</li> </ol>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase in women migrants seeking employment leading to growing demand for women's hostels</li> <li>2. Lack of safety for women in cities leads to preference for government funded institutionalized hostels</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insufficient number of hostels and capacity within hostels to absorb growing demand for accommodation</li> <li>2. Lack of Monitoring to ensure mandated scheme provisions are complied.</li> <li>3. Lack of grievance redressal mechanism</li> <li>4. Lack of flexibility</li> <li>5. Lack of maintenance</li> </ol>

### Suggestions to further strengthen the Scheme

- Provisioning of **more hostels** due to surge in population of working women migrating to cities
- To create provision for a **revolving fund and/or grants for maintenance** in the scheme to ensure regular maintenance and upkeep of hostel buildings and equipment.
- **Eligibility rules should be changed** to increase salary limit to Rs. 75,000/- from current 50,000/- in metropolitan cities and increasing duration of maximum stay to 5 years from current 3 years.
- Stringent **monitoring** by the hostel management committee to ensure **provision of reservation and facilities for the differently abled women** is adhered to.
- Upgradation of **security facilities**:
  - o Provision of CCTV'S in all hostels
  - o Ensure Footage is regularly checked
  - o Provide In and Out Register at every entrance which should be checked
  - o Ensure street lighting in areas outside hostels
  - o Institute a 24x7 emergency service through helpline or any other mediums
- Provision of **new facilities**
  - o Hostels must ensure laundry facility



- Hostels must ensure Internet connectivity, Wi-Fi and computer room with printing and scanning facilities.
- Hostels may include facilities such as libraries, common room, recreation room, gym to provide additional facilities
- There is an urgent need to have a **feedback mechanism through complaints box and so on** for the inmates to give their feedback on facilities.

### Ujjwala Scheme

It is a comprehensive scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-integration and Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation which is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Under this scheme, Protective and Rehabilitative Homes are given financial support for providing shelter and basic amenities such as food, clothing, medical care, legal aid; education in the case the victims are children, as well as for undertaking vocational training and income generation activities to provide the victims with alternate livelihood option.

### Udyam Sakhi Portal for Women Entrepreneur

The Udyam Sakhi helps Indian women to start, build and grow businesses. It recognises that women entrepreneur in the industry is critical to economic recovery and strength, in building nation's future, and to helping India compete in today's global marketplace.

### Mother and Child Tracking Scheme (MCTS)

MCTS is an initiative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to leverage information technology for ensuring delivery of full spectrum of healthcare and immunization services to pregnant women and children up to 5 years of age. It facilitates and monitors service delivery and also establishes a two way communication between the service providers and beneficiaries.

### Pradhan Mantri Matritiva Vandana Yojana

Previously known as Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana, under this scheme, INR 6000/- is given to pregnant women for hospital stay, vaccination and nutrition.

### One Stop Centre Scheme

It is a centrally sponsored scheme formulated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) under the Umbrella Scheme for National Mission for Empowerment of women. These Centres will be established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in phased manner.

## 3.3. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

The Government classifies some of its citizens based on their social and economic condition as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC). These citizens are recognised as deserving of special treatment because of the traditional discrimination practiced against them.

### 3.3.1. Scheduled Castes

Scheduled castes are those castes which are notified as Scheduled Castes as per provisions contained in Article 341 of the Constitution.

#### Facts about SCs / STs / OBCs

- Atrocities/crime against SCs went up by 5.5 per cent in 2016 (40,801) over 2015 (38,670).
- Only 3.96 % of rural Scheduled Caste households have a member in a government job (SECC 2011)
- Only 4.37 % of rural Scheduled Tribe households have a member in a government job (SECC 2011)

- They suffer from extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of age-old practice of untouchability.
- They also suffer because of traditional lack of infrastructure facilities and geographical isolation.

### 3.3.2. Scheduled Tribes

Like the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes are social groups recognised by the Indian Constitution as specially marked by poverty, powerlessness and social stigma. Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India defines Scheduled Tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution". The **characteristics** of these communities are:

- Primitive Traits
- Geographical isolation
- Distinct culture
- Shy of contact with community at large
- Economically backward

#### Issues related with them:

- They are considered to be socially and economically disadvantaged.
- They constitute a large proportion of agricultural labourers, casual labourers, plantation labourers, industrial labourers.
- They belong to the poorest strata of the society and have low levels of education, poor health and reduced access to healthcare services.
- Loss of forests, alienation of land and repeated displacement have further made their position vulnerable.

### 3.3.3. Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

Backward Classes means such backward classes of citizens other than the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as may be specified by the Central Government from time to time for purposes of making provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of backward classes of citizens which, in the opinion of that Government, are not adequately represented in the services under the Government of India and any local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India.

### 3.3.4. Schemes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Classes

As these sections **often face similar kind of disadvantages**, the Government has launched various schemes which have similar objective but are run separately for each of these sections. Few of such schemes are given below. After these schemes, we will see specific schemes with respect to these sections. **Schemes with similar objectives are:**

#### Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (PCR) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA)

As the PCR and PoA Acts are implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, with a view to ensure its effective implementation, Central assistance is provided to them under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the PCR and PoA Acts, mainly for following purposes:-

- Functioning and strengthening of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell and Special Police Stations.
- Setting up and functioning of exclusive Special Courts.

- Relief and Rehabilitation of atrocity victims.
- Incentive for Inter-Caste Marriages.
- Awareness generation.

### Stand-Up India Scheme

Stand-Up India Scheme facilitates bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise. This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services or the trading sector. In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or woman entrepreneur.

### Other Schemes/Benefits with Similar Objectives but Run Separately for SCs, STs and OBCs

#### 3.3.5. Specific Schemes for Scheduled Castes

##### Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)

SCSP is an umbrella strategy to ensure flow of targeted financial and physical benefits from all the general sectors of development for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. Under the strategy, States/UTs are required to formulate and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes as part of their Annual Plans by earmarking resources.

##### Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

This Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented for integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SC) majority villages having SC Population concentration more than 50%:

- Primarily through convergent implementation of the relevant Central and State Schemes
- By providing these villages Central Assistance in form of gap-filling funds to the extent of Rs.20.00 lakh per village
- By providing gap-filling component to take up activities which do not get covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes

##### Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana

This Scheme is operational since 3rd Five Year Plan. The objective of the Scheme is to provide residential accommodation facilities to SC Boys and Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities.

##### Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

Venture Capital Fund is a Social Sector Initiative launched by the Government of India with initial capital of Rs. 200 crore in order to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes population in India. Under the scheme, financial assistance upto of Rs.15.00 Crore for a period upto 6 years would be provided to the SC entrepreneurs.

##### Performance Evaluation of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

A Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2018 noted that not a single penny was spent in 2017-18 from this Fund. The committee noted, "Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs is the only scheme to promote entrepreneurship amongst the SCs, and to increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs so as to motivate them for further growth in the society. Since introduction of the scheme in 2014-15, the allocation for this scheme is on wane... Since then very less amount has been allocated under this scheme ever year and there is "nil" utilisation in 2017-18."

### 3.3.6. Specific Schemes for Scheduled Tribes

#### Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana

The Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) for welfare of Tribals. VKY aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of the tribal people. This process envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes/schemes of Central as well as State Governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism.

#### Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP)

The Special Central Assistance (SCA) is provided by the Ministry of tribal Affairs to the State Government as an additive to the State TSP. SCA is Primarily meant for family-oriented income-generation schemes in sectors of agriculture, horticulture sericulture and animal husbandry cooperation. A part of SCA (not more than 30%) is also permitted to be used for development of infrastructure incidental to such income generating schemes.

#### Top Class Education for ST Students

This is a Central Sector Scholarship Scheme for ST students introduced from the academic year 2007-08 with the objective of encouraging meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at Degree and Post Graduate level in any of the Institutes identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the purpose.

#### Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas

The main aim of this scheme is to upgrade the skills of the tribal youth in various traditional/modern vocations depending upon their educational qualification, present economic trends and the market potential, which would enable them to gain suitable employment or enable them to become self-employed.

#### Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hostels for ST boys and ST Girls

The primary objective of the modification is to attract the implementing agencies for undertaking hostel construction programme for ST Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their dropout rate.

#### Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas

The objective of the scheme is to provide residential schools for Scheduled Tribes including PTGs in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country.

#### Eklavya Model Residential School

In the context of the trend of establishing quality residential schools for the promotion of education in all areas and habitations in the country, the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for ST students take their place among the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas.

### 3.3.7. Specific Schemes for Other Backward Classes

#### New Swarnima Special Scheme for Women

Under the scheme women are given loan to make their financial condition strong by finding some source of employment in the form of any small scale business. The objective of this

scheme is to inculcate the spirit of self-dependence among the eligible Women of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line. The salient features of the "New Swarnima" are:

- Maximum Loan limit is Rs. 1,00,000/- per beneficiary and interest will be charged @ 5% p.a.
- The beneficiary woman is not required to invest any amount of her own on the projects.

### Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Construction of Hostel for OBC Boys and Girls

The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

### Saksham

This is a special scheme under Term Loan for young professional belonging to Backward Classes of the target group. Maximum loan limit is Rs.10 Lakh per beneficiary. The loan upto Rs.5 Lakh bears interest @ 6% p.a. and loan above Rs.5 Lakh to Rs.10 Lakh bears interest @ 8% p.a.

### Shilp Sampada

The objective of this scheme is to upgrade the technical and entrepreneurial skill of Backward Classes by way of providing training and financial assistance under Term Loan for self-employment in traditional craft etc. the artisans and handicraft persons of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line can obtain loan upto Rs.10 Lakh under this scheme. Loans upto Rs.5 Lakh bears interest @ 6% p.a. and above Rs.5 Lakh to Rs.10 Lakh bears interest @ 8% p.a.

## 3.4. Senior Citizens/Aged

A "senior citizen" means any person being a citizen of India, who has attained the age of sixty years or above. The vulnerability among the elderly is due to an increased incidence of illness and disability, economic dependency upon their spouses, children and other younger family members.

The **common forms of abuse** of elderly persons are:

- **Physical abuse:** Hitting, pushing, kicking
- **Inappropriate use of drugs or restraints:** over- and under-medicating and withholding medication from patients
- **Psychological or emotional abuse:** Insults, threats, humiliation, confinement, isolation and depriving them of dignity (for instance, by leaving them in soiled clothes)
- **Financial abuse :** Misusing or stealing a person's money or assets
- **Neglect or abandonment:** Not providing food, housing, or medical care
- **Sexual abuse:** Sexual contact without consent

#### Senior Citizens in Numbers

According to Census 2011 there are nearly 104 million elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India; 53 million females and 51 million males. A report released by the United Nations Population Fund and HelpAge India suggests that the number of elderly persons is expected to grow to 173 million by 2026.

### 3.4.1. Schemes

#### Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

Government has launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)' to **provide social security** during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions. The scheme enables old age income security for senior citizens through provision of assured pension/return linked to the subscription amount based on government guarantee to Life Insurance Corporation of India

(LIC). Till March 2018, there are total 2.23 lakh beneficiaries (senior citizens) under PMVVY 2018. The previous **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana** 2014 scheme has total 3.11 lakh beneficiaries.

### Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

It is a Central Sector Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "**Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund**". The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency - Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Under the Scheme, the **following Aids and Assisted-Living Devices** will be **provided** to eligible elderly beneficiary senior citizens, depending upon their physical impairment.

- Walking sticks
- Elbow crutches
- Walkers / Crutches
- Tripods / Quadpods
- Hearing Aids
- Wheelchair
- Artificial Dentures
- Spectacles

### An Integrated Programme for Older Persons

The main objective of the Scheme is to **improve the quality of life** of the Older Persons **by providing basic amenities** like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building of Government/Non-Governmental Organizations/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies and the Community at large.

### Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

This is non-contributory pension scheme launched by the Central government to provide pensions to persons who are 60 years or above and belong to below poverty line (BPL) category. The central contribution of pension under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary up to 79 years and Rs.500/- per month per beneficiary from 80 year onwards and the State Governments may contribute over and above to this amount.

### Vayoshreshtha Sammans - A Scheme of National Award for Senior Citizens.

Scheme of National Award for Senior Citizens (Vayoshreshtha Sammans) was launched in 2005 and is dedicated to senior citizens. The Scheme is funded by the Central government. This scheme is applicable for eminent senior citizens and institutes involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons. Institutes and senior citizens can avail this scheme by contacting Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

## 3.5. Disabled Persons

UN Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975): "Any person unable to ensure by himself or herself, wholly or partly the necessities of a normal individual and or social life as a result of a deficiency either congenital or not in his/her physical or mental abilities" could be described as disabled.



While there has been tremendous progress in the area of disability rights, people with disabilities still face a number of **barriers put in place by society**, not by their “disability”. Disabled people are more likely to live in poverty, more likely to be unemployed, more likely to face discrimination in the workplace. These **barriers are social, not personal**, and cannot be “overcome” through sheer force of will.

Persons with disabilities face several forms of discrimination, such as:

- They have reduced access to education, employment and other socio-economic opportunities.
- They are faced with stigma and discrimination from the society where they live.
- They may find it hard to socialize with members of the society which can lead to depression as well as self-pity.
- Disabled people are often considered weak, worthless and in some cases subhuman by their societies.

#### Facts about Disabled Persons

- As per census 2011 (2016 updated), in India, the percentage of disabled population is about 2.21 per cent.
- About one-third of the disabled population have disability since their birth.
- Mental illness is considered as a prominent form of disability.
- Five out of ten leading causes of disability and premature death worldwide are due to psychiatric conditions.

### 3.5.1. Schemes

#### Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has conceptualised the “Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)” as a nation-wide flagship campaign for **achieving universal accessibility** that will enable persons with disabilities to gain access for equal opportunity and live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. The campaign targets at enhancing the accessibility of built environment, transport system and Information & communication eco-system.

#### Components of Accessible India Campaign:

- Built Environment Accessibility
- Transportation System Accessibility
- Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

#### United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

It puts an obligation on all the signatory governments to take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.

#### Sugamya Pustakalaya

“Sugamya Pustakalaya” is an **online platform** that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people. The library houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats. It has been created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access. Books are available in Accessible formats for people with visual impairment and other print disabilities. Over 2 lakhs books in diverse languages. Integrating libraries across India and the Globe, including the largest international library, ‘Bookshare’.

#### Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme

This is revised scheme which was earlier titled- "Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities". The objectives of the scheme are:

- To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the People with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights) Act of 1995.

### Approach and Strategy

The approach of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance to voluntary organizations to make available the whole range of services necessary for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including early intervention, development of daily living skills, education, skill-development oriented towards employability, training and awareness generation. With a view to inclusion of persons with disabilities in the mainstream of society and actualizing their potential, the thrust would be on education and training programmes. In order to achieve the objectives of the scheme **the key strategies** will be as follows:

- To enhance educational opportunities at all levels and in all forms and enlarge the scope of vocational and professional opportunities, income generation and gainful occupations.
- To support all such measures as may be necessary for promoting formal as well as nonformal employment and placement opportunities.
- To implement outreach and comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation programmes in urban and rural environments.
- To support manpower development activities to train required personnel at different levels for all programmes/ projects/activities for persons with disabilities.
- To support the development, publication and dissemination of information, documentation and training materials.

### National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

In order to recognise dedicated efforts of persons and institutions involved in the process of empowerment of disabled and encourage others to strive to achieve excellence in this field, the National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities are being awarded every year.

### ADIP Scheme

The main objective of the Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) scheme is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. The aids and appliances supplied under the Scheme shall conform to BIS specifications to the extent possible. The scheme is implemented through implementing agencies such as the NGOs, National Institutes under this Ministry and ALIMCO (a PSU).

## 3.6. Minorities

The Constitution of India does not define the term “minorities” anywhere but only mentions it in some Articles 29 to 30 and 350A to 350B. Article 29 referring to minorities speaks of “any section of citizens having a distinct language, script and culture”. Article 30 speaks about two categories of minorities – religious and linguistic – while Article 350 relates to linguistic minorities.

### 3.6.1. Schemes for Welfare of Minorities

#### Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) seeks to provide better socio-economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities particularly in the field of education, health

& skill development which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters. PMJVK is restructured and renamed version of the erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP).

### Nai Roshni

The scheme is envisaged to reach out to women through nongovernmental organizations who will be provided with financial support for conducting leadership development trainings so that women are empowered and emboldened to move out of the confines of home and community and assume leadership roles and assert their rights collectively or individually.

### Scholarship Schemes

Students belonging to notified minority communities viz. Muslim / Christian / Sikh / Buddhist / Jain / Parsi (Zoroastrian) can avail following scholarships based on their eligibility-

- Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities (for Class I to X)
- Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities (for Class XI to Ph.D.)
- Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme (For Professional and Technical courses)
- Begam Hajrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to Minorities- Implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) (for minority girls studying in Class XIth and XIIth Standard).

### Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)

Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India on 23 September 2013 launched a central sector scheme for Skill Development of Minorities. Main Objectives of scheme are:

- To bring down unemployment rate of minorities during 12th Plan period (2012-17).
- To conserve and update traditional skills of minorities and establish their linkages with the market.
- To improve employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc and ensure their placement.
- To generate means of better livelihood for marginalised minorities and bring them in the mainstream.
- To enable minorities to avail opportunities in the growing market.
- To develop potential human resource for the country.

### Jiyo Parsi

Jiyo Parsi, the Central Sector Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2013. The main objective of the Jiyo parsi scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize the Parsi population and increase the population of Parsis in India.

### Padho Pardesh (for overseas studies at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. Level)

Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India has introduced a scheme for providing 'interest subsidy' for minority students for overseas studies. This scheme came into force from 2013-14. The annual income of the parents should be less than 6 lakhs.

### Nalanda Scheme

Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched the Nalanda Project for Minorities Higher Educational Institutions on 4 March 2014. Nalanda Project is an innovative Faculty Development Program of Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. The Nalanda Project is being taken up at Aligarh Muslim University, a premier Minority University of world fame. The Aligarh Muslim University is also a Nodal Staff College of University Grant Commission.

### Minority Cyber Gram (MCG)

The MCG programme seeks to introduce digital literacy skills in identified minority clusters in India through designated Digital Fellows towards knowledge empowerment and entitlement gains of minority focused groups and beneficiaries.

### Maulana Azad Sehat scheme

Under the scheme, Sehat Card will be issued to every student of the Institution financially aided by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF).

### Other Schemes

- **USTAAD:** The Scheme aims at upgrading Skills and Training in preservation of traditional Ancestral Arts/Crafts of minorities.
- **Hamari Darohar:** The Scheme aims to preserve rich heritage of minority communities in context of Indian culture.
- **Khwaza Garib Nawaz Senior Secondary School** is being established at Ajmer by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) to give a fillip to minority education.
- **Nai Manzil:** A bridge course to bridge the academic and skill development gaps of the deeni Madrasa passouts with their mainstream counterparts.
- **Strengthening of State Wakf Boards:** The scheme envisages to provide assistance for meeting the training and administrative cost of State Wakf Boards, removal of encroachment from Waqf Properties and also strengthening of Zonal/Regional offices of Waqf Boards.

## 3.7. LGBT Community

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons have historically faced and continue to face discrimination and violence around the world. According to 2011 census, almost six lakh transgender people live in India. Section 377 of Indian Penal Code criminalizes homosexual activities which further make them vulnerable. In a landmark Judgment on Right to Privacy, the Supreme Court said the rights of LGBT population are "real rights founded on sound constitutional doctrine". However, they continue to face various issues like-

- Social discrimination, deprivation of liberty, lack of employment and educational opportunities, limited access to health care etc.
- Forced or bonded labour, denial of use of a public place, denial of residence in household, village
- Physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse
- Threats, blackmails and even violence in the name of section 377 with no help or remedy
- They live under constant fear and psychological stress
- While prosecution under Section 377 has been rare, the law is used to harass members of the LGBT community.

### 3.7.1. Schemes

#### SWEEKRUTI

"SWEEKRUTI" is an umbrella scheme launched by Odisha Government which is to be operated in a mission mode with manifold objectives. To ensure equitable justice for transgender persons the Sweekruti scheme focuses on the following broad objectives:

- To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice & empowerment of transgender persons of the state.
- To encourage voluntary action and participation of all stake holders for ensuring effective social integration of transgender persons.

- To expand outreach activities for protection of rights and entitlements of transgender persons in the state.
- To promote individual and group endeavours by transgender persons for employment, self-employment and other socio-educational services.
- To strengthen the existing implementation machinery and create facilities for coverage of all transgender persons of the state.

The **approach** of this scheme is to make available the whole range of services necessary for rehabilitation of transgender persons. With a view to include transgender persons in the mainstream of society and actualizing their potential, the thrust would be on the following key **strategies**:

- Survey & Identification of all Transgender persons in the state and issue of certificates, multipurpose smart cards, etc.
- Assistance to parents of transgender children and provision of pre and post-matric scholarship for all transgender children pursuing education.
- Skill upgradation and entrepreneurship development training, supply of Self Employment Kit and strengthening Self Help Groups.
- Support for Critical Health Care & group insurance support for transgender persons.
- Provision for Legal Aid and advice, counseling and guidance services for transgender persons in distress.
- Organization of Community Awareness, sensitization and campaign on rights of transgender persons and training of staff and volunteers.

### ***3.7.2. Initiatives by Government/Judiciary to Promote Interests of LGBT Community in India***

- The Supreme Court in NALSA case recognised transgender as a legal **third gender** and called on the government to **ensure their equal treatment**.
- It also provided for **avenues of reservation within the OBC quota** to this 'marginalised' section
- Odisha became the first state to **give transgender people social welfare benefits** - such as a pension, housing and food grains - usually allocated for only the most impoverished.
- The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016** has been introduced in the Parliament to protect the rights of LGBT communities.
- **Saathiya** scheme launched by Government addresses same-sex attraction with gentleness and wisdom and states that it is alright to feel attracted to someone of the same sex as yours.

## **3.8. Poor Persons**

Poor persons face a number of problems due to their incapacity to afford resources be it – healthcare, education, entertainment, better quality of life or anything else. This causes them to live in a vicious cycle of poverty where due to less money at their disposal they are not able to get better education which leads to them landing into low wages jobs or being unemployed which in turn perpetuates their poverty and they are not able to get out of poverty trap.

### ***3.8.1. Schemes for Poor Persons***

#### **MGNREGA**

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is the flagship employment generation programme of the Government. It has been instrumental in creating employment opportunities and placing additional income in the hands of the poor and the disadvantaged sections of society who

volunteer to do unskilled work with an entitlement of 100 days of wage employment to each registered rural household every financial year.

### Intended Beneficiary

- Rural population
- Unskilled manual labourers
- Seasonal unemployed

### Salient Features

- A statutory minimum wage is set which is paid to labourers.
- Strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups
- Sustainable development of an agricultural economy employment on works that address drought, deforestation and soil erosion, water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works
- A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery is allowed
- The central government bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women.
- Social audit has to be done by the gram sabha.

### Performance Evaluation of MGNREGA

Research studies on MGNREGA have pointed out many positive effects of the scheme. These are as follows:

- MGNREGA has helped in following:
  - Increasing the bargaining power of the wage seekers
  - Improving the economic outcomes especially in watershed activities
  - Reducing the distress rural-urban migration
  - Increasing significantly the monthly per capita consumption expenditure of the rural households
- It is succeeding as a self-targeting programme with high participation from marginalized groups including the SCs and STs.
- In the case of both SCs and STs, the participation rate exceeded their share in total population.
- It has reduced the traditional gender wage discrimination, particularly, in the public works and has had a positive impact on the socio-economic status of women.
- MGNREGA with its inter-sectoral approach opens an opportunity for convergence with different programmes optimizing public investment.
- MGNREGA has had a more direct and positive impact on reducing distress migration as compared to migration taken-up for economic growth and other reasons.
- It is also important as a supplementary source of income and is being used by rural households for starting their own ventures.

### Some weaknesses found in implementation of MGNREGA in Different places-

- Though the MGNREGA Act is Panchayat centric and demand based, on the ground, there is lack of principal role in planning by the Gram Sabha/Gram Panchayat.
- At all the sample sites, the role of the Gram Sabha in planning was more of a formal nature and the programme is being implemented in a supply driven mode and there is lack of panchayat driven selection of work.



- Under MGNREGA, the need for community projects is becoming less important as probably such works have already been completed or on the brink of saturation or due to lack of common interest in these areas and instead individual activities in farms are preferred.
- In some places for individual activities under MGNREGA, the difference of market and MGNREGA wages are paid by beneficiaries.
- In some places only females are interested in MGNREGA works as market wages for males are much higher resulting in only small works being undertaken instead of big projects.
- There are also cases of procedures being not fully followed, lack of proper planning and some ill-conceived projects.
- There were also many instances of single beneficiaries and Gram Panchayats starting activities only to use the MGNREGA funds.
- Seasonal aspect in provision of employment was also ignored and there were also delays in wage payment up to two months in some districts.

### Conclusion

While generally MGNREGA has been able to serve its purpose, better management and further modifications are needed to make the programme more fruitful and even development oriented. In some places there is also scope to use this programme for development of tourism as other community related farm activities have been completed by now. This could help in having many beneficiaries and even nation building instead of single or few beneficiaries.

## 4. Performance of Various Other Schemes

### 4.1. National Rural Health Mission

With the advent of NRHM, India has made remarkable achievements in providing affordable healthcare facilities to the rural poor and also

- Added over 1.56 lakh health human resources to the health system across the country (up to September 2013).
- Institutional deliveries in almost all the states show a quantum jump during NRHM period
- Majority of the new born children have been immunized in all the states of India
- NRHM funds utilization has improved over the period at all levels.
- Sub Centers and PHCs have started using untied grants with decentralization under NRHM.

However, there are also some problems as indicated in different studies<sup>5</sup> and reports which are as follows:

- **Physical infrastructure:** Since inception of NRHM, a large number of CHCs, PHCs, and SCs have been added to rural health services in India. However, the functioning of CHCs, HCs, and SCs on 24x7 basis is still below the requirement. The infrastructure is also substantially short of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms.
- **Human resource:** There is a shortage of human resource in public health institutions with shortfalls of even specialists/post-graduate doctors, gynaecologists, staff nurses and anesthetists in almost all the states.
- **Referral and emergency transport:** This system seems to be working quite efficiently in some of the states like Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam and Tamil Nadu. However, in most of the districts in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and J&K, the Mobile Medical Units are not working. Besides inefficient emergency transport system is hampering the outreach of health care services.
- **Hospital Maintenance:** Even peripheral services like cleaning, washing, catering, etc. have not been outsourced in many districts.

- **Quality of services** is seriously affected by shortage of staff nurses at all levels of facilities. Women delivering new born babies also don't stay for minimum 48 hours after delivery because of lack of basic facilities like cleanliness, electricity potable water, etc.
- **Capacity building:** Although trained ASHA's are recruited in all the states, in some states they are not trained properly and in some states even the guidelines for the selection of ASHA workers are not followed properly. The existing training infrastructure like medical colleges, nursing training institutes, etc. does not match with the required level of infrastructure. Besides there is no rationalization of posting and transfer policies for medical and health management personnel which affect the credibility and sustainability of health care.

## 4.2. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- Under the PM Ujjwala Yojana, the government aims to provide LPG connections to below poverty line (BPL) households in the country to replace unclean cooking fuels used in rural India with the clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).
- In 2018, the Centre had revised its target to provide LPG connections to eight crore from five crore.
- Nearly four crore (3,98,77,723) connections have been given under the scheme so far, about 80 lakh of them in the past five months.

## 4.3. Recent Initiatives for Improving Monitoring of Various Schemes

- There has been a shift to a sector-wide approach as opposed to creating schemes in silos, uniting similar schemes and a greater role for states in implementation which has enhanced the efficacy of schemes.
- Bottlenecks in delivery have also been addressed with the increased use of technology in monitoring (Garv and Swacchh Bharat dashboards), fixing accountability (PRAGATI) and broadening public interaction (MyGov).
- Proactive communication, including the prime minister's involvement through social media and his radio programme, has increased awareness about and participation in many welfare schemes.

## 4.4. Way Forward

The core administrative and governance inefficiencies in social protection programs should be addressed to improve the impact of economic growth on social and welfare indicators. This can be achieved without large enhancement of social welfare budgets and also lead to improved efficiency.

# 5. Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections

## 5.1. Mechanisms Existing in India for Vulnerable Sections

Various mechanisms to ensure social justice to vulnerable section are following-

- Various Schemes launched by government and their implementing agencies
- Various laws passed by legislative bodies
- Various Policies brought by the Government
- Various Bodies established for the welfare of these groups
- Judiciary to seek enforcement of rights of these groups and to seek justice against crime

## 5.2. Laws Pertaining to Betterment of Vulnerable Sections

### 5.2.1. Children

#### Constitutional Provisions

- Article 15(3): State can make special provisions for betterment of children.
- Article 21 A: State to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years
- Article 23: Right to being protected from being trafficked and forced into bonded labour
- Article 24: Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years of age in factories
- Article 45: The state to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years

#### Legislations Related to Children

- Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986

It has following **twin objectives**-

- It intends to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments
- To regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments where children are allowed to work.
- The Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (**PCPNDT Act, 1994**)
  - It was enacted for prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination.
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015- It provides for strengthened provisions for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. Some of the key provisions include:
  - change in nomenclature from 'juvenile' to 'child' or 'child in conflict with law'
  - inclusion of several new definitions such as orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children and petty, serious and heinous offences committed by children;
  - clarity in powers, function and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC);
  - clear timelines for inquiry by Juvenile Justice Board (JJB);
  - special provisions for heinous offences committed by children above the age of sixteen year;
  - separate new chapter on Adoption to streamline adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children;
  - Inclusion of new offences committed against children; and mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions.
- Protection of Children from Sexual offences Act, 2012
  - It deals with sexual offences against persons below 18 years of age, who are deemed as children.
  - It provides penal provisions for sexual offences like sexual abuse, sexual harassment and pornography
- Commissions for Protection of the Rights of the Child Act, 2005
  - India has ratified the United Nations Child Rights Convention in the year 1992 and this Act was passed as one of the necessary steps to protect the rights of the children in the country. It establishes National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- The Act outlaws and provides for penal provision for child marriage.
- According to the act a child is a male who has not completed twenty one years of age and a female who has not completed eighteen years of age. C

### Other Instruments

- The National Policy on Children 2013
  - The Policy has identified four key priority areas: survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection and participation, for focused attention.
  - As children's needs are multi-sectoral, interconnected and require collective action, the Policy calls for purposeful convergence and coordination across different sectors and levels of governance.
- The United Nations Convention on the 'Rights of the Child'
- The Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993

### 5.2.2. Women

#### Constitutional Provisions

- Article 15(3): State can make special provisions for women
- Article 23: Right to being protected from being trafficked and forced into bonded labour
- Article 39 (a): State to ensure that, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means to livelihood
- Article 39 (d): State to ensure equal pay to women for equal work
- Article 42: Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- Article 243 D: Provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats at all levels to women.

#### Legislations Related to Women

- The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 - Provides for paid maternity leaves of 26 months
- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961— To end dowry by providing penal provisions.
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1986 – Penal provisions for trafficking of women
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986 – To protect dignity of women
- Commission of Sati (prevention) Act 1987 – Abolished Sati system
- National Commission of Women Act 1990 – Establishes National Commission of Women
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 – To protect women from domestic violence
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 – It addresses workplace sexual harassment.

### Other Instruments

- UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

### 5.2.3. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

#### Constitutional Provisions

- Article 15(4): State can make special provisions for SCs/STs
- Article 16(4): State can make provision for reservation of appointments/posts for SC/STs
- Article 17: Abolishes Untouchability and its practice in any form
- Article 46: Promotion of educational and economic interests of SCs, STs and the weaker sections
- Article 243 D: Reservation of seats in Panchayats for SC/ST candidates
- Article 275: Special grant in aids to states for tribal welfare.

- Article 335: Relaxation in qualifying marks for admission in educational institutes or promotions
- Article 330 and Article 332 of the Constitution respectively provide for reservation of seats in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the legislative assemblies of the states.

### Legislations Related to SCs, STs and OBCs

- The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 – It provides for penal provisions for untouchability.
- SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act –It is aimed at atrocities against the members of the SCs and STs
- The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 – Outlaws bonded labour
- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989- ( Dealt Above)
- Forest Rights Act 2006 - recognizes the rights to hold and live in the forest land
- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 -- It is an Act to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.

### 5.2.4. Senior Citizens/ Aged

#### Constitutional Provisions

- Item No. 9 of the State List and Item No. 20, 23 and 24 of the Concurrent List relates to social security and social insurance, old age pension and economic and social planning.
- Article 41: The State to protect the rights of old age persons particularly social security.

#### Legislation Related to Aged/Senior Citizens

- Maintenance and Welfare Of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
  - Obligation of children to maintain his/her parents so that such parent may lead a normal life
  - Obligation of any person or relative to maintain senior citizen provided that person/relative is in possession of property of such senior citizen or will inherit his/her property

#### Other Instruments

- National Policy on Senior Citizens 2011-  
It focuses on implementation of existing policies which include:
  - Awareness generation for the Maintenance of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
  - Setting up a helpline for senior citizens
  - Establishing a National Commission for Senior Citizens, and
  - Establishing a National Trust for the Aged.

### 5.2.5. Disabled Persons

#### Constitutional Provisions

- The Preamble, Article 14, Article 21 and DPSP provide right to equality, justice and dignity of all individuals leading to an inclusive development which also includes the Disabled Persons.

#### Legislations Enacted for Disabled Persons

- The Indian Lunacy Act 1912
- The Lepers Act, 1899

- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016
- National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999
- Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992
- The Mental Healthcare Act 2017

#### Other Instruments

- United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

### 5.2.6. Minorities

#### Constitutional Provisions

- Preamble: Justice – social, economic, political to all its citizens
- Articles 14,15 and 16 : Guarantee right to equality and prohibits discrimination
- Article 25-28 : Right to Freedom of Religion
- Article 29: Right to preserve language script and culture and that they will not be denied admission to an educational institutions based on their race, language, religion or caste
- Article 30: The right to establish and administer educational institutions and prohibition on any discrimination in matters of granting aids to such institutions by the State

#### Laws Related to Minorities

- Different Personal Laws govern marriage, divorce and succession rights of persons belonging to different faiths, such as – Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act 1936
- National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 -- This act allows direct affiliation of minority educational institutes to central universities. This act was enacted in order to provide quality education in minority institutes.

### 5.2.7. Laws Related to LGBT

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including Transgender persons (Articles 14, 15(1), 15(2), 16(2), 19(1), 21 and 41).

- **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016**
  - The Bill defines a transgender person as one who is partly female or male; or a combination of female and male; or neither female nor male. In addition, the person's gender must not match the gender assigned at birth, and includes trans-men, trans-women, persons with intersex variations and gender-queers.
  - The Bill prohibits discrimination against a transgender person in areas such as education, employment, and healthcare. It directs the central and state governments to provide welfare schemes in these areas.
  - Offences like compelling a transgender person to beg, denial of access to a public place, physical and sexual abuse, etc. would attract up to two years' imprisonment and a fine.

## 5.3. Institutions and Bodies for the betterment of these vulnerable sections

### 5.3.1. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as the name suggests, is to ensure equitable treatment to such sections of society which has suffered social inequalities, exploitation, discrimination and injustice.



### 5.3.2. Children

#### National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

It is a statutory body created under Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to exercise and performs the powers and functions assigned to it under CPCR Act, 2005. Its mission is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India as well as in, the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, which India ratified in 1992.

It has various functions under **following laws and rules-**

- Commissions for Protection of Child Rights(CPCR) Act, 2005,
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education(RTE) Act, 2009
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences(POCSO) Act
  - The Commission website **ncpcr.gov.in** also has an **e-Box** to report cases of sexual violence where a user has to simply push a button named **POSCO e-Box**.

The **functions and powers** of the National Commission are following:

- Examine and review the legal safeguards provided by or under any law for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation
- Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases
- Spread awareness about child rights among various sections of society
- Undertake and promote research in the field of child rights
- Inspect institutions meant for juvenile/children
- Inquire into complaints of deprivation and violation of child rights, non-implementation of laws and non-compliance policy decisions, guidelines or instructions
- Undertake other necessary functions for the promotion of child rights.
- The Commission has the power of a civil court and all criminal cases brought to the same has to be forwarded to a concerned Magistrate who has jurisdiction to try the same.

#### POCSO e-Box for children

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) e-Box is an online complaint box for reporting child sexual abuse. It is an **NCPCR initiative** to help children report such crimes directly to the Commission.

#### National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)

NIPCCD is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development. Established in New Delhi in the year 1966 under Societies Registration Act of 1860, it functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Institute functions as an apex institution for training functionaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme.

#### Central Adoption Resource Authority

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the **nodal body for adoption** of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions. CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated adoption agencies. It also **issues Adoption Guidelines** laying down procedures and processes to be followed by different stakeholders of the adoption programme.

## Child Welfare Committees

Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) have been designated by Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 as the final district-level authorities for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP). CWCs thus have the sole authority to deal with matters concerning CNCP and are bestowed with the powers of a first class judicial magistrate.

## Child Care Institution

A child care institution as defined under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, means Children Home, Open Shelter, Observation Home, Special Home, Place of Safety, Specialised Adoption Agency and a Fit Facility recognized under the Act for providing care and protection to children, who are in need of such services. Children in conflict with law are provided residential care and protection in Observation Homes, Special Homes and Places of Safety.

## CHILDLINE

CHILDLINE is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance based on 1098 Tele Helpline Model. It is a platform bringing together the Union Ministry for Women & Child Development, working in Partnership with State Governments, NGOs, International Organizations, the Corporate Sector, Concerned Individuals and Children.

### 5.3.3. Women

#### National Commission for Women

The National Commission for Women was set up in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 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.

Various **functions** of the commission are following:

- Look into complaints and take **suo moto notice of matters** relating to:
  - Deprivation of women's rights;
  - Non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development
  - Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women
- Undertake **promotional and educational research** so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement
- **Participate and advice on the planning process** of socio-economic development of women;
- **Inspect or cause to inspect a jail**, remand home or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise and take up with the concerned authorities for **remedial action**
- **Fund litigation** involving issues affecting a large body of women
- **Make periodical reports** to the Government on any matter pertaining to women

The Commission shall **have all the powers of a civil court** which includes:

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath

- Requiring the discovery and production of any document
- Receiving evidence on affidavits
- Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office
- Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents

The Commission has taken up **various initiatives** such as-

- 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 Act 1994, Indian Penal Code 1860 and the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to make them more stringent and effective.
- It organized workshops/consultations, constituted expert committees on economic empowerment of women, conducted workshops/seminars for gender awareness and took up publicity campaign against female foeticide, violence against women etc. in order to generate awareness in the society against these social evils.

### Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)

RMK, established in 1993, is a national level organization under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, for socio-economic empowerment of women. RMK extends micro-credit to the women in the informal sector through a client friendly, without collateral and in a hassle-free manner for income generation activities. It acts as a facilitating agency wherein RMK provides loans to NGO-MFIs termed as Intermediary Organizations (IMO) which then lend to Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women. RMK has taken a number of promotional measures to popularize the concept of micro financing, enterprise development, thrift and credit, formation and strengthening of Women-SHGs through intermediary organizations.

### 5.3.4. SCs/STs/OBCs

#### National Commission for SCs

The Constitution under Article 338 has provided for appointment of a special officer to ensure that the safeguards are properly implemented and to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes and report to the President about the working of these safeguards. In pursuance of this provision a Special Officer known as the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes was appointed for the first time on 18th November, 1950.

The Commission under **Article 338** of Indian Constitution has the **following duties and functions**:

- To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;
- To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Castes;

### National SC Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)

NSFDC is Central Public Sector Enterprise incorporated as a 'not for profit' company. It is under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India for financing, facilitating and mobilizing funds for the economic empowerment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes families living below Double the Poverty Line. NSFDC finances income generation schemes for the target group through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs).

**NSFDC Operations:**

- Financing income generating schemes for the SCs through the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) and other recognized institutions nominated by the respective State /UT Governments.
- Providing Micro-Credit Finance to the target group through the SCAs.
- Providing Educational Loan to the eligible scheduled caste students for pursuing full-time professional/technical educational courses in India or abroad.
- Providing grants for skill development programmes through the SCAs.
- Providing advisory services to target group and SCAs.
- Upgrading the skill levels of the SCAs.

**National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**

- NSKFDC is a “not for profit” company set up by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- It functions as an Apex institution for channelising the funds to Safai Karamcharis/ Scavengers and their dependents through the State Channelising Agencies.
- Apart from operating various loan and non-loan based schemes for the upliftment of the target group, NSKFDC is playing a vital role in elimination of manual scavenging - the worst surviving symbol of untouchability.
- It has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

**National Commission for STs**

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003. By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and (ii) the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

**Functions of the Commission**

- To investigate & Monitor matters relating to Safeguards provided for STs.
- To inquire into specific complaints relating to Rights & Safeguards of STs
- To participate and Advise in the Planning Process relating to Socio-economic development of STs, and to Evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State
- To submit report to the President annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, upon/ working of Safeguards, Measures required for effective implementation of Programmes/ Schemes relating to Welfare and Socio-economic development of STs
- The Commission would also discharge the following other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development & advancement of the Scheduled Tribes, namely:-
  - Measures that need to be taken over conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce to the Scheduled Tribes living in forest areas.
  - Measures to be taken to safeguard rights to the Tribal Communities over mineral resources, water resources etc. as per law.
  - Measures to be taken for the development of tribals and to work for move viable livelihood strategies.
  - Measures to be taken to improve the efficacy of relief and rehabilitation measures for tribal groups displaced by development projects.

- Measures to be taken to prevent alienation of tribal people from land and to effectively rehabilitate such people in whose case alienation has already taken place.
- Measures to be taken to elicit maximum cooperation and involvement of Tribal Communities for protecting forests and undertaking social afforestation.
- Measures to be taken to ensure full implementation of the Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- Measures to be taken to reduce and ultimately eliminate the practice of shifting cultivation by Tribals that lead to their continuous disempowerment and degradation of land and the environment

### Powers of the Commission

For Investigation and Inquiry, the Commission has powers of a civil court having authority to:

- Summon and enforce attendance of any person and examine on oath
- Discovery & production of any documents
- Receive evidence on affidavits
- Requisition any public record or copy thereof from any court or office
- Issue Commissions for examination of witnesses and documents
- Any matter which President, by rule, may determine.

### National Commission for Backward Classes

- The Supreme Court of India in Indira Sawhney Judgment, 1992 directed the government to constitute a permanent body in the nature of a Commission or Tribunal for entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.
- Pursuant to the direction of the Supreme Court, the Government of India enacted the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for setting up a Commission at National Level viz. "National Commission for Backward Classes" as a permanent body.
- **Power of NCSC to examine matters:** Currently, under the Constitution the NCSC has the power to look into complaints and welfare measures with regard to SCs, **backward classes** and Anglo-Indians.
- The Government has brought a **Constitutional Amendment Bill** to provide for constitution of a **Commission under Article 338B for socially and educationally backward classes**.
- This will rename the NCBC as **National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes** and will give it constitutional status. It will **hear the grievances of socially and educationally backward classes**, a function which has been discharged so far by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes under the article 338
- The Bill has recognised the developmental needs in addition to reservations.
- **Definition of socially and educationally backward classes:** Insertion of Clause (26C) under Article 366 to define "socially and educationally backward classes" as such backward classes deemed so under Article 342A.

### National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

NBCFDC is a "not for profit" company under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Its objective is to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes and to assist the poorer section of these classes in skill development and self-employment ventures. NBCFDC provides financial assistance through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). The Corporation can assist a wide range of income generating activities in skill development and self-employment ventures under following broad sectors:

- Agriculture and Allied Activities

- Small Business
- Artisan and Traditional Occupation
- Technical and Professional Trades/Courses
- Transport and Service Sector etc.

### 5.3.5. Minorities

#### National Commission for Minorities

Established by the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to protect minority rights in the country, the commission consists of one chairperson and six members representing the six minor communities – Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Parsis and Jains.

The Commission performs various functions including evaluating the development of minority communities under Union and States, ensuring the safeguard of minority rights as per the Constitutional laws and other legislations, conducting studies and researches on the matters related to minorities and suggesting measures to Government on these aspects.

The commission also acts as grievance redressal forum for persons belonging to minority communities. This Commission functions as a civil court in the matters concerning summoning of witnesses, discovery and production of documents; it receives evidence of affidavits, requisitions public records and copies, issues commission for examination of witnesses and documents, and any other prescribed matter in manner same as the civil courts.

#### Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities

The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities was set up in 1957 to comply with Article 350B of the Constitution. It takes up grievances of linguistic minorities and submits annual reports to the government.

#### National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions

- The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions was set up in 2004.
- It can look into any complaints relating to violation and deprivation of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- This Commission is a quasi-judicial body and has been endowed with the powers of a Civil Court.
- It is to be headed by a Chairman who has been a Judge of the High Court and three members are to be nominated by Central Government.
- The Commission has 3 roles namely adjudicatory function, advisory function and recommendatory powers.
- So far as affiliation of a minority educational institution to a university is concerned, the decision of the Commission would be final.

#### Central Wakf Council

A Wakf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for purposes recognised by the Muslim Law as religious, pious or charitable. Apart from these religious aspects, the Wakfs are also instruments of social and economic upliftment.

Administration of Central Legislation for Wakfs is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. For the purpose of advising it on matters relating to working of the Wakf Boards and the proper administration of Wakfs in the country, the Central Wakf Council was established as a statutory body. The Council implements schemes for development of urban Wakf properties and educational programmes schemes.



### 5.3.6. Disabled Persons

#### Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

In order to give focused attention to Policy issues and meaningful thrust to the activities aimed at welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities, a separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Department was renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan). The Department acts as a Nodal Agency for matters pertaining to disability and Persons with Disabilities.

The Department has the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

The Department deals with the following Legislations governing different aspects of disability and welfare & empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities:

- The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992,
- The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; and
- The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999

#### Disha

The Disha scheme aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Person with Disability (PwD) in 0-10 years of age covered under the National Trust Act, through therapies, trainings and providing support to family members.

#### National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

The NHFDC has been set up as a “not for profit” company by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It is wholly owned by Government of India and has an authorised share capital of Rs. 400 crores. It functions as an Apex institution for channelising the funds to persons with disabilities through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the State Government(s).

#### Schemes of NHFDC

- Micro Financing Scheme
- Schemes for Parent's Association of mentally retarded persons
- Scheme of Financing NGOs Working in the Area of Disabilities
- Scheme for Vocational Education and Training for PwDs
- Scheme for Providing Handholding Support to Differently abled Entrepreneurs Through 'Vishesh Udyami Mitras'
- Scheme for Providing handholding support to Differently abled for availing skill training/skill upgradation through 'Vishesh Prashikshan Mitras'
- Scheme of Financing Assistive Devices to Enhance the Employability or Increased Opportunity of Self Employment of Differently abled Persons
- Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund and National Fund)

#### Rehabilitation Council of India

The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education. Its functions

include: (i) standardization and regulation of training courses at different levels in all the training institutions throughout the country, (ii) recognition of institutions/ universities running training courses in the area of rehabilitation of the disabled within and outside the country on a reciprocal basis, (iii) promotion of research in rehabilitation and special education, (iv) maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register for professionals possessing the recognized qualifications in the area of rehabilitation and (v) encouragement of Continuing Rehabilitation Education programmes in collaboration with organisations working in the area of disability.

### 5.3.7. Senior Citizens

#### National Council for Senior Citizens

A National Council for Senior Citizens, headed by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has been constituted by the Ministry. The mandate of the National Council of Senior Citizens is to advise the Central and State Governments on the entire gamut of issues related to the welfare of senior citizens and enhancement of their quality of life, with special reference to the following:

- Policies, programmes and legislative measures
- Promotion of physical and financial security, health and independent and productive living
- Awareness generation and community mobilization.

#### Senior Citizen Welfare Fund

- Senior Citizen Welfare Fund has been established by the Government to promote financial security of senior citizens, old age pension, healthcare, health insurance and welfare of elderly widows.
- The Fund will also fund schemes related to old-age homes, day care of senior citizens and research activities related with ageing.
- This Fund will utilise unclaimed money, estimated to be in excess of Rs 9,000 crore, lying in PPF, employees provident fund and various small savings schemes.

## 6. Previous Years Vision IAS GS Mains Test Series Questions

1. ***It has been argued that the recent order of the Supreme Court to prevent the misuse of Section 498A institutionalises the prejudices and rehabilitates the myths, which the women's movement in India has battled over decades. Discuss.***

#### Approach:

- Give a brief explanation of Section 498A of IPC and elaborate the recent Supreme Court order regarding this particular section.
- Assess the directives passed by the SC.
- Analyze its impact on women and their rights in India.

#### Answer:

IPC Section 498A states that "whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine." Such an offence is cognizable, non-compoundable and non-bailable. It is deemed as 'the anti-dowry law'.

In *Rajesh Sharma and Ors vs State of UP* case (2017), the SC laid down directions to prevent misuse of Section 498A against a husband or his relatives. The guidelines are based on following observations by the SC:

- The law has been misused by wives and relatives and thus has violated the basic human rights of men.
- The court relied on NCRB data of 2005, 2012 and 2013 of the number of people arrested, convicted and acquitted and concluded that since conviction rate is low, most cases registered under 498A are false.
- Seizure of passports and issuing of interpol notices were seen as problematic.

In lieu of these observations, the court provided following guidelines:

- Cognizable offences have been turned into non-cognizable offences.
- Special rules for bail of husbands have been created.
- The provisions of the Passport Act have been altered.

However, there are serious issues with the judgment as it institutionalizes the myth of most cases being frivolous under section 498A. This can be understood from the following points:

- The NCRB data does not depict reality as there can be various reasons for acquittal, for e.g. poor investigation, settlement through mediation etc.
- The court did not co-relate data from other sources like NFHS-3, women's studies centers, etc. which paint a different picture regarding the issue.
- The judgment states that a 'Family Welfare Committee' drawn from members of society has to be constituted in each district. However, this is virtual privatization of policing function and delays investigation. Moreover, committee members can be unqualified and biased.
- There is already a bias against women in law enforcement agencies, i.e. a preconception that disgruntled wives are misusing the law.
- Low conviction rate exists across the board, isolating crimes against women seems illogical.

#### **Impact of the judgement on women and their rights**

- The law was passed in 1980s due to high number of dowry deaths. Earlier, the accused were immediately arrested and had the onus of burden to prove their innocence. However, the revised order is a step back as many safeguards have been introduced for the accused. This will deter women from taking legal recourse during instances of harassment.
- The SC unconsciously restores and legitimizes the construct that a woman rushes into litigation and criminal prosecution; however, generally women are weighed down by gender relations and often tolerate violence.
- The changed provision w.r.t. the passport will make it easier for accused husbands and NRIs to abscond.
- The importance of the law is undeniable in India's patriarchal social structure. Dowry remains unchecked and is often practiced despite implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Hence, some of the recent orders may weaken the grounds for genuine victims. Thus, the law must retain its progressive bias in favour of wronged women, without inadvertently wronging men.

**2. Human Trafficking in India has emerged as a serious issue, which calls for understanding the complexity of the problem and devising an effective strategy to combat it. Discuss.**

**Approach:**

- Introduce by defining human trafficking.
- Discuss the issue of human trafficking in India along with the complexities involved with this problem.
- Mention the steps taken to tackle the above problem.

**Answer:**

Human trafficking is the third largest organized crime after drugs and the arms trade across the globe. According to the United Nations – “trafficking is any activity leading to recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or a position of vulnerability”. Close to 80% of human trafficking across the world is done for sexual exploitation and the rest is for bonded labor.

India is considered as the hub of human trafficking in Asia with almost 20,000 women and children victims of it in 2016, a rise of nearly 25% from the previous year. According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development 19,223 women and children were trafficked last year against 15,448 in 2015.

To understand the problem of human trafficking we need to understand the basic intertwined factors behind it. For example:

- **Poverty:** Kids, especially girls, mostly from poorer regions are sold in faraway states of India for sexual exploitation and to work as bonded labour by agents who lure their parents with education, better life, and money for these kids.
- **Porous borders & poor bilateral coordination:** Porous borders coupled with lack of bilateral mechanism to handle trafficking makes neighbours like Bangladesh and Nepal and border states of India the prominent areas of human trafficking.
- **Double victimisation:** Cross-country trafficking leads to double victimisation of trafficked persons as they don't have their documents, which makes them illegal migrants in the host country.
- **Illegal trading:** Another cause of trafficking is the illegal organ trade or drug trade racket in which gullible and innocent people get trapped.
- **Indebtedness:** To support their family or to fulfil their debt obligations to moneylenders, members are forced to work for them
- **Impact of disasters:** Disasters leads to loss of stability and earning opportunities for many families. Various agents take advantage of such situation to traffic affected persons as they are most vulnerable to false promises in hope of better life.
- **Lack of skills and job opportunities** forces them to take up such offers.

To combat the problem of human trafficking, a lot of measures have been taken by the state machinery as well as by the NGOs to rehabilitate the victims of human trafficking. Some of the initiatives are:

- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution explicitly prohibits and criminalises human trafficking and forced labour.
- Trafficking in Human Beings or Persons is prohibited under the Constitution of India under Article 23(1). **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)** is the premier legislation for prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013** has come into force wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A IPC, which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking.

- **Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act, 2012** is a special law to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
- There are other specific legislations enacted relating to trafficking in women and children: Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994; apart from specific Sections in the IPC, e.g. Sections 372 and 373 dealing with selling and buying of girls for the purpose of prostitution.
- State Governments have also enacted specific legislations to deal with the issue. (e.g. The Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, 2012).
- Along with the government trafficking is prevented by the efforts of local NGOs such as Maiti Nepal on the Nepalgunj side and Dehat Prahari Project in India.

To combat the problem of human trafficking we need to respond to the social weaknesses that make victims of human trafficking vulnerable to exploitation, such as gender inequalities, underemployment, family conflicts etc.

**3. Examine the steps taken by the government over the years to ensure a secure and exploitation-free childhood for its citizens. Further analyse how the recent ratification of the two key ILO conventions will help India's fight against child labour.**

**Approach:**

- Mention the steps that have been taken by government for child welfare in general in India.
- Provide a brief analysis of these steps.
- Then discuss about two conventions ratified by the government recently and how it supports fight against child labour.

**Answer:**

Investment in children is an investment in future. Thus, Government of India has taken several steps over the years to ensure a safe and secure childhood to children of India, some of which are as follows:

- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** – provides for strengthened provisions for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.
- **Child Labour Amendment Act 2016** - It seeks to protect the Right to Education of children of below 14 years of age. In addition, it provides for the first time protection to adolescents of 14 – 18 years of age.
- **Draft anti-trafficking bill** - To tackle different aspects of trafficking by putting in place dedicated institutional mechanisms at District, State & Central Level.
- **POCSO Act** – To deal with sexual assault, sexual harassment against children while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of judicial process.

Apart from these, Government of India has taken various other measures such as Khoya-Paya portal for missing children, increasing awareness among students about sexual misconduct etc.

Due to concerted steps taken by the government, there has been notable decline in child mortality, increase in primary level enrolment, etc. At the same time, much more is required in terms of addressing issues related to health, nutrition and child participation. Besides, there are new and emerging challenges like on-line threats for children and increasing vulnerability due to climate change. It is therefore, important

that major gaps and issues related to children are first identified followed by comprehensive. Recently launched National Action Plan for Children 2016 aims to fill this gap and also provides a monitoring and evaluation framework to maximize the ongoing efforts.

Further, even though there has been a decline in the percentage of child labour, **33 million children** in the age group of 0-18 years are still working in India. Country is still battling with **poor rates of prosecution and conviction** of child labour cases.

But government's resolve has not faded. It recently has ratified the **ILO Convention 182** on the worst forms of child labour and **Convention 138** on Minimum Age of Employment. It will have various impacts towards ending the child labour-

- **Zero tolerance towards exploitation of children** - the government will take immediate, urgent and effective measures to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
- **Fix minimum age** - It requires India to ensure that no one under the fixed age is admitted for work in any occupation except in cases of light work and artistic performance
- **Prohibiting worst forms of child labour** – It will require India to prohibit the worst forms of child labour including slavery, debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour etc.

Ending child labour has various other positive outcomes such as reduced dropping out rates, reduced stress on children of economic roles and safe childhood etc. But ultimately the success on eliminating exploitation against children depends on the level of social empathy, political will and the implementation of resources invested in the development and protection of children. It can be solved only if the reasons driving exploitation of child, such as poverty unemployment, lack of social security net, **inadequate enforcement of law**, are resolved.

**4. Recent judgment of the Supreme Court, amending the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has invoked varied responses. Highlighting the amendment, critically examine its likely impact on application of the law.**

**Approach:**

- Mention the amended provision of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 by the Supreme Court.
- Critically assess the positive and negative impacts of the amendment on the application of the law.
- Briefly suggest a way forward in the conclusion.

**Answer:**

The intent of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 was to safeguard women from domestic violence or harassment by an adult male. Under Section 2(q) of the Act, a complaint could be made only against an "adult male person."

Recently, in the **Hiral Harsora v. Kusum Harsora** case, the Supreme Court struck down the words "adult male" and made the section 2(q) gender neutral. Now, a woman can file a domestic violence complaint and seek legal action against **other women and minors**.

**Positive Impacts of the Amendment:**

- It recognizes that domestic violence is not only in the hands of adult males but also female members and minors of the family.



- It safeguards victims of domestic violence from physical abuse by all members of family.
- In the original form, the law could have been exploited by an adult male person not standing in the forefront, but putting forward female persons who could forcibly evict a woman without fear of inviting prosecution.
- The SC bench resorted to the “doctrine of severability” as the section created gender based distinction and went against principle of equality according to Article 14 of the Constitution.

However, activists and workers working against domestic violence are worried about the repercussions of the amendment.

#### **Negative Impacts of the Amendment:**

- It could encourage husbands to file counter cases against their wives through their mothers or sisters.
- Majority of domestic violence cases are filed by women against men. Moreover, cases of domestic violence have increased over the years as per National Crime Records Bureau, 2013 report. Hence, shift in law from gender-specificity to gender-neutrality is considered regressive as it disregards that women are disproportionately impacted by violence.
- A gender-neutral law is not conducive when there is power imbalance in the family and women are in a position of disadvantage socially. The amendment is not aligned with Article 15(3) of the Constitution, which provides for special provisions regarding women.
- There is danger that the PWDVA could be used against women and minors and not against the real perpetrators of domestic violence.
- It may lead to increased burden on judiciary and delay justice delivery, as there could be increase in fake cases.

Principle of equality should be applied contextually when there is gender equality in social and personal aspects. The amendment fails to observe criminal offences of sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism and rape under the IPC, which are all gender-specific and against men. Focus should lie on proper enforcement of prevalent laws to protect women from violence and dissemination of available legal remedies.

#### **5. *What do you mean by bonded labour? Explaining the reasons behind persistence of bonded labour in India, highlight the problems faced by them. Also give an account of the steps taken for abolition of bonded labour in the country.***

##### **Approach:**

- First explain the meaning of bonded labour in the introductory part.
- Then explain the reason for the prevalence of bonded labour in India and also explain the problems faced by bonded labours.
- Describe the steps taken by the government for the abolition of bonded labour in India.

##### **Answer:**

Bonded Labour refers to a worker who renders service under condition of bondage arising from economic consideration, notably indebtedness through a loan or an advance. Where debt is the root cause of bondage, the implication is that worker (or dependents or heirs) is tied to a particular creditor for a specified or unspecified period until the loan is repaid.

It is estimated that there are about 32 lakh bonded labourers in India. Of these, 98% are due to indebtedness and 2 per cent due to customary social obligations.

### Causes of Bonded Labour:

- **Economic:** extreme poverty, inability to find work, small landholdings, lack of alternative small-scale loans for rural and urban poor, natural calamities like drought, floods etc., absence of rains, drying away of wells, meagre income from forest produce, and inflation.
- **Social factors:** high expenses on occasions like marriage, death, feast, birth of a child, etc., leading to heavy debts, caste-based discrimination, limited outreach of social welfare schemes to safeguard against hunger and illness, non-compulsory and unequal educational system, and indifference and corruption among government officials.
- **Exploitation by powerful persons or castes** in a village also compels people to migrate and seek employment under adverse conditions.
- **Religious and caste based** arguments are used to convince people of bonded labour.
- **Illiteracy, ignorance, lack of skills and poor implementation of legal protection.**

### Problems faced by Bonded labour

- Forced to work for the employer only and not for anyone else.
- Force is used to make them stay. In many cases they are kept under surveillance, lock and key.
- Work for 12-14 hours a day and are forced to live under miserable conditions.
- Majority of bonded labourers works as agricultural labour in villages and belong to the Dalits or tribal communities.
- Bonded agricultural labourers occupy lowest rung of rural ladder.

### Initiatives for the elimination of bonded labour

- Articles 21 and 23 of the Constitution and Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.
- SC in several judgements, has given directions to improve the situation and since 1997, NHRC has been directly involved in monitoring situation and making reports to SC.
- Government had initiated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which Rs 4,000 was initially provided for the rehabilitation of each bonded labourer.
- Till March 2015, more than 3 lakh bonded labourers have been identified and released.
- Centre also provides assistance for surveys, awareness campaigns and evaluations. Released bonded labourers are given priority in a number of government programmes.
- Since June 2000, ILO has been implementing a project to prevent and eliminate bonded labour in South Asia..

India has a plethora of labour legislation regulating conditions of work of contract and migrant labour, prohibiting child labour in hazardous industries, and for minimum wages. But these remain in large part unimplemented. A concerted effort to ensure implementation of the law, by government in close cooperation with employers' and workers' organisations and civil society, is called for in this respect.

6. ***The Forest Rights Act 2006 tries to undo the historic injustice done to the forest dweller and tribals. In spite of its well intended goals the act has failed to achieve the desired success. Critically analyse.***

**Approach:**

- Briefly introduce discussing the need of FRA.
- Discuss the provisions of the Forest Rights Act and how it tries to undo the historic injustice.
- Enumerate the challenges like unhindered absolute rights over minor forest produce; restrictions like transit permit etc. due to which the implementation of the Act has been hindered.

**Answer:**

The genesis of Forest Rights Act (FRA) lies in the historical deprivation of rights of tribal and other forest dependent communities in India. It started with the colonial rule in the 19th century. This policy of reserving forests and restricting people's rights continued even after independence.

The Forest Rights Act seeks to recognize and vest the Forest Rights and Rights for occupation of forest land on forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

It goes beyond the "recognition" of Forest Rights and empowers the forest rights holders, Gram Sabhas and local level institutions with the right to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage any community forest resource.

**Rights Available Under the Act:**

- Right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers.
- Community rights such as nistar, including those used in erstwhile Princely States, Zamindari or such intermediary regimes.
- Right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries.
- Rights of settlements and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forest, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages.
- Right of access to biodiversity and community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity.

Even though till February 2016, out of 44.15 lakh claims that have been filed, 17.20 lakh titles have been distributed over 89.90 lakh acres of forest land, the full implementation of FRA have been fraught with challenges--many of them genuine and others a consequence of bureaucratic and political inertia, incompetence and malice. The following depicts to its limited success:

- **Limited recognition of community rights:** This is sometimes attributed to a lack of evidence on the ground for the stated joint ownership. (Though there are solutions like physical land surveys and mobile apps that offer a solution)
- **Poor utilization of forest resources:** In absence of infrastructure such as roads and markets tribals continue to struggle to make good use of the forest even in developed states like Kerala.

- **Non-recognition of un-hindered absolute rights over the minor forest produce (MFP):** this is done by imposing several restrictions like transit permit for transportation of MFPs, levy of fees, charges, royalties on sale of MFPs, exclusion of certain types of MFPs in contravention of the definition of MFP given in the Act, continuance of monopoly of the State Agency in the trade of MFP, especially in the case of high value MFP, such as, tendupatta etc.
- **Lack of demographic details of tribal population** dwelling in the reserved and protected forests in different States and Union Territories; it is compounded by stark mismatches between state and central data.
- States in the **North-East** being cold to the FRA as local communities there already enjoy far more powers than what the FRA confers.
- Misinterpretation of FRA by forest bureaucracy as an **instrument to regularize encroachment**. This is seen in its emphasis on recognising individual claims while ignoring collective claims.

There is a clear need to strengthen the nodal tribal departments, provide clear instructions to the State and district administrations, and encourage civil society actors for a robust implementation of FRA. Without a strong political will, this historical transformation is unlikely to take place.

**7. *The transgender community has been among one of the most marginalized communities in India. Discuss. How does the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016 seek to protect transgenders from discrimination and address the problems faced by them?***

**Approach:**

- Firstly, briefly define what constitutes the transgender community.
- Next, highlight the issues related to the marginalization of transgender community in India.
- Delineate the provisions for healthcare, education, certificate of identity etc in the Bill.
- Briefly highlight the shortcomings of the bill and suggest what further can be done. Supreme Court judgments can also be used for suggestions.

**Answer:**

Transgender persons include all those whose own sense of gender does not match with the gender assigned to them at birth. They include a number of socio cultural identities, such as kinnars, hijras, aravanis, jogtas, etc.

The discrimination based on their class and gender makes the transgender community one of the most disempowered and deprived groups in Indian society. The various issues faced by transgender in India include:

- Being treated as unnatural and as objects of ridicule and even fear on account of superstition.
- Denial of basic rights i.e. Right to Personal Liberty, dignity, Freedom of expression, Right to Education and Empowerment, Right against violence, Discrimination and exploitation and Right to work. Lack of skill development forces them to beg or indulge in sex trade.
- Lack of medical facilities like HIV care and hygiene, depression, hormone pill abuse, tobacco and alcohol abuse.

- Isolation in matter of civil rights (regarding marriage, property ownership and adoption)
- Transgender status is not properly documented in census. This becomes a barrier in carrying out adequate research and formulating welfare policies concerning transgender.
- Eunuchs are forced by their 'gurus' to lead a life of servitude and bonded labourers.

The Supreme Court in its landmark Judgment in **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vs Union of India** affirmed the constitutional rights and freedoms of transgender persons. By recognizing diverse gender identities, the Court has broken the binary gender construct of 'man' and 'woman' that has pervaded Indian law. To uphold the rights of the transgenders, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016 was introduced in the Parliament and has various provisions which include:

- **Prohibition against discrimination:** The bill prohibits discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, healthcare etc.
- **Right of residence:** Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household. If the immediate family is unable to care for the transgender person, the person may be placed in a rehabilitation center, on the orders of a competent court.
- **Certificate of identity** for a transgender person: A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
- Relevant government to take measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society. It must also take steps for their rescue and rehabilitation, vocational training and self-employment, create schemes that are transgender sensitive, and promote their participation in cultural activities.
- **Offences and Penalties:** The Bill recognizes the following offences: (i) begging, forced or bonded labour (excluding compulsory government service for public purposes); (ii) denial of use of a public place; (iii) denial of residence in household, village, etc.; (iv) physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse.
- Creation of **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT)** - The Council will advise the central government on the formulation and monitoring of policies, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.

However, the Bill dilutes certain aspects of the SC NALSA judgment. It does not have any provisions of reservation and self-identification. At the same time, the Transgender Persons Bill is definitely an important milestone in mainstreaming a community facing isolation and neglect for long in India.

**8. What are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)? How are they different from de-notified tribes? Critically analyze the initiatives taken by the government to address the problems faced by them.**

**Approach:**

- Clearly define the PVTGs to address the first part of the question, ideally provide a few examples.
- Demarcate the difference between the PVTGs and de-notified tribes for answering the second part.

- Critical analysis of the government initiatives entails identifying the initiatives and finding some lacunae.
- As conclusion provide a way ahead.

**Answer:**

In 2006 the government proposed to rename the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). In 1960-61 the Dhebar Commission mentioned the sub-category Tribal groups as Primitive Tribal Groups who are characterised by:

- Pre-agricultural technology
- Stagnant and declining population
- Extremely low literacy
- Subsistence level of economy

Tribal groups that satisfied any one of the criterion were considered as PTGs and later PVTGs. Vulnerability of the PVTGs can be primarily attributed to loss of their traditional livelihood, habitats and customary resource rights.

At present there are 75 tribal groups identified and categorized as PVTGS, located in the States/UT of AP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand, West-Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Birjia, Greater Andamanese, Onge and Jarawas etc. are some of the examples of PVTGS with population less than 1000.

Denotified tribes were, during the British era, notified as criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act. The notification was repealed in 1952, ever since they are termed as Denotified tribes. These groups are officially marked as the "Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes" (DNTs). Even after independence members of these communities were stigmatised due to the application Habitual Offenders Acts. The criminal label closed the doors to regular employment, and DNT communities remained socially and economically far behind most other Indian communities. Balkrishna Renke Commission was constituted in 2008 to look in to the issues related to these communities.

Thus it can be observed that PTVGS are different from DNTS as:

- Unlike the PTVGS, DNTs are not simply a subcategory of Scheduled Tribes, some are also listed as "Scheduled Castes." While others are listed in the, "Other Backward Classes" or OBCs. Some are outside the ambit of these classifications as well.
- The DNTs are largely landless, nomadic people— although today some are settled.
- DNTs were subject to special persecution under both British Colonial rule and afterwards due to specific legal provisions.

**Government Schemes:**

- "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), it has been modified in 2015. Under the Scheme, priority is accorded for their protection and improvement in terms of the social indicators like livelihood, health, nutrition and education, so as to decrease their vulnerability.
- The National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was appointed in 2006.
- For certain groups of DNTs who are not covered under the lists of SC/ST & OBCs and for them the Government has launched two schemes in 2015:



- (i) Dr. Ambedkar Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) and
- (ii) Nanaji Deshmukh Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Construction of Hostels for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes.

Despite various schemes over the years the PVTGs and DNTs have remained largely outside the ambit of development process. On the indicators such as health and education these groups remain at the bottom. The need is continuous assessment and monitoring of the schemes for the PVTGs. In the case of DNTs the need is to repeal discriminatory legislation, give effective rehabilitation and provide separate categorization within India's affirmative action system of reservations.

9. ***The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, was seen as an important legislation in the context of the protection of children, however, many argue that it has remained largely ineffective. Identifying the key objectives of the act, discuss the reasons for its ineffectiveness.***

**Approach:**

- In introduction very briefly provide the status of protection of children from sexual offences in India before POCSO act and contextualize why the act was passed.
- In the next section provide the key objectives of the Act.
- Discuss the reasons for ineffectiveness of this act to prevent the sexual offence against child.
- Very briefly provide a way forward in this context.

**Answer:**

In 2012, the parliament passed the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act, (POCSO). Until then provisions of IPC were used to deal with sexual offences against children and the law did not make a distinction between an adult and a child.

**The objectives of the act can be summarised as following:**

- It aims to offer protections to children (individuals below the age of 18) from sexual violence, namely sexual assault, sexual harassment and the inclusion of children in pornography.
- It provides a comprehensive legislation to safeguard the interest of a child at every stage - reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and trial of offences.
- It aims at providing relief and rehabilitation as soon as the complaint is made to the Special Juvenile Police Unit.
- It stipulates special courts for the arraignment of sexual crimes committed against children with speedy disposal of cases.
- It fulfills the mandatory obligations of India as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child.

The passing of the statutory law is more than significant for a variety of reasons however; numerous bottlenecks exist in the successful implementation of the Act such as:

- Police forces are inept in handling the delicacies involved in such offenses, due to lack of proper training. POCSO repeatedly mandates the necessity of extensive training programs for the police and other legal authorities, handling child sex abuse cases, such programs are almost non-existent.

- Lack of awareness about the act as most child abuse cases are not booked under POCSO.
- Due to lack of fund, poor infrastructure of the psychosocial services in our country, the victim and his/her family receives very little from the government sponsored services.
- Lack of efforts on the part of state governments to furnish explicit codes and principles that need to be strictly adhered to by the medical and healthcare professionals in child sex abuse cases.

In a country where 40% of the population falls below the age bracket of 18 years and about 53% children have been a subject to some form of sexual abuse, the proper implementation of POCSO in our country is a necessity of yesterday.

**10. What are the reasons for the declining rate of child adoption in India? Discuss whether the amended Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 can address this issue.**

**Approach:**

- Discuss reasons for declining rate of child adoption in India.
- Discuss provisions of JJ Act related to easing the process of adoption.

**Answer:**

The adoption rate within the country as well as those by foreign nationals in India has gone down by nearly 50 per cent in the last five years.

While South Indian states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have still maintained a relatively high rate of adoption, states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa and Uttarakhand, along with the seven North-Eastern states, have recorded an abysmally low number of child adoption.

As per Government records, 6,321 children were adopted in 2010. However, the number of adoptions came down to 4,354 in 2013. Maharashtra has the highest rate of adoption despite the downward trend. Among the foreign countries, the US leads in adopting Indian children.

**Reasons for declining rate of child adoption in India**

- Low rate of adoption in North-Eastern states was primarily due to absence of government-recognised adoption agencies.
- States like Bihar, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh do not have any registered agency due to which adoption of children has taken a hit in these states.
- Tedious adoption norms and slow judicial process further slowed down the adoption process. FIRs are registered in nearly 80 per cent of the cases and hence, adoption cannot be done without getting clearance from the local courts.
- Cases pertaining to girl child deter the adoption agencies from being pro-active.
- Preferences of most prospective Indian parents range from fair complexion to gender, but most centre around age and physical health. Hence, delay adoptions
- Artificial reproductive technology is giving stiff competition to the cause of adoption.

### Provision for child- adoption in JJ Act 2015

The Central Adoption Resource Agency will frame regulations on adoption. These regulations will be implemented by state and district agencies. Prospective adoptive parents should be physically and financially sound. A single or divorced person may adopt a child. A single male may not adopt a girl child.

- To facilitate quick and smooth adoption of children, the **entire adoption process has been made online and transparent.**
- Simplified procedures have been laid down for **adoption by relatives.**
- Child care institutions are required to develop **linkages with Specialized Adoption Agencies** so that the **pool of adoptable children can be increased** and these children can be brought into the adoption process.
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**, which was earlier a society has been given the status of a **statutory body** to enable it to function better. The Draft Rules prescribe for a comprehensive list of function of CARA, to facilitate its smooth functioning.
- Separate chapter on Adoption provides for **detailed provisions relating to adoption** and punishments for not complying with the laid down procedure.
- Processes have been streamlined with timelines for both **in-country and inter-country adoption** including declaring a child legally free for adoption.

### But some concerns remain

Under the Amended JJ Act, it is illegal for foreigners to adopt a child without a valid court order. Under the Amended JJ Act, it is illegal for foreigners to adopt a child without a valid court order. This makes adoption by foreigners a tedious process.

The Delhi High Court in July, 2016 reprimanded CARA for low adoption rates in the country. It also ruled that in cases of adoption where biological parents are themselves willing to give the child up for adoption, the JJ Act of 2015 does not apply as it only concerns orphans and the abandoned.

Various social workers in the national capital say the thriving illegal adoption industry, which law enforcement agencies haven't cracked down upon, is the reason behind the low official numbers.

Overall, the amended rules are a step in the right direction and various lacunae should be addressed to increase adoption rates in India.

11. ***It is more difficult to escape the shadow of social discrimination than it is to break the shackles of economic backwardness. Discuss the statement in the context of Dalit capitalism and give an account of the problems that Dalit entrepreneurs have been facing. Also highlight the steps taken by the government in recent times to encourage Dalit empowerment via the market.***

### Approach:

- In the introduction explain the rationale behind emergence of Dalit capitalism.
- Discuss the challenges faced by them because of social backwardness.
- Highlight the steps taken by the government.

### Answer:

It has been argued by some in recent times that the best way for Dalits to get in charge of their own destiny is for them to become capitalists themselves and welcome

economic reforms and globalisation with open arms. The supporters of this view argue that capitalism is changing caste much faster than any human being. Therefore, Dalits should look at capitalism as a crusader against caste. Thus, rapid industrialisation is seen as the best bet for the advancement of Dalits.

But, successive census reports on enterprises outside agriculture show that Dalits own far fewer businesses than should be expected from their share of the total Indian population. The representatives of Dalit capitalism want to correct this imbalance because they believe that capital is the best way to break caste in the modern economy

However, it has also been seen that Dalit entrepreneurs face immense hurdles to progress.

#### Problems faced by Dalit entrepreneurs

- **Lack of access to existing business networks:** India is one of the many countries where entrepreneurs depend on trust-based community networks to transact business. It is very difficult for a Dalit entrepreneur to break into these networks.
- **Caste in market:** Markets, after all, exist within a societal context. Caste and community links play a role in various aspects of the Indian market, from securing capital to integration into supply chains.
- **Caste – sector linkage:** The space enterprises by Dalits occupied in the market are also often determined by caste. Activities dealing with leather were the most important for Dalit enterprises. By and large, Dalit entrepreneurs have been trapped in low productivity, bottom of the ladder activities.
- **Entry barrier:** The legacy model of ‘collateral based lending’ preferred by traditional Financial Institutions creates an entry barrier to aspiring Dalit entrepreneurs as they rarely possess assets that can be collateralized.

#### Steps taken by government

- **Stand up India:** The scheme is primarily aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among Dalits by providing finances to them from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs. The scheme involves the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICC) in its implementation.
- **Mudra Yojana:** It aims at promoting small business enterprises by providing them with easy loans. It will help entrepreneurs in Dalit community in availing credit for their business.

12. *Over the years, there have been many initiatives across India to promote the girl child and improve its poor child sex ratio. The schemes have differed in name, but converged in their general inefficiency. Examine. How does the “Beti Padhao Beti Bachao Yojna” seek to address this gap?*

#### Approach:

- As introduction acknowledge the challenging conditions of girl child in India despite multiplicity of schemes.
- Provide the arguments for the inefficiency of these schemes preferably with examples.
- The last part of the answer needs to be answered by providing the distinguishing feature of the BPBBY scheme.

**Answer:**

Despite multiple schemes addressing the concerns of girl child in general and Child Sex Ratio in particular the situation remains challenging as is suggested by the fact that India's child sex ratio has fallen from 945 in 1991 to 918 in 2011. Similarly, the Sex Ratio at Birth for 2010-2012 stood at 908. The modest achievements compared to sizeable outlays and lofty targets of these schemes have attracted criticism for inefficiency.

Following factors have been cited for these charges:

- **Focus on low income households:**

Many of these schemes, such as the Dhan Lakshmi Scheme, involved conditional cash transfer schemes targeting low-income families. Whether financial incentives were really helping Indian households to respect and value daughters as much as sons is not clear and can only be ascertained by an in depth research.

- **Conflating sex ratio with family planning:**

A common eligibility condition in many of the schemes, such as Karnataka's Bhagyalakshmi scheme or Punjab's Balri Rakshak Yojana, is that parents must accept sterilisation after having two children. Many of these schemes offered smaller incentives for the second daughter.

**Lacunae in access and implementation:**

Requirement of multiple registrations and certificates of proof rendered these schemes difficult to access for the poor and migrants. Corruption has been another key complaint. Recently a CAG audit found financial irregularities in Madhya Pradesh government's Ladli Lakshmi Yojana involving instances of incentives being handed out to ineligible candidates. Additionally ground level monitoring and evaluation was lacking in these schemes.

The recently launched BBBP scheme underlines the importance attached by government to the issues affecting the girl child. This scheme seeks to address some of the concerns regarding the previous schemes through:

- Implementation and sustaining of Social Mobilisation and Communication Campaign for creating equal value for the girl child and promoting her education.
- Initiating intensive and integrated action in 100 Gender Critical Districts and Cities low on CSR.
- Mobilisation and training of local bodies and grass-root workers for social change.
- Inter-sectoral and inter-institutional convergence for action at block, district and grassroots levels.

In view of the previous schemes the need is to simplify eligibility criteria, conditionalities and registration procedures. Field-level monitoring to study the impact of the schemes as well as grievance redressal mechanism would be required to make the scheme a success.

Following Schemes can be cited for this answers

- Dhan Lakshmi Scheme
- Indira Gandhi Balika Suraksha Yojana
- Ladli scheme in Haryana
- Bhagyalakshmi scheme in Karnataka
- Girl Child Protection Scheme in Andhra Pradesh
- Balri Rakshak Yojana in Punjab
- Ladli Lakshmi Yojana in Madhya Pradesh

## 7. Previous Year UPSC Questions

1. Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2017)
2. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss. (2017)
3. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. (2016)
4. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics? (2014)
5. Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. (2013)
6. The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. (2013)
7. The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success: (2013)

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