

# EDEN IAS

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### BOOKLET - I

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## EDEN WCR

A UNIT OF WCR SERIES INITIATIVE BY TEAM EDEN



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# 1. NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY 2020

{“What is really needed to make democracy function is not the knowledge of facts, but the right education” - Mahatma Gandhi.}

## Introduction:

- A step forward to realize this vision of the father of the nation the Government of India, The Ministry of HRD (Education Ministry now) has proposed THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY 2020 – **“paving way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country”**.
- The National Education Policy 2020, an initiative after 34 years of its predecessor Education policy of 1986, is meant **“To provide an overarching vision and comprehensive framework for both school and higher education across the country”**.
- As it is just a policy and not a law, the implementation of its proposals depends on further regulations by both States and the Centre as the education is a concurrent list subject in Indian constitution.

## Overview of Policy :

- The National Education Policy( NEP) 2020 is the first education policy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country.
- **This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure**, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21<sup>st</sup> century education, including SDG4, while building upon India’s traditions and value systems.

### Learning plan

A look at the key features of the new education policy:

• R.V.S. PRASAD



- Public spending on education by States, Centre to be raised to 6% of GDP
- Ministry of Human Resource Development to be renamed Ministry of Education
- Separate technology unit to develop digital education resources

### SCHOOL EDUCATION

- Universalisation from age 3 to Class 10 by 2030
- Mission to ensure literacy and numeracy skills by 2025
- Mother tongue as medium of instruction till Class 5 wherever possible
- New curriculum to include 21st century skills like coding and vocational integration from Class 6
- Board exams to be easier, redesigned

### HIGHER EDUCATION

- New umbrella regulator for all higher education except medical, legal courses
- Flexible, holistic, multi-disciplinary UG degrees of 3-4 years' duration
- 1 to 2 year PG programmes, no M.Phil
- College affiliation system to be phased out in 15 years

- The National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions.
- **The aim must be for India to have an effective education system by 2040 that is second to none**, with equitable access to the highest-quality education for all learners regardless of social or economic background and to bring the highest quality, equity, and integrity into the system, from early childhood care and education through higher education.
- The NEP 2020 is the outcome of laborious process particularly by debate, discussion & also controversies. Initially, T.S.R. **Subramanian Committee** was appointed to bring out & to recommend the reforms in our

- educational system. Later on, in 2019, **Kasturi Rangan Committee** has been constituted to draft a New national educational policy, whose recommendations were now by & large accepted and included in final policy .
- The implementation of previous policies on education has focused largely on issues of access and equity. The unfinished agenda of the National Policy on Education 1986, modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92), is appropriately dealt with in the new education Policy 2020.

### **Principles Of The NEP 2020 :**

#### **The NEP 2020 Implicitly Contains the following fundamental principles within it :**

- Recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of each student, by holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres
- According the highest priority to achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by all students by Grade 3
- Flexibility for learners to have the ability to choose their learning trajectories and programmes,
- No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams, etc.
- Multidisciplinarity and a holistic education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports for a multidisciplinary world
- Emphasis on conceptual understanding rather than rote learning and learning-for-exams
- Emphasis on Creativity and critical thinking to encourage logical decision-making and innovation
- Ethics and human & Constitutional values were accorded importance .
- Promoting multilingualism and the power of language in teaching and learning
- Life skills such as communication, cooperation, teamwork, and resilience
- Focus on regular formative assessment for learning rather than the summative assessment
- Extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers, increasing access for Divyang students, and educational planning and management
- Respect for diversity and respect for the local context in all curriculum, pedagogy, and policy, always keeping in mind that education is a concurrent subject
- Full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of all educational decisions
- Synergy in curriculum across all levels of education from early childhood care and education to school education to higher education
- Teachers and faculty as the heart of the learning process
- A 'light but tight' regulatory framework to ensure integrity, transparency, and resource efficiency of the educational system
- Outstanding research as a corequisite for education and development.

### **The Key Highlights/ TakeAways :**

- The policy stipulates to change **the Nomenclature of the Ministry of human resource and development (MHRD) to Education Ministry.**
- The policy proposes **to double public investment in education to 20% of its public expenditure or 6% of the gross domestic product (GDP)** over the next decade which is at present is Around 2.8 % of the GDP accounting for 10 % of its public expenditure .



## **Reforms In School Education :**

- **Schooling will start at the age of 3 years :**

Earlier, schooling was mandatory for children between the age of 6 and 14 years. However, under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), education will be compulsory for children between the age of 3 and 18 years.

- **5+3+3+4 curricular and teaching structure :** The new National Education Policy aims to shift from decades-old 10+2 format to a 5+3+3+4 system, keeping in mind a child's development and capabilities, corresponding to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (middle), and 14 -18 (secondary).

**The New structure is as follows :**

- 1) **PRE-PRIMARY:** It includes five years of foundational stage. Of the five years, three years are of pre-primary school and two years of grade 1 and grade 2.
- 2) **LATER PRIMARY:** The next three years are of Preparatory Stages. These are Grades 3, 4 and 5.
- 3) **UPPER PRIMARY:** This includes three years of middle stage. They are Grades 6, 7 and 8.
- 4) **SECONDARY:** This stage includes Higher Level. They are Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

- **Emphasis on mother tongue as medium of instruction :**

The National Education Policy puts emphasis on a child's mother tongue as the medium of instruction. However, **The NEP only recommends the mother tongue as a medium of instruction; it has not been made compulsory.** The policy states that children learn and grasp non-trivial concepts more quickly in their mother tongue

- **Universalisation of Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) :**

Early childhood care and education is more than the preparation for primary school. It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.

- **Reduction in curriculum to core concepts :**

The policy states that curricular content will be reduced to enhance essential learning and critical thinking and greater focus will be on experiential learning.

- This brings early childhood education (also known as pre-school education for children of ages 3 to 5) under the ambit of formal schooling. The mid-day meal programme will be extended to pre-school children.

- **To revamp foundational literacy & numeracy :**

There is a mission called National Mission on foundational Numeracy Literacy. It ensures that every student in Grade 5 & beyond must achieve foundational literacy & numeracy by 2025.

- **For teacher training:**

A New & Comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021 will be formulated by consulting NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be 4 year integrated B.Ed course.

## **REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION :**

- Replacing the UGC & AICTE with Higher educational commission of India (HECI).
- Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.
- Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards. Also, HECI will be having four independent verticals namely -

1. **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation.**
  2. **General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting,**
  3. **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding,**
  4. **National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.**
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
  - The higher education should be more flexible, more broad based & it should be multidisciplinary.
  - Opening up Indian higher education to foreign players .
  - Reintroduction of four year multidisciplinary bachelors programme with exit option .
  - Discontinuation of M.Phil programme and Setting up of National research foundation.
  - Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education should be brought to 50% by 2035 which is 28 % at present .

### **Strengths/Merits/Significance Of NEP 2020 :**

Swami Vivekananda envisioned that “**Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man**” and meeting the aspirations of Swami Vivekananda’s vision the NEP 2020 also strives to extract the perfection in the minds of students along with all the following strengths/ merits in its way:

#### **I.PRO-STUDENT POLICY :**

**The National educational policy 2020 is more of a pro student policy with much focus on student centric aspects** like the following :

- THE NEP 2020 stipulates that the student will have increased flexibility in the choice of subjects to study and the policy aims to impart more practical knowledge than the mere rote learning by nurturing a scientific temper from the young age.
- With rich and quality education, by the time students complete their higher secondary education, they will become at par with the global standards and in turn India is to attract more foreign students for education in India.
- THE NEP 2020 emphasizes on Exposure to music, arts, and literature to students therefore now the students can gain greater exposure to vocational skills and Coding which will be taught from Class 6 onwards.
- Students can overcome the language barrier in learning which is another great salient aspect to be noted in the policy .

#### **II. OVERHAULS THE PRESENT SYSTEM :**

- THE NEP 2020 strives to overhaul present system by Universalization of Access from early child care education to Secondary education .
- The policy also stipulates for Reduction of curriculum content and promotes essential learning and critical thinking .
- Policy offers for more global exposure with foreign colleges being set up in our home country which could be a great move to attract international leading institutions to India.
- The policy Emphasizes on the quality in higher education , Stresses on research and funding to private institutions with a Focus on 21st-century skills in teaching, learning, and assessment.
- The policy released is the result of field experiences, factual research, feedback from stakeholders, and lessons learned from best practices. Its progressive march is a shift to a more scientific approach to education.

### III. INDIAN ETHOS CENTRIC VISION :

- The policy envisions an “India centred education system that contributes directly to transforming our nation sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society”.
- The proclaimed “India centred-ness” of education is limited to recommendations on Indian languages and a mention of Indian knowledge systems.
- The policy strives to cherish the traditional values , ethos and culture of India. The policy looks instrumental in instilling a sense of pride and ownership in one’s own culture, heritage and linguistic inheritance.

### IV. IMPORTANCE TO VERNACULAR LANGUAGES & MOTHER TONGUE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION :

- Ability to learn languages is much higher during childhood rather than in adulthood. Children first get socialized in the language which is spoken in the family by parents, so the child is most comfortable in the local / regional language/Mother tongue therefore the NEP 2020 gives focus to instruction in the mother tongues at least till grade V, possible till grade VIII, which is the tender foundational age between three to eight years.
- The idea is in turn is in tune with the article 350 A of Indian constitution .The idea of using the mother tongue as the medium of instruction in primary school is not new to the Indian education system however it’s a step towards the implementation of the provisions .
- The Article 350A of the Constitution states that every state and local authority should endeavour to provide “adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children”
- The authorized structure without a doubt caters to the cognitive development of the child, gives them social and physical awareness.

### Short Comings of NEP 2020 :

According to many experts the NEP reform is considered as a boon to our entire gamut of education system but few others point out that it carries some challenges visible in it. Here are some drawbacks of the policy .

- **Exit option issue** -The Policy talks about exits for higher education students to drop out and re-enroll and at the same time initiates the Right To Education till class 12. The better way would be by removing the ‘exits’ as a normal way-out and making education a compulsory venture for students below 18.
- **Digital infrastructure issues are unaddressed** - Leave alone the digital aid, most children are not provided access to basic education. How would these children, without basic aid suppose to study from ‘digital open schools’ on computers.
- **Digitalization issues** - Nothing is mentioned about how the digitalization of classrooms is going to take place.
- **Digital divide & digital awareness issues in older teachers** -Talking about the quality of education taught in schools, NEP has drafted out elaborate plans for shaping new teachers through Continuous Development Program (CDP), what would happen to the older teachers and their capacity building? Any mention? Argues some other experts.
- **Is the mother tongue panacea for learning deficiencies** -Teaching in the mother tongue is not complete solution to solve the problem of low learning outcomes says ASER chairman.
- For multilingual education (MLE) to be successful, it has to be accompanied by pedagogical changes and trained teachers to teach in the child’s mother tongue.



## Conclusion

- The first education commission, **R.S Kothari commission** (1964 -66) has pointed out that “ **The destiny of India is shaped in its classrooms**”.
- Guided by this vision & Keeping the future of India in mind, **The New National Education Policy (NEP) promotes a participatory, holistic, and inclusive approach into education.**
- An effective inter ministerial coordination, abridging the digital divide , cerating more digital awareness , enhanced allocation of funds to education in letter and spirit(as proposed in policy) are some necessary prerequisites for smoother implementation the policy .
- If implemented with **the spirit of an effective cooperative federalism** , the new education policy can make India become one of the leading **LEARNING HUBS** in the world and make our children and youth realize their potential and thus would contribute to national development in the long run.



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## 2. ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN CONFLICT OVER NAGORNO-KARABAKH DISPUTE

{“War anywhere in the world is a threat to peace everywhere”}

### Issue At Glance :

- By disturbing and threatening the peace all around the south Caucasus region, **The decades old unresolved ethno territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region flared up once again recently.**
- In terms of its scale and intensity, the current ongoing conflict has surpassed all previous clashes, including the “Four Days War” of April 2016. This has escalated the tensions once again in the caucasus region.
- However this time **the external interventions like Turkey’s** determination to play an active role in support of Azerbaijan has imparted new dimensions to the conflict & worsened the situation further.

Apart from this, intermittent ceasefire violations between Azerbaijani and Armenian troops have caused hundreds of deaths in the past decade.

### About The Region

- The Modern-day Armenia and Azerbaijan both became part of the Soviet Union when it was formed in the 1920s. **The Nagorno-Karabakh region( disputed region) is geographically located within the territory of Azerbaijan, but in terms of population it is an ethnic-majority Armenian region** , In spite of these findings the Soviet union gave control over the Nagorno- karabakh area to Azerbaijan authorities. **Ethnically Armenia is majority Christian while the oil-rich Azerbaijan is majority Muslim.**



### Historical timeline of the dispute

- 1920: Establishment of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region within Azerbaijan’s territory by the then Soviet Union.
- 1988: A resolution has been passed by Nagorno-Karabakh legislature to join Armenia despite the region’s legal location within Azerbaijan’s borders.
- 1991: The autonomous region officially declared that it would not join either of the countries after a referendum which was boycotted by Azerbaijan. War erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region, leaving roughly tens of thousands of casualties and hundreds of thousands of refugees.
- 1994: A cease-fire has been adopted with the mediation of Russia which has remained in place since.
- 2016: In April 2016, the region was particularly tense because of violent fighting between the two countries, which was known as the Four Day War.
- 2020 : Recent clashes usurped again creating tensions in the region .

### **Background Of The Issue:**

- **The genesis of the conflict began with the flawed creation of Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region**, an Armenian Christian majority region on the territory of a Muslim majority Azerbaijan.
- However In July 1920s, when the South Caucasus was being incorporated into the evolving USSR, Nagorno-Karabakh's repeated petitions to Moscow for its merger with Armenia were turned down.
- The self-declaration of independence by Nagorno-Karabakh in September 1991 in the backdrop of an imminent collapse of the USSR resulted in a war between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh — supported by Armenia. This clash lasted till a ceasefire agreement was reached in 1994, mediated largely by Russia.
- Since then, **the OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by the USA, Russia and France have engaged Azerbaijan and Armenia extensively to resolve the conflict.**

### **Major Reasons For The Conflict:**

- **Territorial issues** - like the region is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan as it is geographically located in the Azerbaijan's territorial jurisdiction however the people of the region wants to be in association with Armenia.
- **Ethnical & Religious tensions** - like Armenia is a Christian majority region, while Azerbaijan is Muslim majority country. Amidst this indifference Nagorno -Karabakh region has 95% of the population as ethnically Armenian christian followers.
- **Domestic Political play** - is another cause of raising tensions as the leaders of both the nations have fueled the issue time and again for their vested political interests.
- **The conflict is essentially a conflict between two international principles** — the principle of territorial integrity advocated by Azerbaijan and the principle of the right to self-determination invoked by Nagorno-Karabakh and supported by Armenia.
- **Substantial failure of international mediation** – it is also one the major cause for the sustained tensions as the international interlocutors have so far failed to offer a compromise solution acceptable to both parties, who have adopted maximalist positions.
- **Failure to evolve a peace treaty** -The Negotiations over decades, mediated by international powers, have never resulted in a peace treaty which is another reason for the long lasting tussle.

### **Why Is It A Cause Of Concern For The Caucasus Region ?**

- Prima facie, the conflict is between two relatively small countries and is Ethno - territorial in nature. However, several regional and global players particularly Russia, USA, Europe, Turkey and Iran are also involved to secure their strategic, security and economic interests in the region.
- Europe's energy security hinges to a certain extent on the stability of the Caucasus region which is another cause of concern in the region.
- So far Russia, the USA and Europe have adopted a concerted approach in managing the conflict. Turkey's aggressive entry with the explicit consent of Azerbaijan may, however, upset the equilibrium.
- Azerbaijan may, at best, agree to granting some autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh, whereas the ethnic Armenians are insisting on full independence.

### **India's Relavance & Stance On The Conflict :**

- India does not have a publicly articulated policy for the South Caucasus — unlike “ Neighbour hood First policy”, “Act East policy” or “ Central Asia Connect”, The Caucasus region has remained on the periphery of India's foreign policy radar. Further, there is visible asymmetry in India's relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.



- India has adjusted its position on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as the situation has evolved over the years. In the initial stages of the conflict in 1993, India had endorsed the concept of respect for territorial integrity.
- For quite some time now, India's emphasis has been on a peaceful resolution of the conflict through diplomatic negotiations. India has every reason not to support Azerbaijan's territorial integrity as Azerbaijan has shown scant regard for India's territorial integrity violated by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- At the same time it is difficult for India to publicly endorse Nagorno-Karabakh's right for self-determination in view of the possible repercussions it can have for India as its adversaries may misuse it not only by making erroneous connections with Kashmir but also re-ignite secessionist movement in certain parts of India.
- Under the circumstances, India has adopted a balanced and neutral stance and made a politically correct statement in which it has expressed its concern, called for restraint and immediate cessation of hostilities and resolution of the conflict peacefully through diplomatic negotiations.
- India has also expressed its support for the OSCE Minsk Group's continued efforts towards peaceful resolution, implying that India is not in favour of involvement of any other entity, including Turkey..

### **International Stance On The Issue :**

#### **Turkeys Stance**

- Turkey declared unconditional support for Muslim-majority Azerbaijan. The reason for this is, apart from the cultural ties (both Turkey and Azerbaijan are Turkic countries), Turkey has had tensions with Armenia over other issues as well. Turkey doesn't recognise the 1915 Armenian genocide and this has been a bone of contention between the two countries.
- Armenia has also alleged that Turkey has supplied Azerbaijan with Syrian fighters and has also downed a plane. These allegations are denied by both Turkey and Azerbaijan.

#### **Russia's Stance**

- Russia, the dominant power in the area, maintains close ties with both Armenia and Azerbaijan, providing military and financial help to both countries. However, its ties with Armenia can be considered closer since Armenia hosts a Russian military base and is part of the Moscow-led Eurasian Economic Union

#### **Pakistan's Stance**

- India has supported Armenia while Azerbaijan has been supported by Pakistan. Pakistan was the second country to recognize Azerbaijan's independence after Turkey. Also, Pakistan is the only country that does not recognize Armenia as an independent state and fully supports Azerbaijan's position.

#### **China's Stance**

- China has grown increasingly active in the caucasian region, conducting a number of programs and signing economic, political and military agreements with Armenia. Armenia has also agreed to participate in the Chinese Belt and Road project. However, China is an ally of its rival Azerbaijan and Armenia is also aware of its support to Pakistan.

#### **USA 's Stance**

- Although USA shares co-chairmanship along with the Russia & France in OSCE minsk group, recently the presidents of Russia and France were jointly called for a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh but USA Did not gave any statement & remained silent on the conflict .This indicates international disengagement of USA . Under Trump regime , the US has taken a back seat on many major international issues, compared to previous administrations.

## GLANCE OF BILATERAL REALTIONS OF INDIA WITH ARMENIA & AZERBAIZAN

<u>INDIA – ARMENIA RELATIONS</u>	<u>INDIA – AZERBAIZAN RELATIONS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Armenia is the only country in the region with which India has a friendship and cooperation Treaty (signed in 1995), which, incidentally, would prohibit India from providing military or any other assistance to Azerbaijan in case Azerbaijan's offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh spills over to the territory of Armenia. India has received three heads of states from Armenia, but none from Azerbaijan or Georgia.</li> <li>On the other hand, the Armenia also extends its unequivocal support to India on Kashmir issue whereas Azerbaijan not only supports but also promotes Pakistan's narrative on this issue. But in terms of bilateral trade relations the levels of India's trade or investment with Armenia are, however, very low.</li> <li>In recent years, Indian-Armenian bilateral cooperation has seen rapid growth. The then Vice-President of India visited Yerevan (Armenia) in 2017. Armenia bought the India SWATHI military radar system in March 2020.</li> <li>For Armenia, close relations with India are vitally important as India provides a counter balance to the rival strategic axis between Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is part of the INTERNATIONAL NORTH SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC) which is proposed for movement of freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe. Apart from this Azerbaijan is a dialogue partner of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in which India is a member country.</li> <li>In 2018, the then Indian External affairs minister had visited Baku (Azerbaijan), the first-ever bilateral visit of an Indian External Affairs Minister to Azerbaijan. India's ONGC-Videsh is an investor in Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (ACG) oil fields and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline thus has participation in infrastructural projects over there .</li> <li>Despite of such bilateral relations between both countries, Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue and moves in closer ties with Pakistan.</li> </ul>

## Conclusion

- The conflict between the two countries has reached alarming levels , this is the high time for the international mediators to intervene immediately and should strive hard to evolve a peace treaty to push sides for substantive negotiations to prevent any further escalations.
- Furthur effective engagement of OSCE MINSC group along with united nations intervention could be one plausible step in this regard to establish peace in the region.
- Growing Pakistan- China-Turkey's influence in the south caucasus region is a source of concern for India, Therefore It is important for India to strengthen its ties with both the countries in line continuing its non-aligned stance, and call for peace in the region.
- As envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi **"An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind"**, any further violence would be detrimental to peace all across the world so , both the countries should resort to peaceful & diplomatic ways to resolve the conflict.

### 3. NITI AYOJ'S GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX

#### About The Index

- The Good Governance Index Was launched by NITI AYOJ on the occasion of Good Governance Day on 25 December 2019.
- The Good governance day is celebrated every year on 25<sup>th</sup> December to commemorate the birth anniversary of former prime minister of India late Sri Atal Bihari vajpeyee.
- The Good Governance Index is a uniform tool across States to assess the Status of Governance and impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and Union Territories.

#### Objective

- To provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and union territories, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration.

#### Key Findings

- The states and union territories have been divided into three groups — big states, north-east and hill states, and union territories — for the rankings based on certain indicators separately.

#### Sectors covered under Good Governance Index



- Tamil Nadu has bagged the top position in the composite ranking for good governance index (GGI), followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka while Jharkhand stood at last position according to the data provided by the Personnel Ministry.
- Puducherry gets the first position among the union territories, Himachal Pradesh ranked first in the north-east and hill category.
- Any index of this nature is bound to have some shortcomings , Some indicators like — farmers' income, prevalence of micro irrigation or water conservation systems and inflow of industrial investment — have been left out in the good governance index



## What Is Good Governance ?

- **World bank defined** the Good Governance as “**The manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country’s economic and social resources for development**” (In its report entitled “Governance and Development” in 1992).
- It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

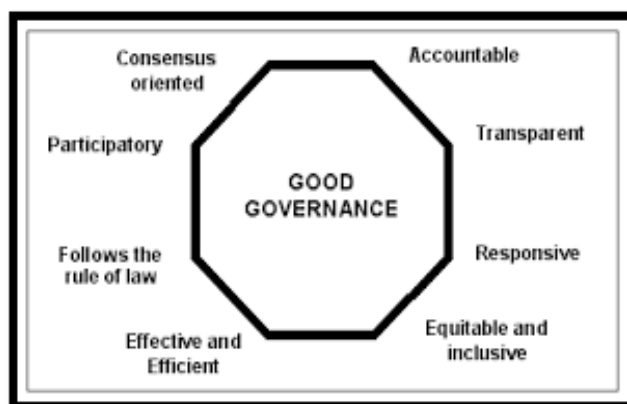
## Pillars Of Good Governance(4Es):

- there are 4 pillars of good governance ( 4Es),which are as follows :
1. **Ethos** (of service to the citizen)
  2. **Ethics** (honesty, integrity and transparency)
  3. **Equity** (treating all citizens alike with empathy )
  4. **Efficiency** (speedy and effective delivery of service)

## Characteristics Of Good Governance:

- Good governance has 8 major characteristics viz. Participatory, Consensus-Oriented, Accountable, Transparent, Responsive, Effective And Efficient, Equitable And Inclusive, Follows The Rule Of Law.

### Charecteristics of Good Governance



## Good Governance Initiatives In India

- Good Governance Index itself is a good governance initiative .
- Democratic Decentralization & Peoples participation - The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments 1992 giving recognition and protection to local governments viz. Panchayats and Municipalities.
- Implementation of Right to information act 2005(RTI act 2005)which ushered the dawn of transparency from the era secrecy .
- E governance initiatives like National E-governance plan, m governance, PRAGATI Portal , computerization of land records etc
- Digitalization efforts like Digital india programme, direct benefit transfer, jan dhan yojana & ADHAAR initiatives etc.

- Administration with minimum government & maximum governance principle.
- Usage of Information & communication technology in providing services.
- Anti corruption measures , According statutory status to central vigilance commission in 2003 .
- Setting up of NHRC, SHRC, National women commission, national green tribunal etc .
- My gov initiative , Sevottam model ,Social audit , citizens charter etc.

## Challenges To Good Governance.

- **Unholy nexus between the politicians and bureaucrats, business houses and Criminalization of Politics**, has a baneful influence on public policy formulation and governance. According to the Association of Democratic Reforms, 43% of Members of Parliaments of Lok Sabha 2019 are facing criminal charges. It is a 26% increase as compared to 2014.
- **Rampant prevalence of Corruption in the system** which is a major obstacle in improving the quality of governance. According to the Corruption Perception Index - 2019 (released by Transparency International, India's ranking has slipped from 78 to 80.
- **Justice delayed is justice denied** , Delay in Justice, lack of accountability in judiciary, threats to life & personal security etc are also major impediments in the process of good governance.
- **Over Centralisation of Administrative System** depriving the functions of lower levels. This is particularly relevant for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), which currently suffer from inadequate devolution of funds as well as functionaries to carry out the functions .
- **Economic issues like poor management of economy, persisting fiscal imbalances, regional disparities along with socio environmental issues.**
- **Continued prevalence of Gender disparity across the society also a major challenge in the path of good governance .**

## Conclusion

- Good Governance is the key to a nation's progress. An important step for Good Governance is simplification of procedures and processes in the Government so as to make the entire system transparent and faster. As said by Prime minister on good governance day "Citizen-First" should be our mantra, our motto and our guiding principle.
- We should also remember that **"fighting against corruption is not just good governance , its self defence , its patriotism"** therefore efforts must be sustained in letter & spirit for an effective good governance.
- The Good Governance Index could be a best catalyst to achieve effective governance and a best parameter to foster the spirit of competitive federalism in the realm of governance between states and centre , in between the different states also.

## 4. NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION

{“AROGYAM PARAMAM BHAGYAM, SWASTHYAM SARVARTHA SAMADHANAM” – Means  
Good health is the greatest wealth, Health is the means of everything}

### Introduction

- Health is the real wealth, In an attempt to accord highest value to health of the citizens, The National Digital Health Mission (THE NDHM) has been launched by Prime Minister during the Independence Day Speech.
- The NDHM is initiative which is completely technology based and will revolutionise the health sector in India.
- The scheme would first be tested on pilot basis in the six Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

### Objectives Of National Digital Health Mission

The major objectives of National Digital Health Mission are :

- To build an infrastructure to provide state-of-the-art digital health systems and manage the core health data including its exchange.
- To create and maintain the personal health record system of international standards which will be easily accessible to individuals, medical professionals and services providers based on individual's consent.
- To ensure portability in healthcare services on national level.
- To bring in efficiency, transparency and effectiveness to the governance in regard with the healthcare at all levels.
- To ensure regular improvement in the rendering of healthcare services to citizens.
- To enable healthcare sector to leverage the health data analytics and medical research.
- To build enterprise level health application systems along with a special focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for health.

### Salient Features Of NDHM :

- The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) is a focused effort for developing a robust digital health eco-system in India.
- The NDHM leverages the strong public digital infrastructure—including that related to Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface and wide reach of the Internet and mobile phones (JAM trinity) for establishing the building blocks.
- **The key building blocks of NDHM or digital systems consists** of namely, Health ID, DigiDoctor facility, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy & Telemedicine
- **National Health Authority (NHA)**, an attached office of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country
- **Unique Health ID:** Every Indian under the mission would get an ID card containing all relevant information about his/her medical conditions and treatments, tests etc
- **Comprehensive Health Profile:** Ranging from doctor appointment to the medication prescribed, medical



tests, every bit of detail will be available in the health profile of an individual across public and private healthcare.

- **Encouraging Private Players for promotion of Health Data Analytics & Medical Research**
- **Equal opportunity to private players** :Private stakeholders will have an equal opportunity to integrate with these building blocks and create their own products for the market.

### PARTICIPATION IN SYSTEM TO BE VOLUNTARY

AIMS TO	KEY BUILDING BLOCKS
➤ Establish <b>digital health systems</b> and managing health data	● Health ID ● Personal health records ● Digi Doctor ● Health facility registry ● Telemedicine ● e-Pharmacy
➤ <b>Improve quality</b> of health data collection, storage and dissemination	
➤ <b>Provide a platform</b> for interoperability of healthcare data	
➤ <b>Fast-track creation</b> of updated and accurate health registries for the entire country	
	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
	● Voluntary participation ● Privacy and security by design ● Inclusivity ● Seamless portability

### NDHM: A Game Changer In Health Sector

The national digital health mission is an attempt to address the various issues in conventional health sector . The NDHM can overhaul the present system with the following merits :

- **Will enhance the access to health care facilities to all citizens -**

Access to verified information will be greatly enhanced to even common man upon successful implementation of the proposed NDHM And the Citizens will be able to access details concerning healthcare facilities – location, specialities treated, services provided, operational hours

- **Will create an integrated digital health infrastructure -**

NDHM can effectively Abridge the gap between various stake holders by integrating them with the digital health infrastructure and thus establishes a vibrant digital health ecosystem.

- **The NDHM is a holistic, voluntary healthcare programme -**

While option of digital Health ID will be there, in case a person does not want Health ID, then also treatment needs to be provided.

- **It can potentially enhance the efficiency of health care services** through digitalization of services which can improve the accountability in policy making too.
- **It plays vital role in reduction of information asymmetry** thus strives to provide accurate & most reliable information to the stake holders.
- **It can improve the quality of health care and reduce the risk of preventable medical errors** thus it can effectively address the conventional health care challenges .
- **The provision of promoting e-pharmacy & Telemedicine** will enable people in rural areas access quality healthcare providers thus brings last mile connectivity which is very much essential.
- It liberates citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets.

### Challenges Ahead On The Way OF NDHM :

- **Lack of digital awareness & existence of digital divide and lack of uniform state of art technology across the country** is a cause of concern in the path of NDHM implementation .
- Although it can address some conventional issues in health care but it cannot completely overhaul the present system as its not a sole alternative for the all the health sector issues.
- **Risk of data privacy and security** : The new system is only based on the system of consent from the user. Such sensitive data will be transferred on the internet channels and accessible to hospitals, labs, etc. And India's data protection law has not been passed yet. Data could be used by insurance firms for analysis in their efforts to minimise the cover.
- **Diabolic condition for big private hospitals** :Big hospitals already have well established and maintained quality enterprise software where patients' data is already stored, it is a dilemma for them if they've to parallelly run both system or migrate to the new system.
- **Challenges at grass root level** : **Grass-root level clinics/ doctors/ health care institutions** have never ever entered such patient data in any computer – it's hard for them to setup/ follow/ maintain the new digitised system or engage data entry operators to do so.
- **Funds & financial challenges** : Its an expensive affair to setup such system at all levels, deploy hardware etc. Grass-root level clinics/ doctors might assume that the actual challenge is not patient health/ provision of beds for treatment/ maintenance of hygiene but getting acquainted to a new digitised system.
- **Health care is a state list subject**; did the states ask for a national digitisation plan or any medical associations ask for such digitisation of data.
- It has been claimed that all data that shall be entered into the system is accurate. However we know that even the Aadhaar data/ data on our voter ids is not error free.

### Conclusion

- **"Healthy citizens are the greatest assets that any country can have" - Wiston.S.Churchill.**
- In order to realize such golden words, the NDHM can be a great initiative by government of India as it can also effectively strives to achieve the Sustainable development goal 3.
- On the other hand It is an initiative to realize **the principle of "HEALTH FOR ALL"** therefore it has to be implemented with all due care along with effective legislative framework.
- In this regard **Justice Srikrishna committee recommendations** with respect to personal data protection can also be considered for enhanced protection

## 5. FATF AND PAKISTAN'S TERROR LIST

### Issue At Glance

- The Financial Action Task Force is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status in a virtual meeting .
- The virtual FATF plenary is scheduled for October 21-23 will decide if Pakistan should be excluded from its grey list, based on a review of Pakistan's performance to meet global commitments and standards on fight against Money Laundering and Terror Financing (ML&TF)
- The meeting was earlier scheduled in June but Pakistan got an unexpected breather after the global terror financing watchdog temporarily postponed all mutual evaluations and follow-up deadlines in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic
- If the FATF in its meeting finds that Pakistan has failed to meet its requirements, there is every possibility that the global body may put the country in the 'Black List' along with North Korea and Iran.
- Recently Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan had also warned in a statement that if blacklisted at the FATF, Pakistan's entire economy will be destroyed due to inflation and a massive fall in Pakistani Rupee.

### BACK GROUND :

- The FATF, the Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pakistan's inclusion in the grey list can be attributed to the fact that the country's anti-terror laws are still not in line with FATF standards and also with the latest UN resolution 2462 that pitches for criminalizing terrorist financing.

### Why Is It A Cause Of Concern For Pakistan:

- Pakistan had been on the same list ( grey list category) from 2012 to 2015, it is another time it has been placed in the grey list since June 2018 and now awaiting for dropping out of terror watch list .
- Once placed in the "grey list", countries face risk of downgrade by multilateral lenders like IMF, World Bank, ADB etc. And further reduction in their risk-rating by agencies. As Pakistan is already debt ridden country and financially in a troubled position its one of the biggest cause of concern for it.
- Placing in FATF terror list may impede Pakistan's access to global markets to attract foreign investments at a time when its foreign reserves are dwindling and external deficits are widening.
- Some kind of pressure is increased up with financial censures on its banks and businesses and targeted sanctions imposed against specific law enforcement and intelligence officials.
- If Pakistan will not comply with the obligations then the country runs the risk of being included on to the blacklist of the FATF that currently features Iran and North Korea.
- According to **Global Terrorism Index 2019** published by Institute of Economics & Peace Pakistan stands at 5<sup>th</sup> position in rankings on the impact of terrorism in the country .
- Recently **the Asia Pacific Group** (a regional affiliate of FATF) had also downgraded Pakistan's status to the "Enhanced Follow-up" category from "Regular Follow-up" over technical deficiencies to meet normal international financial standards which is another pondering issue to it.

### **Financial Action Task Force**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- Member Countries: it consists of thirty-seven member jurisdictions among which India is also one of the members.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

### **FATF TERROR LISTS**

- **Black List-** Countries that are known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
- **Grey List-** Countries that are considered a haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

### **Recent Efforts Taken By Pakistan :**

As part of the efforts by Pakistan to move from the FATF's grey list to the white list Pakistan has initiated following actions :

- Recently In an attempt to come out of the FATF's grey list, Pakistan has imposed financial sanctions on 88 banned terror groups and their leaders, including 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.
- Pakistan's Senate unanimously approved two bills related to the tough conditions set by FATF. Later on in the month of August, Parliament's lower house passed four FATF-related bills .
- The joint session of the Parliament amended about 15 laws to upgrade its legal system matching international standards as required by the FATF.
- Pakistan has already met in tune with the 14 points out of 27 point action plan recommended by FATF which has been endorsed even by FATF .

### **Steps To Be Taken Further**

Pakistan has to meet the list of remaining 13 points of 27 point action plan which are as follows -


1. Pakistan will have to demonstrate effectiveness of sanctions including remedial actions to curb terrorist financing in the country
2. Pakistan will have to ensure improved effectiveness for terror financing of financial institutions with particular to banned outfits
3. Pakistan will have to take actions against illegal Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs) such as Hundi-Hawala
4. Pakistan will have to place sanction regime against cash couriers
5. Pakistan will have to ensure logical conclusion from ongoing terror financing investigation of law enforcing agencies (LEAs) against banned outfits and proscribed persons



6. Pakistani authorities will have to ensure international cooperation based investigations and convictions against banned organisations (list provided to Pakistan) and proscribed persons (list provided to Pakistan)
7. The country will have to place effective domestic cooperation between Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) and LEAs in investigation of terror financing
8. Prosecution of banned outfits and proscribed persons (list provided to Pakistan)
9. Demonstrate convictions from court of law of banned outfits and proscribed persons (list provided to Pakistan)
10. Seizure of properties of banned outfits and proscribed persons (list provided to Pakistan)
11. Conversion of madarassas to schools and health units into official formations (list provided to Pakistan)
12. To cut off funding of banned outfits and proscribed persons .
13. Pakistan will have to place permanent mechanism for management of properties and assets owned by the banned outfits and proscribed persons (list provided to Pakistan).

## Conclusion

- Now Pakistan will have to comply with the above mentioned crucial 13 points including prosecution and conviction of banned outfits and proscribed persons at the earliest possible within the limited time frame given to it by FATF.
- Pakistan's continuation in the grey list of FATF vindicated its position that the country has not taken any concrete efforts and appropriate actions against terror networks operations from its soil. Ministry of External Affairs in a statement told that it vindicated India's position that Pakistan has not taken appropriate efforts to weed out terror outfits .



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## 6. BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT & RACISM

{“THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN ARE DIMINISHED, WHEN THE RIGHTS OF ONE MAN ARE THREATENED”. John F Kennedy }

### Introduction :

- Probably driven by the above words of John F Kennedy as an inspiration the BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT ( BLM MOVEMENT) took the shape of a **worldwide movement against the racial discrimination after witnessing the brutal killing of Mr. Gorge Flyod (An African American ) by an American police recently.**
- This Brutal and heart wrenching incident triggered and reignited the BLM MOVEMENT in an unprecedented manner all across the world transcending the boundaries.
- The movement turned in to a Neo crusade against the black racism with its wide spread prevalence.

### Background :

- As a protest against the police violence and anti racial discrimination, **the Black lives matter burst on to a level of movement since 2013.**
- The movement has its genesis since 2013 after a Florida jury acquitted Gorge Zimmerman an in Trayvon Martin(An African American)murder case.**
- The Black Lives Matter achieved national fame in 2014 during protests against the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown the latter also being a case of a fatal police shooting.
- However **the movement is reignited by the brutal killing of Mr. Gorge Flyod in 2019 with a cry of “I CAN’T BREATHE”.**
- But the violence against the African Americans(Black Lives) began when slave ships brought black people to America for the first time 3 centuries ago in 17<sup>th</sup> century. Since then racial atrocities were common on black people .



### Racism :

- The racism, racial discrimination, racial inequality , apartheid etc all are similar in nature and just turned as a menace in the society
- The Racism** is a systematic ideology, a complex set of beliefs and practices that, on the presumed basis of biology, divides humanity into the 'higher' us and a lower 'them'.
- The Race** is considered as a group with a common biological descent, Specific bodily features (colour, shape of nose, eye, lips) are permanently clumped together and human beings are classified in terms of these distinct biological clusters. Further, it is believed that these shared features are inter-generationally transmitted.
- Other manifestations of racism:** Xenophobia, intolerance towards blacks, ethnocentric superior feeling of whites , some stereotypic behaviours in the society , prejudiced behavior against blacks, biased attitude across various activities.

- **Some Racial discriminatory practices are :**

1. Ethnic cleansing of Rohingya muslims in Myanmar.
2. Atrocities on uighur muslims in china.
3. Discrimination towards Ahmadiyas in Pakistan

- **Victims of Racism:**

- Its not just common people are the victims of the menace but the famous stalwart leaders like Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi , Martin Luther king Junior, Rosa parks were also victims to such atrocities .
- **Mahatma Gandhi** was **thrown off a train at the Pietermaritzburg Railway Station**. He had refused to move from a whites-only compartment was a form experienced by him.
- **Nelson Mandela** was a **victim of apartheid - a system of racial segregation** which oppressed the black majority and fought against the cause of apartheid an emerged as an anti apartheid hero.
- **Rosa Parks** was known famously for **the Montgomery bus boycott incident** in efforts against the racial discrimination.
- **Martin luther king junior** is also famous for **the civil rights movement** in America against anti racism

### **Provisions Realted To Race**

#### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)1948 :**

- **Article 1.**  
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
- **Article 3.**  
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
- **Article 5.**  
No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

#### **Provisions in Indian constitution :**

- **Article 15** - Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth
- **Article 15(1)** - The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- **Article 16.** - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
- **Article 16 (2)** - No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State.

### **Crusades Against Racism :**

#### **I. THE NAACP & W.E.B. DUBOIS :**

- The first crusade was undoubtedly **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLOURED PEOPLE ( NAACP)**, a civil rights organization established in 1905 by the early fighter , the black educator **W.E.B. Dubios**.

- **The objectives of NAACP** were abolition of forced segregation, equal education for blacks & white students, enforcement of 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> amendments etc. it was a crusade against lynching.

## II . The Civil Rights Movement & Martin Luther King Jr :

- The second crusade is **obviously the civil rights movement of 1950's** led by famous leaders and **Martin Luther King Jr** (The black Baptist preacher ).
- Martin Luther King Jr was famous for his eloquent speech of **"I HAVE A DREAM"**. His campaign of non violent resistance championed the cause of passage of civil rights act of 1964.
- **"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character".** Martin Luther King Jr.

## III. Rosa Parks And The Montgomery Bus Boycott, December 1955 :

- **Incident** - In 1955, an African American woman named Rosa Parks was riding a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama when the driver told her to give up her seat to a white man. Parks refused and was arrested for violating the city's racial segregation ordinances, which mandated that Black passengers sit in the back of public buses and give up their seats for white riders if the front seats were full.
- **Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP.**
- **Rosa Parks was known as the "mother of the civil rights movement"**—would be one of the first to ride the newly desegregated buses.

## IV. The Sit-in Movement and Founding of SNCC, 1960

- **Incident** - In 1960, four Black students from the Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, North Carolina, sat down at the lunch counter in a local branch of Woolworth's and ordered coffee. Refused service due to the counter's "whites-only" policy, they stayed put until the store closed, then returned the next day with other students.
- To capitalize on the sit-in movement's increasing momentum, **the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** was founded in Raleigh, North Carolina in April 1960

## V. The Black Lives Matter Movement

- Despite of so much struggle and fights against the menace of racial discrimination, the instances of atrocities, killings, violence on the black people were not arrested and stopped. Amidst this context **The Neo crusade – Black live matter started.**
- **The term "Black lives matter"** was first used by organizer Alicia Garza in a 2013 in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, a Florida man who shot and killed Trayvon Martin on in 2012.
- **George Floyd Protests-** The movement swelled to a critical juncture on May 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic when 46-year-old George Floyd died after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground by police officer Derek Chauvin.

## Do You Know This

**Racial discrimination data :** According to "DoSomething.org" a global movement of millions of young people making positive change.

- During the 2015–2016 school year, **Black students represented only 15% of total US student enrollment, but they made up 35% of students suspended once, 44% of students suspended more than once, and 36% of students expelled.** The US Department of Education concluded that this disparity is "not explained by more frequent or more serious misbehavior by students of color.
- In one US survey, **15.8% of students reported experiencing race-based bullying or harassment.** Research has found significant associations between racial bullying and negative mental and physical health in students.



- From 2013 to 2017, **white patients in the US received better quality health care than about 34% of Hispanic patients, 40% of Black patients, and 40% of Native American patients.**
- **Black women are 3 to 4 times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women, even at similar levels of income and education.**
- **Black Americans are more likely than white Americans to be arrested.**
- Black Americans and white Americans use drugs at similar rates, but **Black Americans are 6 times more likely to be arrested for it.**
- On average, **Black men in the US receive sentences that are 19.1% longer than those of white men convicted for the same crimes.**
- In the US, **Black individuals are twice as likely to be unemployed than white individuals.** Once employed, **Black individuals earn nearly 25% less than their white counterparts.**
- In the US, **Black workers are less likely than white workers to be employed in a job** that is consistent with their level of education.
- According to the NAACP, **84% of polled Black adults believe white people are treated better by the police. In 2019, 63% of white adults agreed with that assessment.**
- Blacks represent only 5% of illicit drug users yet are 29% of those arrested and 33% of those imprisoned for drug-related crimes.
- Of those who are convicted of a crime and are later exonerated, 47% are Black.
- When pulled over by the police, Black people are three times more likely to be searched and twice as likely to be arrested than whites.
- Black babies die at twice the rate as white babies in the United States.
- Black tenants are five times as likely to be evicted from their homes than whites.
- **Black Americans are currently twice as likely to die from COVID-19**

### **Counter Movement To BLM – All Lives Matter Campaign :**

- On the other hand the anti black lives matter proponents claim different arguments . They are claiming that **the cops kill more white people nearly 5 times more than the black people, sometime it is said black people commit more.**
- Others questions that **what about black on black crime ?** what about gun violence in the black dominated areas like Chicago? **Why only black lives ?** Some of these arguments are true to some extent .
- Former President Barack Obama In a statement issued an important clarification about the phrase “Black Lives Matter”.
- Here’s what Obama had to say about the phrase and its meaning:

**“I know that there’s some who have criticized even the phrase ‘Black Lives Matter’ as if the notion that other lives don’t matter. We get ‘All Lives Matter’ or ‘Blue Lives Matter.’ I understand the point they’re trying to make. I think it’s also important for us to understand that the phrase ‘Black Lives Matter’ simply refers to the notion that there’s a specific vulnerability for African-Americans that needs to be addressed. It’s not meant to suggest that other lives don’t matter. It’s to suggest that other folks aren’t experiencing this particular vulnerability and so we shouldn’t get too caught up somehow in this notion that people who are asking for fair treatment are somehow automatically anti-police or trying to only look out for black lives as opposed to others. I think we have to be careful about playing that game because, obviously, that’s not what is intended.” – Barak Obama .**

## Ethics Behind The Black Lives Matter Movement :

For detailed explanation on this topic may also refer the below link of EDEN IAS you tube channel @

<https://youtu.be/WrR0GWyoJqU>

### Ethics behind " Black Lives Matter" movement

-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wrr0GWyoJqU>

## Impact of BLM Movement On Indian Diapora :

- Indian Diaspora makes a remarkable share in USA which makes a cause of concern for Indians in America in the wake of BLM Movement .
- Recently Indian-origin business leaders in U.S. back 'Black Lives Matter,' call for racial, gender justice
- Black Lives Matter Should Be a Wake-Up Call for India, India should remember that it has much soul-seeking to do on issues of race and identity amidst various issues with respect to minorities in India

## Conclusion

- **"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"- Martin Luther King Jr.** The Racial discrimination is a form Injustice therefore; it has to be handled with iron fist.
- **To champion the cause, the protesters should possess the fortitude like Nelson Mandela** to stand and fight for the cause, Meanwhile they should remain themselves only to nonviolent paths.
- And finally, **As appealed by Jimmy Carter** , the former president of USA, **"The Time For Racial Discrimination Is Over"** and we should put an end to the social menace of racism.



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## 7. FREEDOM OF MEDIA / PRESS

{“FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, IF IT MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL, MEANS THE FREEDOM TO CRITICIZE AND OPPOSE” – GORGE ORWELL .}

### Issue At Glance :

- **Freedom of the press** is the freedom of communication & expression for electronic and print media , with a right to report news or circulate the opinion without censorship from the government or the absence of interference from an overreaching state.
- Freedom of the press is considered as **one of the great bulwarks of liberty, manifestation of democracy , often hailed as 4<sup>th</sup> estate or 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of democracy**.
- However, Recent instances where the signals of some television channels critical of government were seemingly blocked at national & state levels brought the issue of freedom of press/ media in to lime light again.
- **Recently Orders by various courts, restraining the media from reporting on particular cases or programmes from being telecast, have drawn attention towards freedom of media & press , the right of people facing investigation to a fair trial.**

### Recent Instances In News :

- In a move recently **the Supreme Court of India has passed an interim order** which stopped the telecast of the remaining episodes of a news channel, as it was engaged in the targeted vilification of a particular community.
- A quite unusual and legally questionable decision has been **the interim order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court imposing a ban on the media**, and even social media, from mentioning anything in relation to an FIR filed by the police against a former Advocate General of the State and others.
- **Blocking the signals of some television channels** which are critical towards governments at centre & state level .
- **Selective denial of journalistic access to various programmes** by political parties & their meetings .
- Very recently, **the Mumbai Police has claimed about a scam about the manipulation of TRPs** (Target Rating Points) by some TV channels by rigging the devices used by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India.

### Do You Know:

- **Universal Declaration Of Human Rights( UDHR) 1948** says, Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion & expression which also includes freedom of media or press regardless of frontiers.
- **Article 19 (1) of Indian** constitution provides that All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which also includes freedom of press.
- Sweden was the first country to adopt freedom of press into the constitution in 1766.
- **World press freedom day is celebrated on May 3<sup>rd</sup> every year.**

### Need / Significance of Freedom Of Press :

- **Media Educates & Creates Social Awareness :** Freedom of press plays vital role in informing the citizens about the public affairs & actions of government at all the levels. Media make society aware of their democratic rights and fight the three institutions of democracy.

- **Strengthening A Nation:** Free media works towards strengthening the sovereignty and integrity of a nation.
- **Checks & Balances The State Excesses :** The press has been given the responsibility of checking & balancing the government in case of over reach or tyranny. An independent press and news-media press acts as an important check on Government and Administrators. For constructive criticism of government freedom of press is essential aspect.
- **Fundamental To A Democratic Society:** The freedom of press is fundamental to a democratic society like India for it is helpful in strengthening democracy. Press or media is therefore needs to be free to convey truth to the people.
- **Media Serves as a Watch Dog Of Liberty** which investigates official lapses and acts as a back bone of democracy too.
- Media serves as an active link between people & the government in a democratic country therefore it acts as essential aspect for successful democracy.
- **Acts As A Voice For The Public :** At national, regional and local level, it is the public's voice, activist and guardian as well as educator, entertainer and contemporary chronicler.
- **Voice Against Any Social Ill Or Wrong :** To combat efficiently against the social evils in the society like corruption, lurking etc.
- **To Foster Good Governance:** Media plays an important role in audit of the government policies and spending. An unbiased media is important for transparent reporting. To enhance transparency, accountability, efficiency of governance by genuine reporting

### Regulation & Restrictions On Freedom Of Press In India:

- The freedom of press comes within the ambit of freedom of speech & expression under article **19(1) of Indian constitution**.
- In a democracy, freedom of press is highly essential as it (the press) acts as a watchdog on the three organs of a democracy viz. the legislature, the executive & the judiciary.
- But, **the freedom of press is not absolute in nature and it is subject to certain restrictions which are mentioned in Article 19(2) of the Constitution.**

The following are the grounds of restrictions laid down in Article 19(2) :-

1. Sovereignty & Integrity of India
  2. Security of the State
  3. Friendly relations with Foreign States
  4. Public Order
  5. Decency or Morality
  6. Contempt of Court
- The grounds of 'Public Order' & 'Friendly relations with Foreign States' was added by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
  - While the ground of 'Sovereignty & Integrity of India' was added by the Constitution (Sixteenth Amendment) Act, 1963.
  - **The press council of India** is concerned with the task of regulation of freedom of press in India.

#### THE PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

- **The Press Council is a statutory body. It was first established by the Press Council Act 1965, on the lines recommended by the Press Commission of India in 1954.**
- **Functions :** The main functions of press council of India includes :-
  - a. **The preservation of the freedom of the Press.**
  - b. **To maintain and improve the standards of newspapers in India.**
  - c. **To form a code of conduct to prevent writings which were not legally punishable, but were yet objectionable.**



- **The News Broadcasters Association** is a private association of different current affairs and news television broadcasters in India . It was established by leading Indian news broadcasters 2007. The Association was set up to deal with ethical, operational, regulatory, technical and legal issues affecting news and current-affairs channels.
- **The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** is a ministerial level agency of the Government of India responsible for the formulation and administration of rules, regulations and laws in the areas of information, broadcasting, the press and the Cinema of India.



### Need For Regulation And Censorship :

- **Media without restraints can be hazardous** too therefore it should be reasonably restricted with appropriate censorship.
- **Media have the power to cause outrage among the people** so, it should be censored before reporting .
- **To curb the sensationalization of issues** which may cause law and order issues .
- The primary duty of press / media is to keep the people informed, educated & alerted therefore it should act in a more responsible way .
- The media should support the government in reaching the governance initiatives to the last mile through awareness.
- **To make the press must be vigilant and honest .**
- **To maintain unbiased, unprejudiced, nonpartisan, transparent, fearless and fair reporting/ publishing.**
- **To accord the journalistic ethics & uphold the values of journalism in letter & spirit.**
- To avoid the spread hatred , violence , false news, fake news , negative propaganda, targeted character assassination by press or media .

## The Press Freedom Index

<u>The Press Freedom Index 2020</u>	<u>The Press Freedom Index 2019 -</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Press Freedom Index, released by Reporters Without Borders ranked India at 142<sup>nd</sup> place .</b></li> <li>• India has dropped to 142 rank , two points below its 2019 rank.</li> <li>• Social Media hate campaigns against journalists reporting on issues that annoy Hindutva followers, criminal prosecutions to gag journalists critical of authorities, police violence against journalists .</li> <li>• The clampdown situation in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 are the major reasons for the poor rank of India revealed by the report.</li> <li>• <b>Comparison with Other countries-</b> India ranked better than its neighbors like Pakistan (145) and Bangladesh (151), but worse than Sri Lanka (127) and Nepal (112).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Press Freedom Index, ranked India at 140<sup>th</sup> place out of 180 countries.</li> <li>• The report highlighted how criminal prosecution, especially sedition, is rampantly used to abuse journalists.</li> <li>• It also noted that <b>“at least six Indian journalists were killed in connection with their work in 2018”.</b></li> <li>• <b>The death anniversary of Gauri Lankesh</b> is a chilling reminder of the cost of standing up for truth in India.</li> <li>• All these incidents reflect that press is endangered and not completely free.</li> <li>• This is a dangerous situation in a democracy as press and media is the fourth pillar and voice for citizens in a democracy . As revealed by the report.</li> </ul>

## The Status Of Freedom Of Press In India & Evolution Of Press

<u>Status Of Freedom Of Press In India</u>	<u>Evolution Of Press In India</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In Romesh Thapar v/s State of Madras case</b> - Shri Patanjali Shastri the then chief justice, observed that “Freedom of speech &amp; of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organization, for without free political discussion no public education, so essential for the proper functioning of the process of popular government, is possible.</li> <li>• <b>In Indian Express Newspapers v/s Union of India case</b> – it has been held that the press plays a very significant role in the democratic machinery. The courts have duty to uphold the freedom of press and invalidate all laws and administrative actions that abridge that freedom. Freedom of press has three essential elements. They are:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. freedom of access to all sources of information,</li> <li>2. Freedom of publication, and</li> <li>3. Freedom of circulation.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Sakal Papers v/s Union of India case</b> - The Daily Newspapers (Price and Page) Order, 1960, which fixed the number of pages and size which a newspaper could publish at a price was held to be violative of freedom of press and not a reasonable restriction under the Article 19(2).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Censorship of Press Act, 1799</b> - It was enacted by the Lord Wellesley, anticipating French invasion of India. It imposed almost wartime press restrictions including pre-censorship which was later relaxed by the Lord Hastings.</li> <li>• <b>Licensing Regulations, 1823</b>- According to this regulation, press without licence was a penal offence. The restriction was directed mainly to Indian language newspapers or those edited by the Indians.</li> <li>• <b>Press Act of 1835 or Metcalfe Act</b>- Governor General Metcalfe repealed the obnoxious 1823 ordinance and was named, “liberator of the Indian press”</li> <li>• <b>Licensing Act, 1857</b>- This act imposed licensing restriction and the right to stop publication and circulation of book, newspaper or printed matter reserved with the Government.</li> <li>• <b>Registration Act, 1867</b>- This act relaxed the restrictions put by Metcalfe’s Act of 1835 and hence states that Government acts as regulatory not restrictive body.</li> <li>• <b>Vernacular Press Act, 1878</b>- It was constituted for ‘better control’ of the vernacular press and effectively punished and repressed seditious writing.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bennett Coleman and Co. v/s Union of India case</b> - The validity of the Newsprint Control Order, which fixed the maximum number of pages, was struck down by the Court holding it to be violative of provision of Article 19(1)(a) and not to be reasonable restriction under Article 19(2). The Court also rejected the plea of the Government that it would help small newspapers to grow.</li> <li>• <b>Sahara vs. SEBI case (2012)</b> -The Supreme Court did hold that the Court can grant preventive relief on a balancing of the right to free trial and a free press.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Newspaper (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908</b>- This act empowered the magistrates to confiscate press property which published objectionable material likely to cause incitement to murder/acts of violence against the Extremist nationalist activity.</li> <li>• <b>Indian Press Act, 1910</b> - This act was a revision of the Vernacular Act that empowered the local government to demand a security at registration from the printer/publisher and forfeit/deregister if it was an offending newspaper, and the printer of a newspaper was required to submit two copies of each issue to local government</li> <li>• <b>Official secrets act 1923</b> - To maintain all matters of secrecy and confidentiality in governance in the country.</li> </ul>
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## Conclusion

- The press should rise to the occasion and assure the government that it would always acts as a responsible & enlightened fourth estate. Press must always be vigilant , fearless watchdog of democracy while delivering services.
- On the other hand government also should not misuse its powers to scuttle the growth of press. self restraints and self discipline alone can contribute to the growth of healthy democracy in any country therefore government should involve occasionally in to the matters .
- **The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC)** has in its final report submitted to the Government recommended that Article 19(1)(a) which deals with “freedom of speech & expression” must expressly include the freedom of the press and other media, the freedom to hold opinion and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. We can incorporate such changes in to constitution also.
- No one can claim that freedom of speech and expression is an absolute & unfettered right nor no Government can permit irresponsible writing, fake news , false propaganda etc. during the times of misuse of freedom of press the government should evolve some mechanism to check and balance the situation through effective measures.
- There are three pillars of a democracy viz. the legislative, the executive & the judiciary. The press acts as the fourth pillar of a democracy. The press has played many significant roles in delivering justice, public welfare and it should continue the same spirit in future too.
- In words of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, **“The role of journalism should be service. The Press is a great power, but just as an unchained torrent of water submerges the whole countryside and devastates crops, even so an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy.”**

## 8. BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP IN INDIA

{Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good and governance -Kofi Annan}

### Introduction

Every year on March 8, the world observes International Women's Day. The purpose is to reflect on the progress made by women in different fields, to celebrate the acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in history and to call for action to bring about the necessary change towards gender equality. The **theme** set by the United Nations for International Women's Day this year is – **Think equal, build smart, innovate for change**, with a thrust on working towards creating a gender-balanced society. According to the **Global Gender Gap Report**, it will take more than 200 years for economic gender equality to emerge, and 108 years to completely close the global gender gap across politics, health and education.

### Why in news

Recently India has slipped to the 112th spot from its 108th position in 2018 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020, which covered 153 economies.

### Global Gender Gap report:

- The Global Gender Gap Report was **first published in 2006** by the **World Economic Forum**. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality.
- The index is designed to measure gender-based gaps in access to resources and opportunities in countries rather than the actual levels of the available resources and opportunities in those countries. It is not necessarily true that highly developed countries should have higher scores.
- The report examines **four overall areas** of inequality between men and women in 130 economies around the globe, over 93% of the world's population:
  - **Economic participation and opportunity** – outcomes on salaries, participation levels and access to high-skilled employment
  - **Educational attainment** – Literacy rate, Enrolment in primary education, Enrolment in secondary education, Enrolment in tertiary education outcomes on access to basic and higher level education
  - **Political empowerment** – Women in parliament, Women in ministerial positions, Years with female head of state
  - **Health and survival** – Sex ratio at birth, Healthy life expectancy
  - In this case parity is not assumed, there are assumed to be fewer female births than male (944 female for every 1,000 males), and men are assumed to die younger. Provided that women live at least six percent longer than men, parity is assumed. But if it is less than six percent it counts as a gender gap.

• **The World Economic Forum** is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. It was established in **1971** as a not-for-profit foundation and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**. It is independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests. The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance.



## GGR 2020- Findings

- Globally, the average (population-weighted) distance completed to gender parity is at 68.6%, which is an improvement since the last edition. It will take 99.5 years to achieve full parity between men and women at the current rate of change.
- The largest gender disparity is in political empowerment. Only 25% of the 35,127 seats in parliaments around the world are occupied by women, and only 21% of the 3,343 ministers are women.
- Iceland** has topped the list on the Global Gender Gap Index for 11 years in a row. It has closed almost 88% of its gender gap, followed by **Norway, Finland and Sweden**.
- Yemen is ranked the worst (153<sup>rd</sup>), while Iraq is 152<sup>nd</sup> and Pakistan 151<sup>st</sup>.

## India

India has slipped to the 112<sup>th</sup> spot from its 108<sup>th</sup> position in the last edition (2018), ranked below countries like China (106<sup>th</sup>), Sri Lanka (102<sup>nd</sup>), Nepal (101<sup>st</sup>), Brazil (92<sup>nd</sup>), Indonesia (85<sup>th</sup>) and Bangladesh (50<sup>th</sup>).

- Performance on Four Indicators:
  - India has improved to **18<sup>th</sup>** place on political empowerment
  - but it has slipped to **150<sup>th</sup>** on health and survival,
  - to **149<sup>th</sup>** in terms of economic participation and opportunity and
  - to **112<sup>th</sup>** place for educational attainment.
- Among the 153 countries studied, India is the only country where the economic gender gap (0.354) is larger than the political gender gap (0.411).
- India is among the countries with very low women representation on company boards (13.8%), while it was even worse in China (9.7%).

### Other Reports related to gender Inequalities

#### Gender Inequality Index

- It was introduced in the 2010 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**). It uses three dimensions to measure opportunity cost: reproductive health, empowerment, and labour market participation.
- India Ranked **129** in 2018 Index (2017- 127), **Norway** topped the list while **Niger** was at bottom.

#### The Gender Parity Index (GPI)

- It is a socioeconomic index usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females. This index is released by **UNESCO**. In its simplest form, it is calculated as the quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education (primary, secondary, etc.).

## Changes in status of women

The status of women in India has been subject to many changes over the span of recorded Indian history. Their position in society deteriorated early in India's ancient period, especially in the Indo-Aryan speaking regions, and their subordination continued to be reified well into India's early modern period. Practises such as **female infanticide**, **dowry**, **child marriage** and the **taboo on widow remarriage**, have had a long duration in India, and have proved difficult to root out, especially in caste society in northern India.

## Pre-Independence

- During the British East India Company rule (1757–1857), and the British Raj (1858–1947), measures aiming at amelioration were enacted, including Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829, Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856, Female Infanticide Prevention Act, 1870, and Age of Consent Act, 1891.
- Peary Charan Sarkar, a former student of Hindu College, Calcutta and a member of "Young Bengal", set up **the first free school for girls** in India in 1847 in Barasat (Calcutta) (later the school was named Kalikrishna Girls' High School).

- Missionaries' wives such as **Martha Mead and her daughter Eliza Mault** are rightly remembered for pioneering the education and training of girls in south India. This practice was initially met with local resistance, as it flew in the face of tradition.
- **Raja Rammohan Roy's** efforts led to the abolition of Sati under Governor-General William Bentinck in 1829.
- **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's** crusade for improvement in the situation of widows led to the Widow Re-marriage Act of 1856. Many women reformers such as **Pandita Ramabai** also helped the cause of women.
- **Kittur Chennamma**, queen of the princely state Kittur in Karnataka, led an armed rebellion against the British in response to the Doctrine of lapse.
- **Rani Lakshmi Bai**, the Queen of Jhansi, led the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the British. She is now widely considered as a national hero.
- **Begum Hazrat Mahal**, the co-ruler of Awadh, was another ruler who led the revolt of 1857. She refused deals with the British and later retreated to Nepal.
- **The Begums of Bhopal** were also considered notable female rulers during this period. They were trained in martial arts.
- **Chandramukhi Basu, Kadambini Ganguly and Anandi Gopal Joshi** were some of the earliest Indian women to obtain a degree.
- In 1917, **the first women's delegation** met the Secretary of State to demand women's political rights, supported by the Indian National Congress.
- **The All India Women's Education Conference** was held in Pune in 1927, it became a major organisation in the movement for social change.
- In 1929, the **Child Marriage Restraint Act** was passed, stipulating fourteen as the minimum age of marriage for a girl.
- Mahatma Gandhi, himself a victim of child marriage at the age of thirteen, he later urged people to boycott child marriages and called upon young men to marry child widows.

## Post-Independence

### How far we bridged the gap since Independence: Various dimensions

Women's rights under the Constitution of India mainly include equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination; additionally, India has various statutes governing the rights of women.

#### Politics

- India has one of the highest numbers of female politicians in the world. Women have held high offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Leader of the Opposition.
- More than one-third of the states have implemented 50% reservation for women in PRIs.
- Despite various efforts, we are far behind in numbers as there is only 14% and 11% representation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively while states assemblies have only 9% women representation.

#### Military and other Law Enforcement

- Women made up 3% of Indian Army personnel, 2.8% of Navy personnel, and 8.5% of Air Force personnel. As of 2016, women accounted for 5% of all active and reserve Indian Armed forces personnel.
- The Indian Armed Forces began recruiting women to non-medical positions in 1992. The Indian Army began inducting women officers in 1992. The Border Security Force (BSF) began recruiting female officers in 2013. In March 2017, **Tanushree Pareek** became the first female combat officer commissioned by the BSF.

- In October 2015, the Indian government announced that women could serve as fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF), having previously only been permitted to fly transport aircraft and helicopters. In 2016, India announced a decision to allow women to take up combat roles in all sections of its army and navy.
- Government is planning to raise the count of women constabulary in CISF and CRPF to 33% while in BSF, SSB etc to 15%.
- In 2018 an IPS Officer Archana Ramasundram of 1980 Batch became the first Woman to become the Director General of Police of a Paramilitary Force as DG, Sashastra Seema Bal. In March 2018, Delhi Police announced that it would begin to induct women into its SWAT team.

## Education and Economic Development

- Though it is sharply increasing, the female literacy rate (66.6%) in India is less than the male literacy rate (81.3%). Far fewer girls than boys are enrolled in school, and many girls drop out. In urban India, girls are nearly on a par with boys in terms of education. However, in rural India, girls continue to be less educated than boys.

## Science and Technology

- According to a 2018 fact sheet prepared by UNESCO on women in science, just 28.8% of researchers are women. It defines researchers as “professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge”. In India, this drops to 13.9%.
- **Globally-** Between 1901 and 2019, 334 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to 616 Laureates in Physics, Chemistry and Medicine, of which just 20 have been won by 19 women. The double Laureate is Marie Curie, one of just three women who have won in Physics and one of just five in Chemistry, while 12 women have won the Medicine Nobel.
- **Women in science courses-** In 2015-16, 9.3% of female students in undergraduate courses were enrolled in engineering, compared to 15.6% across genders. Conversely, 4.3% of female students were enrolled in medical science, compared to 3.3% across genders. Then, at master's and doctoral levels, female enrolment remained lower than overall enrolment, and also fell behind for medical science in three of the five years.

## Workforce Participation

- According to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Report, 2019:
  - 1.3 billion Women were in work in 2018 as compared to 2 billion men – a less than 2% improvement in last 27 years.
  - The report highlighted that women are paid 20% lower than men, as a global average.
  - Women remain underrepresented at the top, a situation that has changed very little in the last 30 years. Less than one-third of managers are women.
- The FLFPR in India fell from 31.2% in 2011–12 to 23.3% in 2017–18. Further, the FLFPR for rural areas has declined by more than 11 percentage points in 2017–18.
- In rural areas, not only are women withdrawing from the Labour force, they are also being outcompeted by men in the existing jobs.
- the non-availability of white-collar jobs, disproportionate long hours and lesser job security narrow downs the job opportunities for educated women in India.
- Data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) show that education and employment have a U-shaped relationship (a rise and subsequent decline in employment with the rise in education levels). It also shows that illiterate women are most likely to participate in the workforce.

## Gender pay gap

- While India passed the Equal Remuneration Act way back in 1976, which prohibits discrimination in remuneration on grounds of sex. But in practice, the pay disparity still exists.
- In 2017, a study by Monster Salary Index (MSI) showed the overall gender pay gap in India was 20 percent. It found that the gap was narrower in the early years of experience.
- The pay gap becomes wider at senior level positions as the men with 11 and more years of tenure earned 25 percent higher median wages than women.

## Land and Property Rights

- In 1986, the Supreme Court of India ruled that **Shah Bano**, an elderly divorced Muslim woman, was eligible for alimony. However, the decision was opposed by fundamentalist Muslim leaders, who alleged that the court was interfering in their personal law. The Union Government subsequently passed the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights Upon Divorce) Act.
- In 2014, the Law Commission of India has asked the government to modify the law to give Christian women equal property rights.
- Recently (Aug 2020) Supreme Court has expanded on a Hindu woman's right to be a joint legal heir and inherit ancestral property on terms equal to male heirs. A Hindu woman's right to be a joint heir to the ancestral property is by birth and does not depend on whether her father was alive or not when the law was enacted in 2005 (it overruled the verdicts from 2015 and April 2018).

## Conclusion

**There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing (Swami Vivekanand)**

Gender inequality cannot be fully eliminated merely by the legal and administrative measures. The educated people should develop a national consciousness of the positive impact of gender equality. There is a need for changes in perception towards women. The human society would be most advantaged only if women are treated equally and are not deprived of their rights. Equality should be for all, regardless of gender, age, race or nationality. Everyone should command the same respect, and enjoy the same opportunities. That means respecting women without qualification and never thinking or treating them in a disrespectful way.





## 9. COAL AND ENERGY SECURITY IN INDIA AND COAL SECTOR REFORMS

### Introduction

The government's on-going energy sector policies aim "to provide access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy". At the convergence of its domestic goals and the global development agenda, it also intends to hit the following milestones on the way –

- Make available 24x7 power to all by 2019.
- Achieve 175 GW of renewable energy generation capacity by 2022.
- Reduce imports of oil and gas by 10 per cent by 2022-23.
- Continue to reduce emission intensity of GDP in a manner that will help India achieve the intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) target of 2030.

### Energy Security

Energy security has been significant to the economic transformation, global prosperity and well-being of the human kind. Energy security will continue to be detrimental to the existing life and much more crucial to the developing countries than the developed world.

- The world's demand for energy grew by 95% in the last 40 years and the future demand, estimated to be more than 90%, to be because of huge growth in demand from India and China. These resources are finite, and the direct links between energy supply and economic growth have pushed the issue of energy security at the core of the policy debate with a considerable impact on the geopolitics.

**The IEA defines energy security as the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price. Energy security has many aspects:**

**long-term energy security** mainly deals with timely investments to supply energy in line with economic developments and environmental needs. On the other hand,

**short-term energy security** focuses on the ability of the energy system to react promptly to sudden changes in the supply-demand balance.

### India: Energy Security

- India's more than 50% of energy needs is derived from domestic stocks of coal, mainly for the electricity. Coal shall remain India's most important energy source and critical to its growth for the decades ahead. However, the percentage of coal in India's energy mix will decline in the future.
- India, with 17% of the world's population, has just 0.8% of the world's known oil and natural gas resources. Today, oil accounts for 36% of the country's primary energy use. This figure is set to rise both in absolute and in percentage terms. India's domestic production is not sufficient to meet its demand.
- As a result, India already imports 80% of its crude oil needs. Without new and substantial domestic discoveries, imports will continue to increase. By contrast, natural gas currently provides only 8% of India's primary energy supply, and most of that gas comes from domestic sources, onshore and offshore. But the position is likely to change drastically as India plans towards the world average for the use of natural gas.

### Energy in India: Current Scenario

- India's energy mix is dominated by coal with a 49.6 per cent share, followed by oil (28 per cent), biomass (11.6 per cent), gas (7.3 per cent), renewable and clean energy (2.2 per cent) and nuclear energy (1.2 per cent).

- India is the world's third largest energy consumer. However, in 2017, its per capita energy consumption was about 625.6 kilogram of oil equivalent (kgoe) against the world average of 1860 kgoe. The US and China's per capita energy consumption in 2015 was 6800 kgoe and 2170 kgoe, respectively.
- In the power sector, the all-India installed power capacity is about 334 GW, including 62 GW of renewable energy. The energy sub-sectors continue to face challenges.
- On energy supply, India is still heavily dependent on petroleum imports to meet its requirements – we imported approximately 82 per cent of crude oil and 45 per cent of natural gas requirements during 2017. Also, at present, about 16000 km of gas pipeline networks exist.

**Commercial mining** allows the private sector to mine **coal** commercially without placing any end-use restrictions. The private firms have the option of either gasification of the **coal** or exporting it. They can also use it in their own end-use plants or sell them in the markets.

The progress of 10,000 Km of pipeline bid out by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), which was to be completed by 2016-17, is behind schedule.

- In the coal sector, the government has recently in 2018 allowed commercial mining. Furthermore, power sector companies, especially state government utilities, continue to deal with difficult financial positions.
- Due to energy efficiency (EE) measures, demand side management (DSM) and advanced technology in the energy value chain, India's energy intensity declined from 2005 to 2016 indicating an efficiency increase of 22.8 per cent. This indicates that India still has the potential to improve energy efficiency.

## Challenges/Constraints in Energy Sector

### Power Sector-

- Old inefficient plants continue to operate whereas more efficient plants are underutilized.
- As the gap between the average cost of supply (ACS) and average revenue realized (ARR) persists due to high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses, distribution companies (discoms) use load shedding to minimize losses.
- Although legally independent, Regulatory Commissions are unable to fully regulate discoms and fix rational tariffs.
- Unmetered power supply to agriculture provides no incentive to farmers to use electricity efficiently.
- State power utilities are not able to invest in system improvements due to their poor financial health.
- High industrial/commercial tariff and the cross-subsidy regime have affected the competitiveness of the industrial and commercial sectors.

### Oil & gas

- Non-discriminatory access for private and public sector companies to the gas pipeline network does not exist.
- Lack of market-driven gas prices for old fields disincentivizes further production.
- The gas pipeline infrastructure is also inadequate.

### Coal

- Land for coal mining is becoming a major issue.
- There is a tendency to expand opencast mining and discourage underground operation even for better quality coal reserves. This aggravates the land availability problem.
- There is no competitive coal market.

### Renewable energy

- High energy costs result in reneging on old power purchase agreements (PPAs) and erode their sanctity. This leads to uncertainty regarding power offtake and consequently endangers further investments.

- Flexibility in generation and balance requirements for the integration of renewable energy are emerging as major issues.
- There are supply chain issues in biomass power generation.

### Energy efficiency

- Limited technical capabilities, high initial capital expenditure, limited market and policy issues have adversely affected efforts to achieve energy efficiency.
- High transaction costs (which involves appointing suitable consultants and vendors for execution) relative to project size, especially in the micro, small-scale and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, makes energy efficiency investments unattractive for investors.
- The non-availability of sufficient credit facilities and difficulties in obtaining required finances for energy saving projects are strong deterrents to investments in energy efficiency in India.

### Overall energy

#### Subsidies and taxes

- A variety of subsidies and taxes distort the energy market and promote the use of inefficient over efficient fuels.
- They also make Indian exports and domestic production uncompetitive as energy taxes are not under GST and hence, no input credit is given. This is a serious lacuna.

### Recent Coal Sector Reform

Recently, the Centre **launched the auction of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining**. It is said that the move is aimed at reviving the auction process, which has remained in limbo with only 31 coal blocks having been auctioned since 2014. The Government said that the Centre has allowed commercial mining under its Atmanirbhar Bharat package, with the aim of making India among the biggest exporters of the dry fuel. The irony is that India is the second largest coal importer, despite having the world's fourth largest coal reserves and being the second largest producer.

India imports nearly 250 million tonnes of coal from other countries despite having the world's fourth largest coal reserve. The government is hoping that the involvement of the private sector will increase production and make India self-sufficient in meeting its internal coal requirements.

#### Background

- Coal mining was nationalised in 1973 by Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. So, private sector firms were only allowed to mine coal for use in their captive (own) use, e.g. cement, steel, power and aluminium plants etc.
- Later the government brought in the Coal Mines (Special provisions) (CMSP) Act of 2015 to allocate coal blocks through auction. Before CMSP Act, coal mines were not open for bidding. Companies used to apply for coal blocks and rights were given to them after scrutiny by an inter-ministerial committee.

### Why Reform is expected to transform India's growth trajectory

**Reduce Import-** First, over the years, our coal imports have been steadily rising to meet our domestic demand. In 2018–19, we had to import 25% of our total coal demand, which is 235 MT of coal. This cost us Rs 1.7 lakh crore in 2018–19 and bears an enormous pressure on our import bill.

- **Employment Opportunities-** Commercial mining licences with regulatory oversight and monitoring will facilitate employment opportunities for tribal communities and local populations. There are many examples of responsible mining in India such as **Hindustan Zinc**, which has brought immense benefit to the local population while ensuring that the local life and traditions of the tribal community remain unperturbed.
- **Rise in Government revenue-** Since the coal sector allows for 100% FDI, we will see major global and Indian investors pivoting to India's coal sector which will give a major impetus to national and state revenues.

- **Benefits to other sectors-** Entry of private sector in the coal sector has immense forward and backward linkages. The backward linkage of transportation and physical infrastructure is bound to create clusters of growth. In forward linkage, sectors such as cement, fertilisers, steel, and aluminium will bolster tremendous growth.
- **Reduced cost per unit-** Higher production with surplus availability of coal may reduce the cost of electricity that will boost the overall production specially those largely dependent upon energy.
- **Inducement of latest technology-** The entry of the latest global mining technology, management and competition is bound to revamp the sector from inside. Just like our public sector banks benefitted from the entry of private banks, Coal India Limited will also gain from the spill over effect in the industry.

### Reforms so Far

- The mining legal regime in the country was overhauled in 2015 pursuant to the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015** [MMDR Amendment Act, 2015] when the Supreme Court cancelled all the coal block allocated by the governments between 1993-2011 (with an exception of 4 coal blocks) to establish a transparent and non-discretionary regime for the grant of mineral concessions and redress the decreasing output of the mining industry.
- The MMDR Act was **further amended in 2016** to allow for transfer of mining leases that are granted other than through auction and used for captive consumption purposes.
- Since there had been end-use restrictions and the private sector was not allowed to trade into the market making it unattractive for the private sector. Further in 2018, private sector firms were allowed to sell upto 25 per cent of the output in the market.
- Environment Protection Act was amended to drop mandatorily washing coal for supply to thermal power plant, citing reason it prompts industries to import coal. Instead, thermal power plants were directed to install the technology for handling ash content.



The Amendment Act of 2020 amends the **MMDR Act** and the **Coal Mines Act** by introducing some of the major changes introduced by the Amendment Act of 2020 include:

- **Eligibility for auction of coal and lignite blocks** – the companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in India in order to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks.
- **Removal of restrictions on end-use of coal** – the entities not engaged in the specified end use (power, steel, washing of coal etc.) could also bid for cancelled coal mines. Further, a new allottee of one of the cancelled coal mines would be allowed to utilize such coal in their own plants or plants of their subsidiary or holding company engaged in the same specified end-uses.
- **Transfer of statutory clearances to the new lessee** – for minerals (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals), the various approvals, licenses, and clearances given to the previous lessee would be extended to the new lessee for a period of 2 years.
- **Advance action for auction** – now the State Governments can take advance action for auction of a mining lease before its expiry; as against the earlier position where mining leases for specified minerals (minerals other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) could be auctioned on the expiry of the lease period only.
- **Prior approval of the Central Government would not be required** in grant of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease for coal and lignite, in cases where (i) an allocation order has been issued by the Central Government; or (ii) the mining block has been reserved by the Central or State Governments to conserve a mineral.
- **Grant of prospecting licence-cum-mining lease** for coal and lignite blocks, which was earlier permitted only in respect of notified minerals.



## Conclusion

The socio-economic benefits of opening the coal sector for commercial mining are enormous. The impact on employment generation, infrastructure development, multiplier impact on other sectors, cluster development, and import bill reduction will go a long way in transforming India's growth trajectory. This move will revitalise the coal sector in the same way as the entry of private players changed the face of Indian banking. We are undoing the damage done to India and its economy five decades back.



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## 10. COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT OVER ECONOMY

### COVID-19



**Coronaviruses-** Large family of viruses that causes illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases.

**Why it is called Novel Corona-** It is new strain of Coronavirus that had not previously identified in humans.

**Other previously found corona viruses strains-** SARS-CoV in 2003, HCoV NL63 in 2003, HCoV HKU1 in 2004, MERS-CoV in 2013

**Covid 19-** Disease caused by novel corona virus.

**Scientific name of novel corona-** SARS-CoV-2

**Symptoms-** fever, cough, and shortness of breath and the severity has ranged from mild to people being severely ill.

### Introduction

- Amid the coronavirus pandemic, several countries across the world resorted to lockdowns to “flatten the curve” of the infection. These lockdowns meant confining millions of citizens to their homes, shutting down businesses and ceasing almost all economic activity. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 – the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- According to The Trade and Development Report (Sep,2020) by U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the world economy is experiencing a deep recession amid a still-unchecked pandemic. It said the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3% this year, leaving global output by year’s end over \$6 trillion short.
- Estimates for the year point to a generalised global recession matching the Great Depression of the 1930s, it said.
- The Indian economy saw its worst contraction in decades, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrinking by a record 23.9% in the April to June quarter (Q1FY21) in comparison to the same period last year, according to data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**

### How hard has the economy been hit?

- The pandemic has pushed the global economy into a recession, which means the economy starts shrinking and growth stops. In the US, Covid-19-related disruptions have led to millions filing for unemployment benefits. In April alone, the figures were at 20.5 million, and are expected to rise as the impact of the pandemic on the US labour market worsens. As per a **Reuters** report, since March 21, more than 36 million have filed for unemployment benefits, which is almost a quarter of the working-age population.
- Further, an early analysis by IMF reveals that the manufacturing output in many countries has gone down, which reflects a fall in external demand and growing expectations of a fall in domestic demand.

- **UNCTAD**- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established in 1964 as a permanent intergovernmental body. UNCTAD is the part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with trade, investment, and development issues.
- The **National Statistical Commission (NSC)** of India is an autonomous body which formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of Rangarajan commission. The objective of its constitution is to reduce the problems faced by statistical agencies in the country in relation to collection of data.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Global Growth

- The IMF's estimate of the global economy growing at -3 per cent in 2020 is an outcome "far worse" than the 2009 global financial crises. Economies such as **the US, Japan, the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Spain** are expected to contract this year by 5.9, 5.2, 6.5, 7, 7.2, 9.1 and 8 per cent respectively.
- Advanced economies have been hit harder, and together they are expected to grow by -6 per cent in 2020. Emerging markets and developing economies are expected to contract by -1 per cent. If China is excluded from this pool of countries, the growth rate for 2020 is expected to be -2.2 per cent.
- China's GDP dropped by 36.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, while South Korea's output fell by 5.5 per cent, since the country didn't impose a lockdown but followed a strategy of aggressive testing, contact tracing and quarantining.
- In Europe, the GDPs of France, Spain and Italy fell by 21.3, 19.2 and 17.5 per cent respectively.

## How COVID stormed various Sectors

### Two types of impact-

- **Primary Impact** - related to restrictions imposed and social distancing, especially on urban economy and service sectors (both formal and informal), tourism and travel, retail, transport and real estate.
- **Second round effect** - result of primary impact- Reduced income, reduced consumption Expenditure (thus reduced expenditure multiplier), NPA among MSME, outflows of FPI.

### Oil and natural gas

- Due to the fall in travel, global industrial activity has been affected. Oil prices fell further in March as the transportation section, which accounts for 60 per cent of the oil demand, was hit due to several countries imposing lockdowns.
- Not only oil, early this year in China, due to Covid-19-related containment measures, the demand for natural gas fell, as a result of which many Chinese LNG buyers halted their imports as storage tanks filled.

### Industrial Metals

- Due to lockdowns in China, followed by in the US and Europe, the demand for industrial metals reduced as factories shut down. As per IMF, China accounts for roughly half of the global demand for industrial metals.

### Food and beverages

- IMF projects a decrease in food prices by 2.6 per cent in 2020, caused by supply chain disruptions, border delays, food security concerns in regions affected by Covid-19 and export restrictions.
- In the lockdown period, while the price of cereals, oranges, seafood and arabica coffee has increased, prices of tea, meat, wool and cotton have declined. Further, the decline in oil prices has put a downward pressure on the prices for palm oil, soy oil, sugar and corn.

## Malnutrition

- loss of wages means decreasing income of migrant population (which happen to come majorly from eastern India). This will reduce Consumption Expenditure by households.
- As per NSSO CES data 2011, 45% of expenditure of Indian household and 60% of expenditure of Poor household goes on Food items. Thus, this will result into malnutrition and hunger deaths

## Banking Sector

- Increasing risk aversion attitude is affecting demand of and supply of loans:

Demand- retailers and households and not taking loans

Supply- banks risk averse to lend, thus parking funds with RBI

- Disparity in Credit giving- Banks are ready to lend to big corporates, who are now not taking up loans as they obtained their full capacity. While small firms who are in more need of loans are not getting loans as banks are sceptic about their credit worthiness

## MSME Sector

- Most of them are not registered anywhere due to informal nature. This apparent Invisibility constraints govt's ability to help them. Developed countries are providing wage subsidy and extra credit to smaller firms and they are able to reach this sector due to registration. This makes Indian MSME sector more vulnerable.

## Agriculture Sector

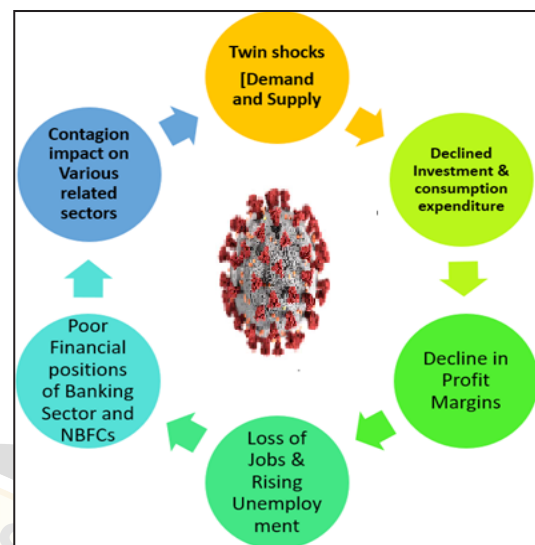
- **Fertilizers shortage**- due to disruption in supply chain
- **On livestock**- due to limited access to animal feed and a shortage of labour
- **On food production and distribution**- farmers are compelled to hold the produce perishable in nature lead to various impacts like farmer stress, decline in quality and cost of produce etc.

## Other Issues

- Ability to retain prolonged closure due to lack of buffer, ability to restart the production after lockdown, drain of migrant labours.

## Data/Surveys related issues

- Carrying out surveys such as Various surveys scheduled as follows
  - Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2020-21 and 2021-22
  - Census 2021
  - PLFC (last Annual data released for 2017-18 and quarter data for urban areas upto Q1 (Jan-March 2019)



## How have countries coped?

- According to an assessment by the World Economic Forum (WEF), supporting SMEs and larger businesses is crucial for maintaining employment and financial stability.
- In India, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced some details of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** package, to provide relief to Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) in the form of an increase in credit guarantees.



- Many advanced economies in the world have rolled out support packages. While **India's** economic stimulus package is 10 per cent of its GDP, **Japan's** is 21.1 per cent, followed by the **US** (13 per cent), **Sweden** (12 per cent), **Germany** (10.7 per cent), **France** (9.3 per cent), **Spain** (7.3 per cent) and **Italy** (5.7 per cent).
- However, the **WEF** notes, "...there is concern that the size of packages may prove insufficient for the duration of the crisis; that disbursement may be slower than is needed; that not all firms in need would be targeted; and that such programmes may be overly reliant on debt financing."
- In **Asia**, countries including India, China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea account for about 85 per cent of all the Covid-19 cases on the continent.
- South Korea stands out, since business and economic activities were not completely stopped and therefore, their economy was not severely affected.
- China recently lifted its lockdown and has since then been gradually reopening its economy without an aggressive second wave of infections so far.
- Further, even as economic activity resumes gradually, the situation will take time to normalise, as consumer behaviours change as a result of continued social distancing and uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve.
- For instance, in its **World Economic Outlook** report for 2020, the IMF mentions that firms may start hiring more people and expanding their payroll only slowly, as they may not be clear about the demand for their output.

Therefore, along with clear and effective communication, broad monetary and fiscal stimuli will be required to be coordinated on an international scale for maximum impact, and, "would be most effective to boost spending in the recovery phase."

### **Steps Taken by Indian Government and RBI**

- **Economic package-** India's overall economic package was announced as ₹20 lakh crore (US\$280 billion), 10% of India's GDP. The economic package consisted of a mix of reforms, infrastructure building, support to stressed businesses and a certain amount of direct cash support.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan-** On 12 May the Prime Minister, in an address to the nation, said that the coronavirus crisis should be seen as an opportunity, laying emphasis on domestic products and "economic self-reliance", an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* through a *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan*.
- **Change in FDI policy-** On 18 April 2020, India changed its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to curb opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current pandemic. With the fall in global share prices, there is concern that China could take advantage of the situation, leading to hostile takeovers. While the new FDI policy does not restrict markets, the policy ensures that all FDI from countries that share a land border with India will now be under scrutiny of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Steps for migrant workers and labour force-** On 20 June 2020 the government launched the **Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan** for the welfare of migrants. The governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat sought to temporarily revise their labour laws in early May with the purpose of attracting industries and investments.

### **Steps taken by RBI-**

- **Operation Twist-** simultaneous sale and purchase of G Sec under OMO of worth ₹10,000 Cr to-
  - o Reduce long term interest rates for loan
  - o Effective transmission of monetary policy
  - o Stabilize the yield rates
- **Special liquidity facility for Mutual Funds-** Repo operations for MFs due to liquidity crisis MFs are facing due to redemption pressure on them.

**Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Package****1. Agricultural (₹1.63 Lac Cr) -**

- Farm gate infrastructure
- Fisheries, animal husbandry, vaccination for FMD

**2. Non-Bank Liquidity Package (₹5.94 Lac Cr)-**

- MSMEs, NBFC, MFIs, Housing Finance companies, power Discoms, tax reliefs

**3. Migrant and Farmer Package (₹3.16 Lac Cr)-**

- Concessional credit via KCC, farmer working capital, affordable housing, street vendors, microloans

**4. Welfare and health (₹1.85 Lac Cr)-**

- Women and pensioner benefits
- MGNREGA
- Emergency health response

**5. RBI Liquidity Measures (₹5.24 Lac Cr) -**

- Targeted LTRO, CRR Cut, refinancing, Mutual Fund Liquidity facility

**6. Structural reforms-** Essential Commodities act, 1955

- APMCs and Contract farming

**Blessings in Disguise: Indian Economy**

- Improved Balance of payments due to fall in oil price
- Surplus food stock- Availability with FCI, good Rabi crop, favourable projection of Monsoon for next year
- Low inflationary projections- due to low aggregate demand will dampen inflationary impulses.
- Proactive monetary policy by RBI- allowing moratoriums, setting prudential norms, infusing liquidity
- Fiscal policy- stimulus announced by Finance Minister
- Exports boost due to weakened rupee

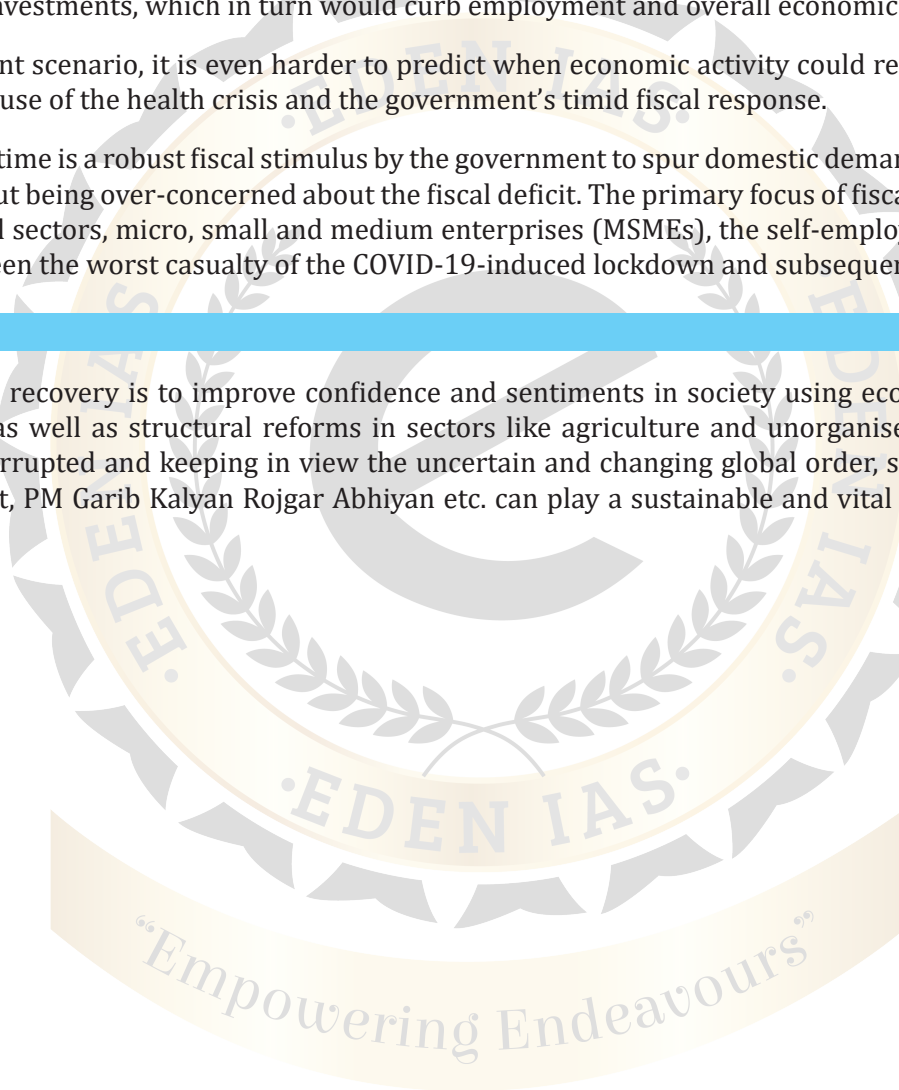
**War is not over yet: What if Worse**

- There is still worse ahead. The **business activity** and consumption will remain subdued in the coming months due to a continued rise in virus cases across the country. Since July, several state governments have imposed localised lockdowns to curb the spread of infections.
- The **relief packages** announced by the government since March are not aiding faster recovery because the direct government spending component is modest. The bulk of relief measures consists of indirect support such as credit guarantees and liquidity infusion and have proved to be ineffective in generating higher credit growth.
- **The credit offtake** from banks could remain muted in the near term because of subdued credit demand. What's the point of massive liquidity injection when there is no demand for credit from businesses and consumers?

- The contraction in the Indian economy would continue into the next three quarters and a recession is looking inevitable. Since Independence, India has faced a recession only thrice: 1958, 1966 and 1980. Almost everyone agrees that the Indian economy is heading for its full-year contraction.
- Economists, rating agencies and international financial institutions have revised their forecasts and their current projections show India's **GDP could contract** in the range of 9% to 18% this fiscal year.
- Even if the health crisis is managed by mid-2021, the economic recovery expected to be slow and uneven with adverse consequences on output, employment and financial stability. Both private consumption and investment demand can take a long time to recover.
- The discretionary spending on non-essential goods has declined drastically due to rising unemployment and worries about likely job losses in the future. In the absence of domestic demand, businesses will not undertake fresh investments, which in turn would curb employment and overall economic growth.
- In the current scenario, it is even harder to predict when economic activity could return to pre-virus levels, largely because of the health crisis and the government's timid fiscal response.
- Need of the time is a robust fiscal stimulus by the government to spur domestic demand and to sustain investment without being over-concerned about the fiscal deficit. The primary focus of fiscal stimulus should be on the informal sectors, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the self-employed and casual workers that have been the worst casualty of the COVID-19-induced lockdown and subsequent disruptions.

## Conclusion

The path to sustain recovery is to improve confidence and sentiments in society using economic tools like fiscal/monetary policies as well as structural reforms in sectors like agriculture and unorganised sector. Since current supply chain is interrupted and keeping in view the uncertain and changing global order, steps like Made in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan etc. can play a sustainable and vital role in long run to deal with such arena.



# 11. INDIA CHINA BORDER TENSIONS AND ITS IMPACT OVER THE REGION

## Introduction

India's border dispute with China, which goes back to the 1950s, primarily owes to the absence of an internationally accepted boundary between them, and of an agreement on where runs the Line of Actual Control. The border, as a result, is patrolled and managed by the military forces of both sides. After initial efforts to resolve the dispute failed, the two sides signed a set of agreements aimed at stabilising the LAC and normalising their relationship in other areas.

All that, however, has seemingly been jeopardised by a series of actions by the People's Liberation Army in eastern Ladakh in the spring and summer of 2020. Officially, both sides are committed to disengagement and de-escalation of forces that have been arrayed against each other in the region. India wants a restoration of the status quo ante, as of April 2020; China continues to vacillate on the issue.

## What's the source of recent tension?

- The root cause lies in an ill-defined, 3,440km (2,100-mile)-long border that both countries dispute. Rivers, lakes and snow caps along the frontier mean the line can shift, bringing soldiers face to face at many points, sometimes leading to confrontation.
- The two nations are also competing to build infrastructure along the border, which is also known as the Line of Actual Control. India's construction of a new road to a high-altitude air base is seen as one of the main triggers for a clash with Chinese troops in June that left at least **20 Indian soldiers dead**.
- In the first week of May (2020), there have been some clashes between the Indian and the Chinese soldiers at the Pangong Tso lake area and in the next month, June, Chinese soldiers also crossed the LAC around the Galwan River valley with other multiple locations in eastern Ladakh across the LAC leading to high levels of tension between India and China.



## Disputed China-India border area



## How bad is the current situation?

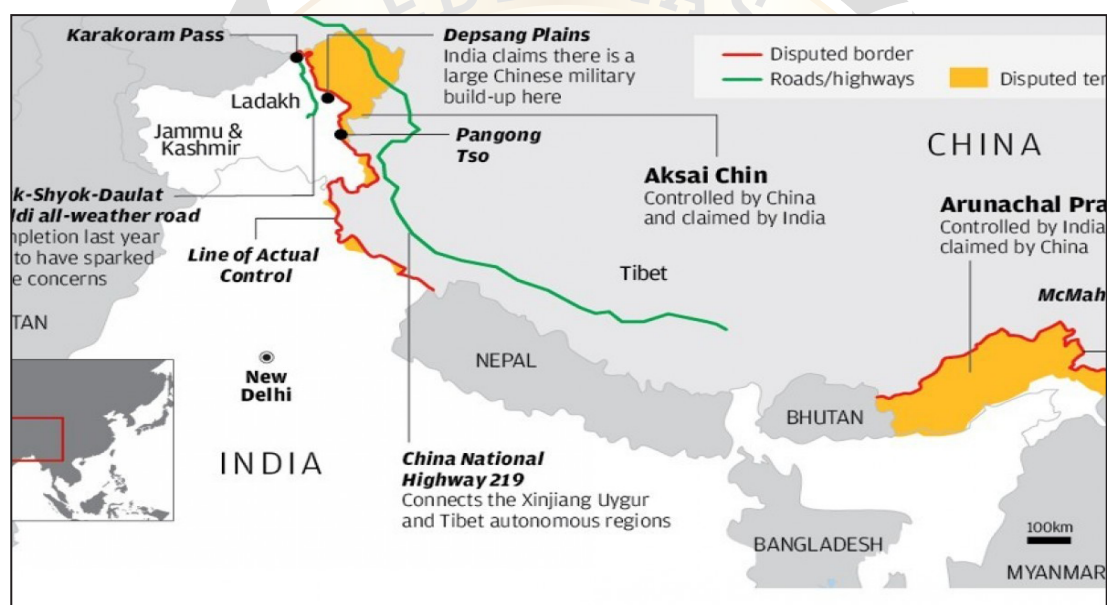
- The June clash in the Galwan Valley - fought with sticks and clubs, not guns - was the first fatal confrontation between the two sides since 1975, and relations have continued to deteriorate. India acknowledged its deaths. China did not comment on reports it also suffered fatalities.
- In August, India accused China of provoking military tensions at the border twice within a week. Both charges were denied by China, which said the stand-off was "entirely" India's fault. A 1996 agreement prohibited the use of guns and explosives near the border - to avoid a confrontation spiralling out of control.



## Border disputes between India and China:

Since there is no mutually agreed border line of LAC, India considered it to be 3488 km long while china does so only 2000 km. The India-China borders can be sub-divided into three sectors:

- **Western Sector or Aksai Chin Sector:** The dispute is over the **Johnson line** proposed by the British government in 1860s that put Aksai Chin under the Indian region (Then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir) while Aksai Chin is claimed by the Chinese government post-1962 war as an autonomous part of Xinjiang region through **McDonald Line**
- **Middle/Himachal-Uttarakhand Sector:** It is the least disputed area of the Indo-China border but the recent Doklam standoff and Nathu La Pass trading issues have again raised the concern in the sector.
- **Eastern Sector/Arunachal-Sikkim Sector:** **McMahon Line** is the bone of contention in the area which was accepted in the meeting of Representatives of China, India and Tibet which China refused to accept it in subsequent years. On the other hand, **Tawang Tact** (claimed by China) was taken over by India in 1951.



## Agreements and initiatives to resolve border disputes:

- **Shimla agreement 1914-** McMahon line was accepted by Tibet and British Authorities to settle a dispute over the boundary line between inner and outer Tibet which was denied by Chinese Government in subsequent years.
- **Panchsheel agreement 1954-** or Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, was first formally signed on April 29, 1954, between then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and China's first Premier (Prime Minister) Chou En-Lai. It was about mutual relations and trade between India and Tibet, the territory of China.
- **1989 CBM-** Confidence Building Measure policy was aimed to settle disputes mutually and peacefully.
- **Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement (BPTA)-1993 (on LAC) -** In 1993 PM Narasimha Rao agreed to maintain peace along LAC which separates Jammu and Kashmir from Aksai Chin.
- **2003 Principles for Relations & Comprehensive Cooperation-** It was a three-step process where both sides prepared their maps and exchanged for each other's approval. China accepted India's authority over Sikkim.
- **CBM in 2005-** Both nations agreed to implement modalities in CBM along LAC.
- **Coordination along Border-** In 2012 both countries used common terms for working methods regarding the Indo-China border.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their **first informal summit** in **April 2018** in **Wuhan, China** months after the Doklam standoff.
- Modi and Xi held their **second informal summit** in **Mamallapuram (near Chennai, Tamilnadu)** to set up of a new high-level mechanism to boost trade and investment, enhance defence and security cooperation and work on additional confidence building measures.
- Both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas.

## War so far and the Bigger Picture

The two countries have fought only one war, in 1962, when India suffered a humiliating defeat. Both sides see their contested border areas as strategically important in the event of another conflict.

- **India and China Go to War (1962)**- Chinese troops crossed the McMahon Line and took up positions deep in Indian territory, capturing mountain passes and towns.
- **India Pushes China Back (1967)**- Along two mountain passes, Nathu La and Cho La, that connected Sikkim, a scuffle broke out when Indian troops began laying barbed wire along what they recognized as the border. The scuffles soon escalated when a Chinese military unit began firing artillery shells at the Indians. In the ensuing conflict, more than 150 Indians and 340 Chinese were killed.
- **Arunachal Ambush: Last Fatal clash**- Chinese forces had crossed over into the Indian territory at Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh and ambushed a patrol of Assam Rifles jawans, killing four of them.
- **Bloodless Clashes (1987)**- In 1987, the Indian military was conducting a training operation to see how fast it could move troops to the border. The large number of troops and material arriving next to Chinese outposts surprised Chinese commanders — who responded by advancing toward what they considered the Line of Actual Control.
- **Daulat Beg Oldi (2013): Bloodless clash** - After decades of patrolling the border, a Chinese platoon pitched a camp near Daulat Beg Oldi in April 2013. The Indians soon followed, setting up their own base fewer than 1,000 feet away. Later on, both the sides had agreed to dismantle both encampments.
- **Bhutan Gets Caught in the Middle (2017)** - In June 2017, the Chinese set to work building a road in the Doklam Plateau, an area of the Himalayas controlled not by India, but by its ally Bhutan. The plateau lies on the border of Bhutan and China, but India sees it as a buffer zone that is close to other disputed areas with China. Indian troops carrying weapons and operating bulldozers confronted the Chinese with the intention of destroying the road. A standoff ensued, soldiers threw rocks at each other, and troops from both sides suffered injuries. In August 2017, the countries agreed to withdraw from the area, and China stopped construction on the road.

## Indian Government's response over the recent clash

- **Banned China linked Apps**- There is also the potential for economic fallout, as China is one of India's biggest trading partners. India's government recently banned more than 150 China-linked apps, including the hugely popular TikTok, citing security concerns.
- **Five Points Plan**- Recently, China and India agreed on a five-point course of action to disengage and reduce tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
  - I. The two sides have agreed that **both sides should take guidance from the series of consensus of the leaders** on developing India-China relations, including not allowing differences to become disputes.
  - II. The two sides have agreed that the **current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side**. They agreed therefore that the border troops of both sides should continue their dialogue, quickly disengage, maintain proper distance and ease tensions.

- III. The two sides have agreed that **both sides shall abide by all the existing agreements and protocol on China-India boundary** affairs, maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas and avoid any action that could escalate matters.
- IV. The two sides also **agreed to continue to have dialogue and communication through the Special Representative mechanism on the India-China boundary question**. They also agreed in this context that the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs (WMCC), should also continue its meetings.
- V. The two sides also agreed that as the situation eases, the two sides should expedite work to conclude **new Confidence Building Measures** to maintain and enhance peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

### **Infrastructures: Build up along disputed border**

India and China are trying to out-build each other along their disputed Himalayan border. These infrastructure improvements on both sides are designed with one primary purpose - to allow the fast movement of troops and military hardware to the border in case of a full-scale conflict.

#### **India**

- **Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DSDBO) road-**
  - A new road to a high-altitude Indian forward air base is said to have been one of the main triggers for a clash with Chinese troops last month that left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead.
  - The 255km (140-mile) Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DSDBO) road - which winds through mountain passes up to the world's highest airstrip more than 5,000m above sea level in the Ladakh region - was finished last year after nearly two decades of work. Its completion could increase India's ability to move men and materiel rapidly in a conflict.
  - The completion of the DSDBO road, which connects the crucial Daulat Beg Oldi airstrip - put back in use in 2008 - to the regional capital Leh, has strengthened India's ability to move equipment quickly. The all-weather road lies about 20km from the Karakoram Pass and runs parallel to the LAC in eastern Ladakh.
- A total of 73 strategic roads and 125 bridges have been sanctioned along different sectors on the Indian side of the LAC. But progress has been slow. Only 35 roads have been finished so far - key among them are **Ghatibagarh-Lipulekh** in Uttarakhand state and **Damping-Yangtze** in Arunachal Pradesh. Another 11 are scheduled to be built by the end of this year.
- Government has also approved nine "strategic" rail lines - including the **Missamari-Tenga-Tawang** and the **Bilaspur-Mandi-Manali-Leh sections**. These run along the border with China and would allow the Indian military to carry heavy armour into position.
- In terms of aviation facilities, India has about 25 airfields along the LAC but its recent focus has been on expanding its network of **Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs)**. In 2018, India announced that it would modernise eight existing ALGs and also develop seven new ones close to the border. Sukhoi-30 advanced fighter jets and Chetak helicopters are deployed at **Chabua** - a key Indian Air Force base located in the state of Assam, along the eastern section of the border with China. That base has been recently renovated and modernised.
- Despite the recent clashes, India has signalled that it will continue improving its infrastructure. It is in the process of moving 12,000 workers from its eastern state of Jharkhand to build roads along the border in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, all areas which border China.
- After years of letting its infrastructure fall into neglect, India is frantically trying to develop its borderlands to neutralise China's logistical advantage. It has begun a vast road and railway construction programme in the region. Although improved in recent years, India's building efforts continue to be hampered by rugged terrain, land acquisition problems, bureaucratic delays and budget constraints.



## China's head-start

- China has been putting its renowned construction abilities to use in recent years by building a network of air bases, cantonments and other physical infrastructure along the frontier. Beijing began building roads in the Himalayan region as early as the 1950s, and now has an extensive road and rail network in Tibet and Yunnan Province. Since 2016, China has upped the stakes by increasing connectivity to areas near its boundary with India, Bhutan and Nepal.
- Xinjiang-Tibet Road-** It is working on linking the old Xinjiang-Tibet Road to National Highway G219, which runs along almost the entire China-India border.
- Medog and Zayu Road-** A concrete road between **Medog** and **Zayu** near India's Arunachal Pradesh state - which China claims - will be completed by the end of this year.
- Shigatse to Chengdu rail line-** There is also a new rail line under construction connecting Shigatse - the second largest city in Tibet - to Chengdu via Nyingchi, close to the Indian border.
- Shigatse and Yadong Rail link-** Another rail link is planned between Shigatse and Yadong, a trading centre next to Sikkim, a Himalayan state in north-east India, where a skirmish took place between Indian and Chinese troops in early May(2020).
- Airports-** China has around a dozen airfields facing India, with five of them being dual-use airports in Tibet, meaning for both civilian and military purposes. It is building three new airports there and upgrading **Shigatse**, **Ngari Gunsa** and Lhasa's all-weather **Gonggar** airport by adding underground shelters and new runways.
- A surface-to-air missile battery and advanced fighter jets are reportedly deployed at **Ngari Gunsa** airfield, which is located 4,274m (14,022) feet above sea level, about 200km from Pangong Lake.

In terms of air power, military experts say India has a relative advantage, as China's bases are generally further from the LAC and at higher altitudes, where the thinner air means jets can carry less fuel and payload.

## China-India border: Tensions are rising between the neighbours

- The current military tension is not limited to Ladakh. Soldiers from the two sides are also eyeball-to-eyeball in **Nathu La**, on the border between China and the north-eastern Indian state of Sikkim. Earlier this month they reportedly came to blows.

### Key infrastructure along India-China border Projects completed or under construction



Source: BBC Research

BBC



- And there's a row over a new map put out by **Nepal**, too, which accuses India of encroaching on its territory by building a road connecting with China.

## Why are tensions rising now?



- The traditionally peaceful Galwan River has now become a hotspot because it is where the LAC is closest to the new road India has built along the Shyok River to Daulet Beg Oldi (**DBO**) - the most remote and vulnerable area along the LAC in Ladakh. India's decision to ramp up infrastructure seems to have infuriated Beijing.
- When India controversially decided to end **Jammu and Kashmir's limited autonomy** in August last year, it also redrew the region's map. The new federally-administered Ladakh included Aksai Chin, an area India claims but China controls.
- Senior leaders of India with Hindu-nationalist ideology have also been talking about recapturing **Pakistan-administered Kashmir**.
- A strategic road, the Karakoram highway, passes through this area that connects China with its long-term ally Pakistan. Beijing has invested about \$60bn (£48bn) in Pakistan's infrastructure - the so-called China Pakistan Economic corridor (**CPEC**) - as part of its Belt and Road Initiative and the highway is key to transporting goods to and from the southern Pakistani port of Gwadar. The port gives China a foothold in the Arabian Sea.

## Conclusion

The real drivers of the developments in the Sino-Indian border dispute are issues larger than just those relating to the border itself. This has been reflected in the manner China has dealt with issues relating to its sovereignty—Taiwan, Hong Kong, the South China Sea and, in a sense, eastern Ladakh. Here, without doubt, the course of the COVID-19 pandemic has played a role, one which saw China being hit first and recovering its equilibrium.

Indeed, if the wellsprings of Chinese policy have changed, India too, must change and recalibrate its own. New Delhi should not provide comfort to Beijing's strategy of stabilising and destabilising the border at will—something which they have been doing since the 1950s. It is time for New Delhi to take a new tack in its China policy. One aspect of it is the general decoupling that is emerging in the economic relations between India and China. On the border issue, too, India needs to press China to settle it along the framework that has been emerging in the Special Representatives talks to insist that Beijing uphold, with urgency, its commitments to the BPTA and two successor agreements that call for the clarification of the LAC.

## 12. MENTAL HEALTH AND DEPRESSION

**“Just because no one else can heal your inner work for you doesn’t mean you can, you should, or need to it alone”**

### Introduction

According to the World Health Organization, over 90 million Indians, or 7.5% of the population, suffer from mental health issues. A study published in Lancet in December 2019, titled The burden of mental disorders across the states of India: the Global Burden of Disease Study 1990–2017, also highlights the scale of the challenge. Mental health issues are among the leading causes of non-fatal disease burden in India; one in every seven Indian was affected by mental health issues in 2017; the proportional contribution of mental health to the total disease burden has almost doubled since 1990; and suicide was the leading cause of deaths among young people — aged 15 to 39 — in 2016. Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s tragic death has triggered a much-needed conversation on mental health in India. The pandemic also doesn’t seem to be helping, playing on the minds of lakhs of people and causing stress.

### Background

- According to WHO defines mental health as “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his/her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her/his community.” other mental health disorders?
- **Notable mental health disorders-** are schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, idiopathic developmental intellectual disability (IDID), conduct disorder, autism spectrum disorders, eating disorders and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD).
- The absence of mental disorder does not necessarily mean the presence of good mental health. People living with mental disorder can also achieve good levels of wellbeing – living a satisfying, meaningful, contributing life within the constraints of painful, distressing, or debilitating symptoms.

### Symptoms of Mental Illness

- **Problems with cognition**
  - Has trouble concentrating and easily distracted.
  - Can’t remember information.
  - Processes information slowly or confused.
  - Has to work hard to solve problems.
  - Can’t think abstractedly
- **Problems with perceptions**
  - Have perceptual distortions: unusually bright colours or loud sounds.
  - Hears non existing voices. Speaks and smiles to self when no one is around.
  - Feels old situations are strangely new.
  - Believes hidden messages are on TV, the radio, or public transportation.
- **Problems with feelings**
  - Feels worthless, hopeless and helpless.
  - Guilty feelings over minor things.
  - Intrusive thoughts of death or suicide.

- Loss of interest and pleasure in most of the things.
  - Overly confident and grandiose about abilities, talents, wealth and appearance.
  - Excessive energy and needs little sleep.
  - Irritable much of the time and easily angered.
  - Extreme mood swings with no provocation.
  - Excited, euphoric, overly confident and disruptive to others
- **Problems with Socializing**
    - Have few close friends
    - Anxious and afraid in social situations
    - Verbally or physically aggressive
    - Have tumultuous relationships, from overly critical to worshipful
    - Hard to get along with
    - Can't read other people
    - Abnormal suspiciousness
- **Problems with functioning**
    - Gets fired or quits frequently
    - Is easily angered or irritated by normal stresses and expectations
    - Can't get along with others at work, school or home
    - Can't concentrate or work effectively
- **Problems at Home**
    - Can't attend to others' needs
    - Overwhelmed by chores or household expectations
    - Can't keep up with housework
    - Instigates arguments and fights with family, passively or actively
- **Problems with selfcare**
    - Does not take care of cleanliness or appearance
    - Does not eat enough, or overeats
    - Does not sleep or sleep excessively or day time sleep
    - Pays little or no attention to physical health
- **Problems with habits**
    - Any habit that is excessive uncontrollable & interfering daily activitie
    - Abuse of drugs and/or alcohol
    - Uncontrolled desire to set fire
    - Uncontrolled gambling
    - Uncontrolled shopping

## Depression

Depression is a common mental disorder, characterized by persistent sadness and a loss of interest in activities that you normally enjoy, accompanied by an inability to carry out daily activities, for at least two weeks.

In addition, people with depression normally have several of the following:

- a loss of energy anxiety
- reduced concentration
- indecisiveness
- restlessness
- feelings of worthlessness, guilt or hopelessness; and
- thoughts of self-harm or suicide.
- a change in appetite
- sleeping more or less

Depression is now the world's most wide-spread illness and most common mental disorder. Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide. It is a major contributor to the over-all global burden of diseases. At its worst, can lead to suicide.

### Types and Symptoms

#### • Recurrent depressive disorder

This disorder involves repeated depressive episodes. During these episodes, the person experiences depressed mood, loss of interest and enjoyment, and reduced energy leading to diminished activity for at least two weeks. Many people with depression also suffer from anxiety symptoms, disturbed sleep and appetite and may have feelings of guilt or low self-worth, poor concentration and even medically unexplained symptoms.

#### • Bipolar affective disorder

This type of depression typically consists of both manic and depressive episodes separated by periods of normal mood. Manic episodes involve elevated or irritable mood, over-activity, pressure of speech, inflated self-esteem and a decreased need for sleep.

### Contributing factors and prevention

- Depression results from a complex interaction of social, psychological and biological factors. People who have gone through adverse life events (unemployment, bereavement, psychological trauma) are more likely to develop depression. Depression can, in turn, lead to more stress and dysfunction and worsen the affected person's life situation and depression itself.
- There are interrelationships between depression and physical health. For example, cardiovascular disease can lead to depression and vice versa.
- Prevention programmes have been shown to reduce depression. Effective community approaches to prevent depression include school-based programmes to enhance a pattern of positive thinking in children and adolescents. Interventions for parents of children with behavioural problems may reduce parental depressive symptoms and improve outcomes for their children. Exercise programmes for the elderly can also be effective in depression prevention.

## Covid 19 And Associated Social Stigma Affecting Mental Health

Cases have been reported of people affected with COVID-19 as well as healthcare workers, sanitary workers and police, who are in the frontline for management of the outbreak, facing discrimination on account of heightened fear and misinformation about infection. Even those who have recovered from COVID-19 face such discrimination. Further, certain communities and areas are being labelled purely based on false reports floating in social media and elsewhere.

There is an urgent need to counter such prejudices and to rise as a community that is empowered with health literacy and responds appropriately in the face of this adversity.



## Government Advisory

### DOs

- Appreciate efforts of people providing essential services and be supportive towards them and their families.
- Share only the authentic information available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India or the World Health Organisation.
- Cross check any information related to CoVID-19 from reliable sources before forwarding any messages on social media.
- Share positive stories of those who have recovered from COVID-19.

### Don'ts

- Never spread names or identity of those affected or under quarantine or their locality on the social media.
- Avoid spreading fear and panic.
- Do not target healthcare and sanitary workers or police. They are there to help you.
- Do not label any community or area for spread of COVID-19.
- Avoid addressing those under treatment as COVID victims. Address them as "people recovering from COVID"

## Status of Mental health

### Globally

- Estimates made by WHO in 2002 showed that 154 million people globally suffer from depression and 25 million people from schizophrenia; 91 million people are affected by alcohol use disorders and 15 million by drug use disorders. A recently published WHO report shows that 50 million people suffer from epilepsy and 24 million from Alzheimer and other dementias.
- According to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO), mental illness makes about 15% of the total disease conditions around the world.

### India

- As per WHO estimate also suggests that India has one of the largest populations affected from mental illness.
- As a result, WHO has labelled India as the world's 'most depressing country'.
- Moreover, between 1990 to 2017, one in seven people from India have suffered from mental illness ranging from depression, anxiety to severe conditions such as schizophrenia, according to a study. It is no exaggeration to suggest that the country is under a mental health epidemic.
- More than 450 million people suffer from mental disorders. According to WHO, by the year 2020, depression will constitute the second largest disease burden worldwide.
- In 2017 it was estimated that India held around 57 million individuals considered to have depression. There was no distinct correlation towards depression on a rural/urban basis, indicating the condition is just as common wherever you may live in India.

## Steps taken by Government to tackle Mental Health

- **Mental health care Act 2017**
  - **Right to make an Advance Directive**-Patient can state on how to be treated or not to be treated for the illness during a mental health situation.
  - **Right to appoint a Nominated Representative**-A person shall have the right to appoint a nominated representative to take on his/her behalf, all health related decisions-
    - Right to access mental health care
    - Right to free & quality services
    - Right to get free medicines
    - Right to community living
    - Right to protection from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment
    - Right to live in an environment, safe and hygienic, having basic amenities
    - Right to legal aid
  - **No Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)** without anesthesia
    - **Attempt to commit suicide not an offence**-This act brought changes in Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code (which criminalized attempted suicide. Now, a person who attempts to commit suicide will be presumed to be “suffering from severe stress” and shall not be subjected to any investigation or prosecution.
  - The act envisages the establishment of **Central Mental Health Authority and State Mental Health Authority**.
- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)**-In 1982, the government of India launched the program to improve the status of mental health in India. NMHP has 3 components-
  - Treatment of Mentally ill
  - Rehabilitation
  - Prevention and promotion of positive mental health
- **NIMHANS RAAH App**: National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) has come out with a NIMHANS RAAH app, a mobile application to provide free information to the public on mental health care professionals and mental healthcare centres.
- **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)**, 1996- it's objective is to provide community mental health services at the primary health care level.
- **WHO's Comprehensive Mental Action Plan 2013-2020** was adopted by the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.
- **The Sustainable Development Goals** target 3.4 and 3.5 talks about reducing mental illness within the population.
- WHO recognizes mental healthcare system in Thiruvantathapuram, Kerala as a best practice. Since 1999, Thiruvananthapuram District has integrated mental health services into primary care.

## Way to maintain good mental health

- We should always keep talking someone we trust about our feelings. Most people feel better after talking to someone who cares about them.
- Seek professional help. local health-care worker or doctor is a good place to start.

- Remember that with the right help, one can get better.
- Keep up with activities that you used to enjoy whenever we were well.
- Stay connected. Keep in contact with family and friends.
- Exercise regularly, even if it's just a short walk.
- Stick to regular eating and sleeping habits.
- Accept that you might have depression and adjust your expectations. You may not be able to accomplish as much as you do usually.
- Avoid or restrict alcohol intake and refrain from using illicit drugs; they can worsen depression.
- If you feel suicidal, contact someone for help immediately.

## Conclusion

Good mental health is integral to human health and wellbeing. A person's mental health and many common mental disorders are shaped by social, economic, and physical environments. Risk factors for many common mental disorders are heavily associated with social inequalities, whereby the greater the inequality the higher the inequality in risk. In order to reduce these inequalities and reduce the incidence of mental disorders overall, it is vital that action is taken to improve the conditions of everyday life, beginning before birth and progressing into early childhood, older childhood and adolescence, during family building and working ages, and through to older age. Action throughout these life stages would provide opportunities for both improving population mental health, and for reducing risk of those mental disorders that are associated with social inequalities. As mental disorders affect physical health these actions would also reduce inequalities in physical health and improve health overall.

## 13. NEW AGRI REFORMS

### Introduction

Agriculture in India is not only just profession but way of living for majority of the population which provides largest informal labour market also. Unfortunately, the gap between the contribution of agriculture to GDP and its share in employment has always remained large and has increased. Income per capita in agriculture grew slowly and it has never crossed one-third of the income of a non-agriculture worker since the 1980s. Reforms in such huge sector will certainly benefit a large population of society.

### Recent reforms

Subsequently the government has further stepped up, the Three acts (given below) aimed at transforming agriculture in the country and raising farmers' income were passed by parliament recently (Sep 2020). The Union Agriculture Minister said that these legislations will bring about revolutionary transformation and transparency in the agriculture sector, electronic trading will increase, there will be accelerated agricultural growth as private investment will be attracted in building supply chains and agricultural infrastructure, new employment opportunities will be created and rural economy will get a boost, which will in turn help to strengthen the national economy.

### [1] The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 [FPTC Act]

#### Background

Farmers in India suffered from various restrictions in marketing their produce. There were restrictions for farmers in selling agri-produce outside the notified APMC market yards. They were also restricted to sell the produce only to registered licensees of the State Governments. Further, barriers existed in free flow of agriculture produce between various States owing to the prevalence of various APMC legislations enacted by the State Governments.

#### Main provisions

**Freedom of sale and purchase**-The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.

- **Barrier free interstate trade**- It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations.
- **No cess or levy**-The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce and will not have to bear transport costs.
- **Framework for Electronic trading**-The law also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.
- **Elimination of intermediaries**- Farmers will be able to engage in direct marketing thereby eliminating intermediaries resulting in full realization of price.
- In addition to mandis, freedom to do trading at farmgate, cold storage, warehouse, processing units etc.

**An Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)** is a marketing board established by a state government in India to ensure farmers are safeguarded from exploitation by large retailers, as well as ensuring the farm to retail price spread does not reach excessively high levels.

#### Doubts

- Procurement at Minimum Support Price will stop
- If farm produce is sold outside APMC mandis, these will stop functioning
- What will be the future of government electronic trading portal like e-NAM



### Clarification

- Procurement at Minimum Support Price will continue, farmers can sell their produce at MSP rates, the MSP for Rabi season will be announced next week.
- Mandis will not stop functioning, trading will continue here as before. Under the new system, farmers will have the option to sell their produce at other places in addition to the mandis.
- The e-NAM trading system will also continue in the mandis.
- Trading in farm produce will increase on electronic platforms. It will result in greater transparency and time saving.

### Benefits

- The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce. It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations. This is a historic-step in unlocking the vastly regulated agriculture markets in the country.
- It will open more choices for the farmer, reduce marketing costs for the farmers and help them in getting better prices. It will also help farmers of regions with surplus produce to get better prices and consumers of regions with shortages, lower prices. The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.
- The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act. Further there will be a separate dispute resolution mechanism for the farmers.

### One India, One Agriculture Market

- The act basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition. This will supplement the existing MSP procurement system which is providing stable income to farmers.
- It will certainly pave the way for creating One India, One Agriculture Market and will lay the foundation for ensuring golden harvests for our hardworking farmers.

## **[2] The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 [FAPAFS Act]-**

### Background

Indian Agriculture is characterized by fragmentation due to small holding sizes and has certain weaknesses such as weather dependence, production uncertainties and market unpredictability. This makes agriculture risky and inefficient in respect of both input & output management.

### Main provisions

- The new legislation will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field. Price assurance to farmers even before sowing of crops. In case of higher market price, farmers will be entitled to this price over and above the minimum price.
- It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor. Due to prior price determination, farmers will be shielded from the rise and fall of market prices.
- It will also enable the farmer to access modern technology, better seed and other inputs.
- It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers.
- Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.
- Impetus to research and new technology in agriculture sector.

### Doubts

- Under contract farming, farmers will be under pressure and they will not be able to determine prices
- How will small farmers be able to practice contract farming, sponsors will shy away from them
- The new system will be a problem for farmers
- In case of dispute, big companies will be at an advantage

### Clarification

- The farmer will have full power in the contract to fix a sale price of his choice for the produce. They will receive payment within maximum 3 days.
- 10000 Farmer Producer organizations are being formed throughout the country. These FPOs will bring together small farmers and work to ensure remunerative pricing for farm produce
- After signing contract, farmer will not have to seek out traders. The purchasing consumer will pick up the produce directly from the farm
- In case of dispute, there will be no need to go to court repeatedly. There will be local dispute redressal mechanism.

### Benefits

- The new legislation will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation. It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs. It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers.
- This legislation will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of Indian farm produce to national and global markets, and in agricultural infrastructure. Farmers will get access to technology and advice for high value agriculture and get ready market for such produce.
- Farmers will engage in direct marketing thereby eliminating intermediaries resulting in full realization of price. Farmers have been provided adequate protection. Sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land is totally prohibited and farmers' land is also protected against any recovery.
- Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.

## [3] The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

### Background-

While India has become surplus in most Agri-commodities, farmers have been unable to get better prices due to lack of investment in cold storage, warehouses, processing and export as the entrepreneurial spirit gets dampened due to Essential Commodities Act. Farmers suffer huge losses when there are bumper harvests, especially of perishable commodities. The legislation will help drive up investment in cold storages and modernization of food supply chain. It will help both farmers and consumers while bringing in price stability. It will create competitive market environment and also prevent wastage of agri-produce that happens due to lack of storage facilities.

### Essential Commodities Act: What is the amendment?

- The amendment has introduced a new subsection (1A) in Section 3 of The Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- The amended law provides a mechanism for the “**regulation**” of agricultural foodstuffs, namely cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes, and supplies under extraordinary circumstances, which include extraordinary price rise, war, famine, and natural calamity of a severe nature.

## Main provisions

- The EC Act with provisions to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities was passed by parliament recently.
- It has been provided in the Amendment, that in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity, such agricultural foodstuff can be regulated. However, the installed capacity of a value chain participant and the export demand of an exporter will remain exempted from such stock limit imposition so as to ensure that investments in agriculture are not discouraged. Imposition of any stock limit on agricultural produce must be based on price rise. A stock limit may be imposed only if there is a 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce; and a 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

## Benefits

- With the amendment to Essential Commodities Act, commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes will be removed from list of essential commodities. This will remove fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations.
- The freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale and attract private sector/foreign direct investment into agriculture sector. It will help drive up investment in cold storages and modernization of food supply chain.
- **Safeguarding interest of consumers**-The Government, while liberalizing the regulatory environment, has also ensured that interests of consumers are safeguarded. It has been provided in the Amendment, that in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity, such agricultural foodstuff can be regulated. However, the installed capacity of a value chain participant and the export demand of an exporter will remain exempted from such stock limit imposition so as to ensure that investments in agriculture are not discouraged.
- The amendment announced will help both farmers and consumers while bringing in price stability. It will create competitive market environment and also prevent wastage of agri-produce that happens due to lack of storage facilities.

### Essential Commodity

- There is no specific definition of essential commodities in The EC Act.
- **Section 2(A)** of the act states that an “essential commodity” means a commodity specified in the “Schedule” of this Act.
- The Act gives powers to the central government to add or remove a commodity in the “Schedule.” The Centre, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in public interest, can notify an item as essential, in consultation with state governments.
- At present, the “**Schedule**” contains 9 commodities — drugs; fertilisers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed; foodstuffs, including edible oils; hank yarn made wholly from cotton; petroleum and petroleum products; raw jute and jute textiles; seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables, seeds of cattle fodder, jute seed, cotton seed; face masks; and hand sanitisers (latest added).

## Areas of concern in the given laws

- All three laws aim to deregulate the agricultural market mechanism, which is tightly controlled by traders and producers. The new laws will make it far easier for corporates, traders and customers to directly procure produce from farmers.
- Most farming unions and bodies fear that relaxations like this will end up making it much easier for corporations to control the pricing of farmers’ products and in the long run, control the entire market machinery.
- The Price Assurance Act, despite government assurance, does not prescribe the mechanism for price fixation.

- Since FPTC act will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified, states would have no information about the availability of stocks within the State.

## Reforms Still Awaited

- **Price realization (MSP)-** The government should consider replacing the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) by an agriculture tribunal in line with the provisions of Article 323 B of the Constitution. NITI Aayog should set up a group to examine the following:
  - Replacing the minimum support price (MSP) by a minimum reserve price (MRP), which could be the starting point for auctions at mandis.
  - Separating the criteria for MSPs for
    - surplus produce;
    - for deficit but globally available products; and
    - for products that are in deficit both domestically and globally
  - Examine options for including private traders operating in markets to complement the minimum support price regime through a system of incentives and commission payments.
- **Stable export policy-** In consultation with all stakeholders, the Government of India should come up with a coherent and stable agricultural export policy, ideally with a five to ten-year time horizon and a built-in provision for a mid-term review. Efforts should be made to achieve this urgently.
- **Agriculture advisory service:** An effective and technology driven Agriculture Advisory Service may be considered on the lines of those of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the European Union (EU). The mandate would be to ensure that farmers adopt an optimal cropping pattern that maximizes their income.
- **Futures trade:** Futures trade should be encouraged. Removal of entry barriers to increase market depth should be considered.
- **Crop insurance:** PMFBY needs to be modified to -
  - Promote weather-based insurance.
  - Increase non-loanee farmers' insurance coverage.
  - Allow for mixed cropping and increase the number of crops notified.
- **Focus on precision agriculture:** Support research on energy friendly irrigation pumps, micro irrigation, climate smart technologies, internet of things (IoT), and use of technology in animal husbandry to monitor animal behaviour, health and production to prepare for future challenges.
- **Raise research spending:** Research spending, currently at 0.3 per cent, needs to be increased to at least 1 per cent of agricultural GDP.
- **Village level procurement centres:** To benefit small and marginal farmers, government collection centres and warehousing facilities should be set up at the village/block level. The budget announcement of developing Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) will help develop the agricultural marketing infrastructure and bring markets closer to the farm-gate.

## Conclusion

The current government has taken several steps to improve private investment in agriculture like 100 % foreign direct investment (FDI) was allowed in 2016-17, the SAMPADA scheme targets creation of food processing infrastructure, Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act (2017), Model Contract Farming Act, new guidelines for Agro-forestry are some other key policy initiatives taken over the past few years and these are still on the way to transform the agriculture into the required shape. Recently, despite the negative impact of COVID-19 have been experienced across all the sectors, agriculture has shown positive growth as an exceptional phenomenon and persistently proved that path to economic recovery cannot be possible without its contribution and in such a scenario reforms like these can have multidimensional effect on economy.



## 14. PADMANABHAN SWAMY TEMPLE VERDICT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

### Introduction

The temple has had an enduring ideological importance in Indian history, which makes it the central focus of historical processes like religions, social, economic and political. Padmanabhan swamy temple, situated in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala is one of the most important Vaishnava temples. With the recent opening of its vaults, the temple has been acknowledged perhaps as the world's richest place of worship in the world.

### Why in News?

The Supreme Court has upheld the right of the erstwhile royal family of Travancore to "manage and administer" the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram with its immense riches.

### The Case: Ownership dilemma

- The central legal question was whether **Utradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma**, the younger brother of **Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma**, the last Ruler of Travancore, could claim to be the "Ruler of Travancore" after the death of the ruler in 1991.
- The court examined this claim within the limited meaning of that term according to the **Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950** to claim ownership, control and management of the ancient Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple.

### Background

All the temples which were under the control and management of the erstwhile Princely States of Travancore and Cochin were under the control of the **Travancore and Cochin Devaswom Boards** before 1947.

- However, as per the Instrument of Accession signed between the princely states and the Government of India, since 1949, the administration of the Padmanabhaswamy Temple was "vested in trust" in the Ruler of Travancore.

**Note-** The state of Kerala was carved out in 1956 but the temple continued to be managed by the erstwhile royals.

- In 1971, privy purses to the former royals were abolished through a constitutional amendment stripping their entitlements and privileges. The move was upheld in court in 1993 and the last ruler of Travancore who died during the pendency of this case continued to manage the affairs of the temple till then.
- In 1991, when the last ruler's brother took over the temple management, it created a furore among devotees who moved the courts leading to a long-drawn legal battle. The government joined in; supporting the claims of the petitioner that **Marthanda Varma** had no legal right to claim the control or management of the temple.

#### Is the Royal family owner?

The character of the temple was always recognised as a public institution governed by a statute. The argument of the royal family is that the temple management would vest with them for perpetuity, as per custom. Even though the last ruler Balarama Varma executed a detailed will bequeathing his personal properties, he had not included the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple as his personal property or dealt with it in his will.

### Question of Property and Vault ownership

- A consequence of who has administrative rights over the temple is whether the vaults of the temple will be opened.
- In 2007, Marthanda Varma claimed that the treasures of the temple were the family property of the royals. Several suits were filed objecting to this claim and a lower court in Kerala passed an injunction against the opening of the vaults.
- The Kerala High Court in the 2011 ruling passed an order that a board be constituted to manage the affairs of the temple, ruling against the royal family. The appeal against this verdict was filed by the royal family immediately and the SC had stayed the HC verdict.
- By appointing two amicus curiae- senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam and former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai to prepare an inventory of items in the vaults. While five vaults were opened of the six, vault B was not opened. The royal family had claimed that a mythical curse is associated with the opening of Vault B.

### The judgment

- The Supreme Court (SC) has reversed the 2011 judgement of the Kerala High Court, which had asked the state government to take over the administration of the temple from a trust governed by the members of the Travancore royal family.
- The court said that, as per customary law, the Shebait rights (right to manage the financial affairs of the deity) survive with the members of the family even after the death of the last ruler.
- The court defined 'Shebait' as the "custodian of the idol, its earthly spokesman, its authorised representative entitled to deal with all its temporal affairs and to manage its property".

### Administration of temple

- Accepting the royals' submission that the temple is a "**public temple**", the court issued a set of directions to establish two committees for its transparent administration in the future. The primary duties of the two committees would be to preserve the treasures and properties.

### Administrative Committee

- It directed the setting up of an administrative committee with the Thiruvananthapuram District Judge as its chairperson.
- The other members would be a nominee of the trustee (royal family), the chief thanthri (Vedic head) of the temple, a nominee of the State and a member nominated by the Union Ministry of Culture. This committee would take care of the daily administration of the temple.

### Advisory committee

- It also ordered a second committee to be constituted to advise the administrative committee on policy matters.

This would be chaired by a retired High Court judge nominated by the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.

**"Ruler" definition-**

- The High Court (HC) had ruled in 2011 that the successor to the erstwhile royals could not claim to be in control of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple after the amendment of definition of **'Ruler' in Article 366 (22)** of the Constitution of India.
- The definition of "Ruler" was amended by the **Twenty Sixth (Constitutional) Amendment Act, 1971**, which abolished the privy purses.
- Article 366 (22) reads, "Ruler" means the Prince, Chief or other person who, at any time before the commencement of the Twenty Sixth (Constitutional) Amendment Act, 1971, was recognised as the Ruler of an Indian State or was recognised as the successor of such Ruler.

## Implications

Since 2011, the process of opening the vaults has led to the discovery of treasures within the Padmanabhaswamy temple, prompting a debate on who owns temple property and how it should be regulated. Despite being a secular country that separates religion from the affairs of the state, Hindu temples, its assets are governed through statutory laws and boards heavily controlled by state governments. This system came into being mainly through the development of a legal framework to outlaw untouchability by treating temples as public land, it has resulted in many legal battles.

### Padmanabhaswamy Temple

The Padmanabhaswamy temple is a Hindu temple located in Thiruvananthapuram, the state capital of Kerala, India. The name of the city of Thiruvananthapuram in Malayalam translates to "**The City of Lord Ananta**", referring to the deity of the Padmanabhaswamy temple.

- **Construction and reconstruction-** Through various historical sources it is known that the temple existed in the 9th century of this era. In the year 1050 AD, the Temple was reconstructed and the management re-organized by the then ruler. When in 18<sup>th</sup> century the great ruler Marthanda Varma became the king of Travancore. He took the steps to renovate the Temple. The temple was initially made of wood but later it was constructed with granite.
- **Temple Architecture Style-** The temple is built in an intricate fusion of the Chera style and the Dravidian style of architecture, featuring high walls, and a 16th-century gopura
- **Deity-** Its main deity is Lord Vishnu who is found in the Anantha Shayana posture (reclined posture of eternal yoga) on Adishesha or king of all serpents.



## Conclusion

Despite the fact that verdict has justified the long pending case of conflict of administration of the particular temple, it is somehow missing the clear guidelines on core issue of government control of Hindu temples in a secular state. Should a secular state control a religious institution? Even if one presumes that there is mismanagement of a particular temple, can the state be allowed to take over the temple management permanently? This contradiction needs to be resolved and will be more clear on future such course of actions and verdicts in such cases and interpretations by the supreme court.

## 15. WHY INDIA NEEDS AN UPDATED NATIONAL WATER POLICY?

### Introduction

Although the two-thirds of our planet is water, we face an acute water shortage. The water crisis is the most pervasive, most severe and most invisible dimension of the ecological devastation of the earth.

India has had three National Water Policies (NWP) so far. The first was framed in 1987, the second in 2002 and the latest one in 2012. Government of India has now constituted a committee for the formulation of the fourth National Water Policy; the process is underway, and the exercise is expected to be completed in a few months. In addition, a number of states have their own water policies applicable within their political boundary. But despite multiple policies, the water crisis is not getting any better.



### Why in news

The Ministry of Jal Shakti recently constituted a committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP).

#### Key Highlights

- **Composition:** The committee will be chaired by **Mihir Shah** (former Planning Commission member and a water expert) and comprises of 10 principal members.
- **National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency** is proposed to be set up in order to enhance water usage efficiency, especially in domestic and industrial sectors.

**Objective-** To update the National Water Policy, 2012 and recommend key changes in water governance structure and regulatory framework.

### Why new policy: Current situation

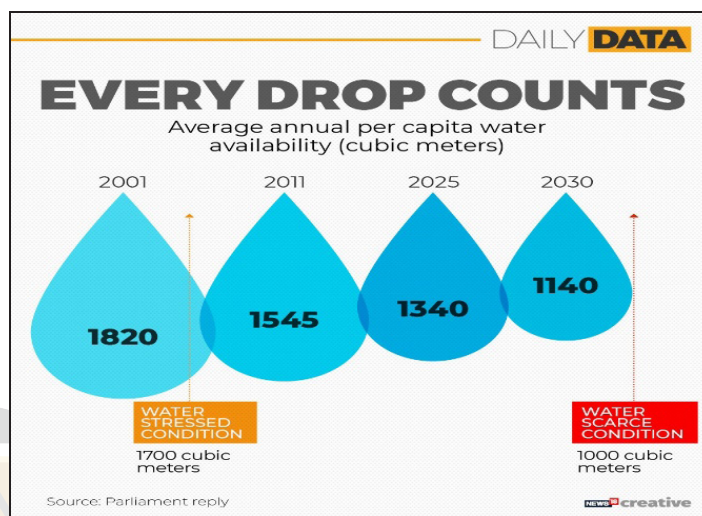
What ails India's water policies? A water policy can only be termed successful if and only if it achieves all the goals set for itself and attracts no criticism from stakeholders.

- Annual precipitation in India, including snowfall, which is the main source of water, is about 4000 bcm. About 53.3 per cent of the total precipitation is lost due to evapo-transpiration, which leaves a balance of 1869 bcm water in the country. Of this, the available utilizable water resource potential is 1137 bcm, comprising 690 bcm of surface water and 447 bcm of ground water. According to the Water and Related Statistics published by the **Central Water Commission**, per capita annual water availability in the country has decreased from 1816 cubic metres (cu m) in 2001 to 1544 cu m in 2011.
- About 600 million in India suffer from severe water crisis; and 40 per cent Indians may not have access to drinking water by 2030 according to Government think tank **NITI Aayog**. 170 million people live in 66 coastal districts of India spanning 7,500 km. They face the challenge of saline water ingress and contaminated groundwater.
- As per **Central Water Pollution Board**, India's gap between sewage generation and treatment plant stands at 60 per cent as in 2018. These are the signatures of water policies not making significant impact in India.

As per the **Falkenmark Index**, one of the most commonly used measures of water scarcity, if the amount of renewable water in a country is below 1,700 cu m per person per year, the country is said to be experiencing **water stress**; below 1000 cu m it is said to be experiencing **water scarcity**.



- The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has projected the total demand for water at 1,180 bcm for a high demand scenario.
- Water resources are facing pressure due to population explosion, urbanization, rising demand for water from the agriculture, energy, and industry sectors, pollution, inefficient use, poor management and poor institutional mechanisms. Several regions experience water scarcity due to the uneven distribution of water resources over space and time.
- The government has specific programmes for various aspects of water resources. The scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**, which is an umbrella scheme for irrigation has prioritized 99 major and medium irrigation projects for completion by December 2019.
- The government also launched the “**Namami Gange**” scheme in 2014-15 to clean and rejuvenate the River Ganga to maintain “**Aviral**” (continuous flow) and “**Nirmal Dhara**”(unpolluted flow) and ensure its ecological and geological integrity.
- Data for the period 2015-17 indicates improvement in water quality in terms of dissolved oxygen and coliform bacteria. However, a lot needs to be done in terms of meeting the targets of sewage treatment plans (STP) and of controlling household and industrial waste.
- Besides, a scheme for groundwater development and management to prepare aquifer management plans and facilitate sustainable management of groundwater has been launched.
- In the third decade of the 21st century, one might already be witnessing any one of these water crises: failure of borewells; stink emanating from toxic streams in the town; taps running dry; guzzling water tankers and unforeseen floods causing significant loss of life and property, etc.



**Central Water Commission (CWC)** is a technical organisation that functions as part of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the Government of India. They are entrusted with the responsibilities of providing consultation to various state governments on water bodies related issues, coordinate various governmental schemes for conservation, control, and utilisation of water resources.

**Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** is a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

## Urban vs Rural: Water availability

According to National Sample Survey (NSS) report 2020-

- About 48.6% of the households in the rural and about 57.5% in the urban areas had exclusive access to principal source of drinking water.
- About 87.6% of the households in the rural and about 90.9% in the urban areas had sufficient drinking water throughout the year from the principal source.
- About 58.2% of the households in the rural and about 80.7% in the urban areas had drinking water facilities within the household premises,” the report said.
- As much as 94.5% of the households in the rural and 97.4% in the urban areas used “improved source of drinking water” such as bottled water, piped water into dwelling, piped water to yard/plot, piped water from neighbour, public tap/standpipe, tube well, hand pump, protected well, public tanker truck, private tanker truck, protected spring and rainwater collection, the report said.

- The survey showed that 51.4% of households in rural areas and 72.0% in urban areas used improved source of drinking water, sufficiently available throughout the year located in the premises.

## Current Water Policy

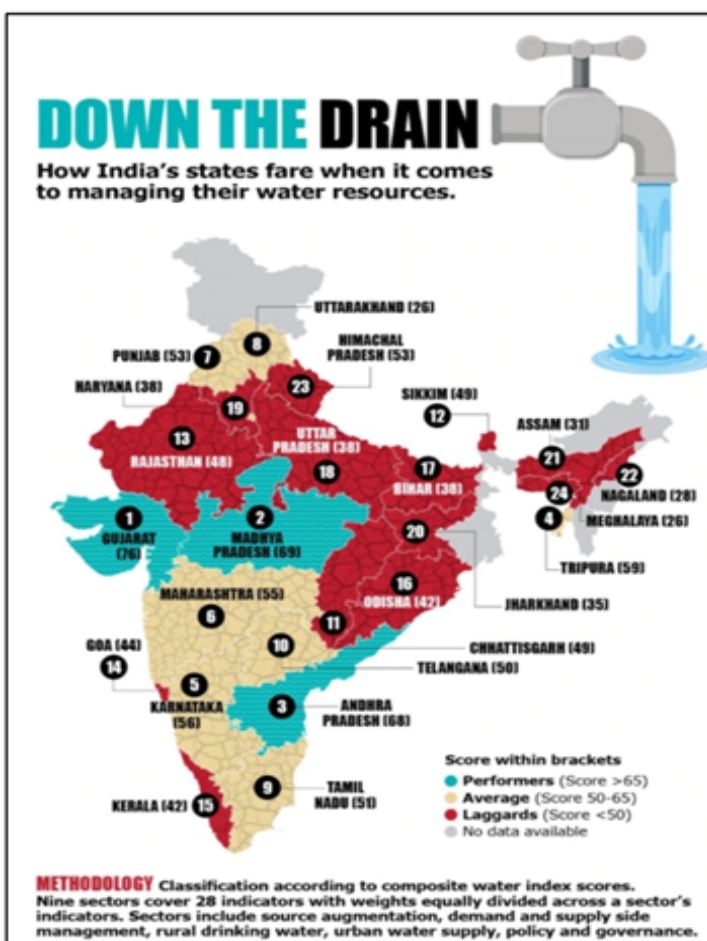
### Key Features of National Water Policy, 2012

- Integrated Water Resources Management:** It laid down the concept of an Integrated Water Resources Management approach that took the river basin/sub-basin as a unit for planning, development, and management of water resources.
- Minimum Water Flow:** To maintain the minimum flow of a portion of a river to meet ecological needs
  - In 2018, such an approach led the government to require minimum water levels to be maintained in the **Ganga** throughout the year by refraining from hoarding water beyond a point.
  - Emphasis was also made to make a minimum quantity of potable water available to citizens for maintaining **essential health and hygiene**.
- Inter-basin Transfers:** To meet basic human needs and achieve equity and social justice, inter-basin transfers of water need to be considered on the basis of the merits of each case after evaluating the environmental, economic and social impacts of such transfers.
- Other reasons such as **decreasing spring sets in Himalayas, budgeting and restructuring of water subsidies, irrigation, etc.** demanded the prioritization of water usage.

## What we missed in the past

- Synchronisation of National and State Water Policies-** First and foremost, the formulation of national water policy should synchronize with the state and local water policies in order to achieve the goals or conversely because the implementing agencies of water policies largely belong to state and local governments. At present, the link between national water policy and various states and local policies is missing.
- Stakeholders connect-** National water policy should connect stakeholders in diverse agencies vertically and laterally because those professionals, practitioners, scholars and managers who work on the frontlines within and without government are aware of the challenges to the national policy goals.
- Performance Index at National and State level-** The performance of the policy over time has to be measured. For example, NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index gives an indicator of the status of water management across the states. Similarly, an index for implementation of water policy goals across states gives a picture of the stage of implementation of policy goals from time to time and helps in course correction.
- Past Policies Review-** before embarking upon the new National Water Policy, it is essential to conduct post-implementation reviews of the past water poli-

### 'Composite Water Management Index' (CWMI) Report



cies, to ascertain the goals envisaged, the policy expectations, the goals realised and missed, and the causes of success and failure in implementation. Such a review is necessary for NWP-2012 before finalisation of NWP-2020. **For example**, the large dam induced water crisis due to sedimentation and loss of live storage is the new “invisible” crisis of the 21st century that has been severely underestimated in water policies so far.

- **Implementation would be the key-** Currently, India’s water organisations being the implementing agencies are the direct descendants of colonial organisational structures be it state Water Resource Departments (WRDs) or Pollution Control Boards or central agencies.

**An Expert Committee on restructuring the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) chaired by Dr. Mihir Shah submitted its report in July 2016.**

- The Committee recommended that the CWC and CGWB should be restructured and unified to form a new **National Water Commission (NWC)**. It reasoned that a unified body will help in the collective management of ground and surface water.
- **The key functions of the NWC will include:** (i) incentivise state governments to implement irrigation projects in reform mode, (ii) lead the national aquifer mapping and ground water management program, (iii) develop a location-specific program for rejuvenation of rivers, etc.
- The Committee proposed that the NWC should have **eight divisions**. These are:
  - Irrigation Reform Division
  - River Rejuvenation Division
  - Aquifer Mapping and Participatory Ground Water Management Division
  - Water Security Division
  - Urban and Industrial Water Division
  - Water Quality Division
  - Water Data Management and Transparency Division
  - Knowledge Management and Capacity Building Division

Other recommendations of the Committee are:

- **Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT):** States should only be involved in the development of irrigation structures, such as main systems up to secondary canals. Irrigation structures from the level of tertiary canals and below should be the responsibility of Water Users Association of farmers.
- **Participatory ground water management:** Ground water needs to be recognised as a common pool resource and its continuous, unchecked extraction needs to be stopped.
- **Rejuvenation of rivers:** River basins in the country are under represented by the offices of the CWC and CGWB. The proposed NWC should have offices at regional levels to cover all river basins in the country which should ensure surface and ground water interdisciplinary expertise for river basin management.

## Conclusion

**“For every drop of water you waste, you must know that somewhere on earth someone is desperately looking for a drop of water”.** The lack of financial and decision- making autonomy, budgetary issues, suppression of expert advice, misuse of conduct rules destroy the participation of frontline managers and professionals leading to gaps between policy goals and implementation. Hence, reformation and realignment of water organisations in line with policy goals and strategies is the key for success of any future national water policy. The coming two decades pose a daunting challenge to water sector in India due to mounting population, urbanization, climate change, pollution and aging large dams. Hence, the next national water policy should be more pragmatic and implementable with targets, strategies and timelines in the best interests of the country.



