



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Insights Mains 2018 Exclusive

Social Issues

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Issues Related to Women

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

• **Constitutional Provisions:**

- The **Preamble** starts by saying that we, the people of India – which includes women of India also.
- The Constitution of India not only grants **equality to women** but also empowers the State to adopt measures of **positive discrimination** in favour of women.
- **Equality before law** for women (Article 14).
- The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them (Article 15 (i)).
- The State to make any **special provision** in favour of women and children (Article 15 (3)).
- Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to **employment** or appointment to any office under the State (Article 16).
- The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the **right to an adequate means of livelihood** (Article 39(a)).
- **Equal pay for equal work** for both men and women (Article 39(d)).
- The State to make provision for securing just and **humane conditions of work and for maternity relief** (Article 42).
- It shall be the duty of every native of India to **renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women** [Article 51-A(e)].
- **73rd Constitutional Amendment** - One-third of seats in every Panchayat and One-third of the number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats shall be reserved for women.
- **74th Constitutional Amendment** - One-third of the seats in all Municipalities shall be reserved for women and offices of Chairpersons in the Municipalities shall be reserved for women in such manner as the State Legislature may provide.

• **Legal Provisions:**

- Some acts which have special provisions to safeguard women and their interests are:
 - **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017**
 - **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956** - combat trafficking and sexual exploitation for commercial purposes.
 - **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.**
 - **The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971**
 - **The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976**
 - **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**
 - **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.**
 - **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 2003.**
 - **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.**

• **Special Initiatives For Women:**

- National Commission for Women.

- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) - for socio-economic empowerment of women.
- Reservation for Women in Local Self –Government.
- The National Plan of Action for the Girl Child (1991-2000).
- Draft National Policy for Women – 2016.
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW).
- **Key Supreme Court Judgements:**
 - **Vishaka Vs State of Rajasthan** - Guidelines to prevent sexual harassment against women in work places.
 - **Shayara Bano v. Union Of India (2017)** - Supreme Court had set aside the validity of instant talaq (talaq-e-biddat), thus rendering its pronouncement ineffective in dissolving a marriage.
- **Reports:**
 - **Global Gender Gap Index 2017**
 - India was ranked low at 108th position out of 144 countries in Global Gender Gap Index 2017.
 - India slipped by 21 places compared to 87th rank in 2016.
 - **Gender Inequality Index (GII):**
 - India ranked 125 among 159 countries.
 - Only 12.2% of Parliament seats are held by women.
 - 8% of women above the age of 15 years are part of India's labour force — compared to 79.1% men.
 - The ratio of maternal mortality is 174 against every 100,000 live births.
- **NGOs working towards Women Empowerment:**
 - **CARE India** - working for over 65 years to empower women affected by poverty and social discrimination.
 - **Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh** - for women empowerment and education.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - **SHe-Box** - Online Complaint Management System
 - **National Repository of Information for Women (NARI portal)** - provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana - conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women.**
 - **Mahila E-Haat** - leverages technology for showcasing products made/manufactured/sold by women entrepreneurs.
 - **Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme** - empower rural women through community participation.
 - **Sakhi One Stop Centres** - aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services to women affected by violence.
 - **Online portal 'NARI'** - provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women run by both Central as well as the States Governments.
 - **Mahila e-Haat** - online marketing platform to facilitate women

entrepreneurs to sell their products.

- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**
 - Safeguard the **health of women & children** by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG.
 - LPG connections issued **in the name of the women of the households.**
- **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)** – sample registration system (SRS) data released by the office of Registrar General of India - declined to 130 in 2014-16 from 167 in 2011-13.
- **Crimes against women** – 2016 NCRB data - overall crimes against women have risen by just about 3%, incidents of rape have gone up by 12%.
- **#MeToo campaign** was a harsh reality check, about sexual harassment that take place in our educational institutions, at workplaces, by people in authority, by respected elders.

2. Maternity Benefit

- The Maternity Benefit is the one which protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her full paid absence from work, to take care for her child. – **Always remember a standard definition.**
- The **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017** increased women's leave entitlements **from 12 to 26 weeks** for all women in establishments with **greater than 10 employees.**
- Concerns that the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017 has a **negative impact in the labour market.**
- **Need for Maternity Leave:**
 - **Article 42** - right to just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
 - **Six month of breastfeeding is important** - develop immunity for the Child.
 - **WHO and the Union ministry of health and family welfare guidelines** – Child needs to be nursed by its mother for a minimum of six months.
- **Teamlease study** finds that 26 weeks of paid maternity leave could have a **negative bearing on the hiring of women** in the short-term.
- It is being estimated that 12 million jobs will be lost by women in 2018-19.
- **Recommendations:**
 - **International Labour Organisation** recommends 14 weeks of maternity leave.
 - **World Health Organisation** recommends 24 weeks.
- **International Practice:**
 - **US** provide up to 12 weeks leave, but that is unpaid.
 - **China** mandates a 14-week maternity leave along with maternity allowance, assuming she has contributed to maternity insurance.
 - In **Singapore**, women get 16 weeks of maternity leave with the employer paying for eight weeks and the next eight reimbursed to the employer by the government.
 - Some 55 per cent countries recognise the father's role and give parental leave.
- The **2018 ILO report** emphasises the need for government support up to at

least two-thirds of the costs of maternity benefits, under ILO Convention 183

- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/India%E2%80%99s-Maternity-Benefits.pdf>
- **Breastfeeding practice:**
 - A 2017 report released by the **Global Breastfeeding Collective**, led by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, has termed breastfeeding the “**best investment in global health**” generating \$35 in global return for every dollar invested.
 - ‘**Global Breastfeeding Scorecard, 2017**’ released by the Collective shows that India spends an abysmal \$0.15 (less than ₹10) per child to ensure that it meets the breastfeeding guidelines.
 - As a result, India is poised to lose an estimated \$14 billion in its economy to a high level of child mortality and growing number of deaths in women from cancers and Type II diabetes, directly attributable to inadequate breastfeeding.

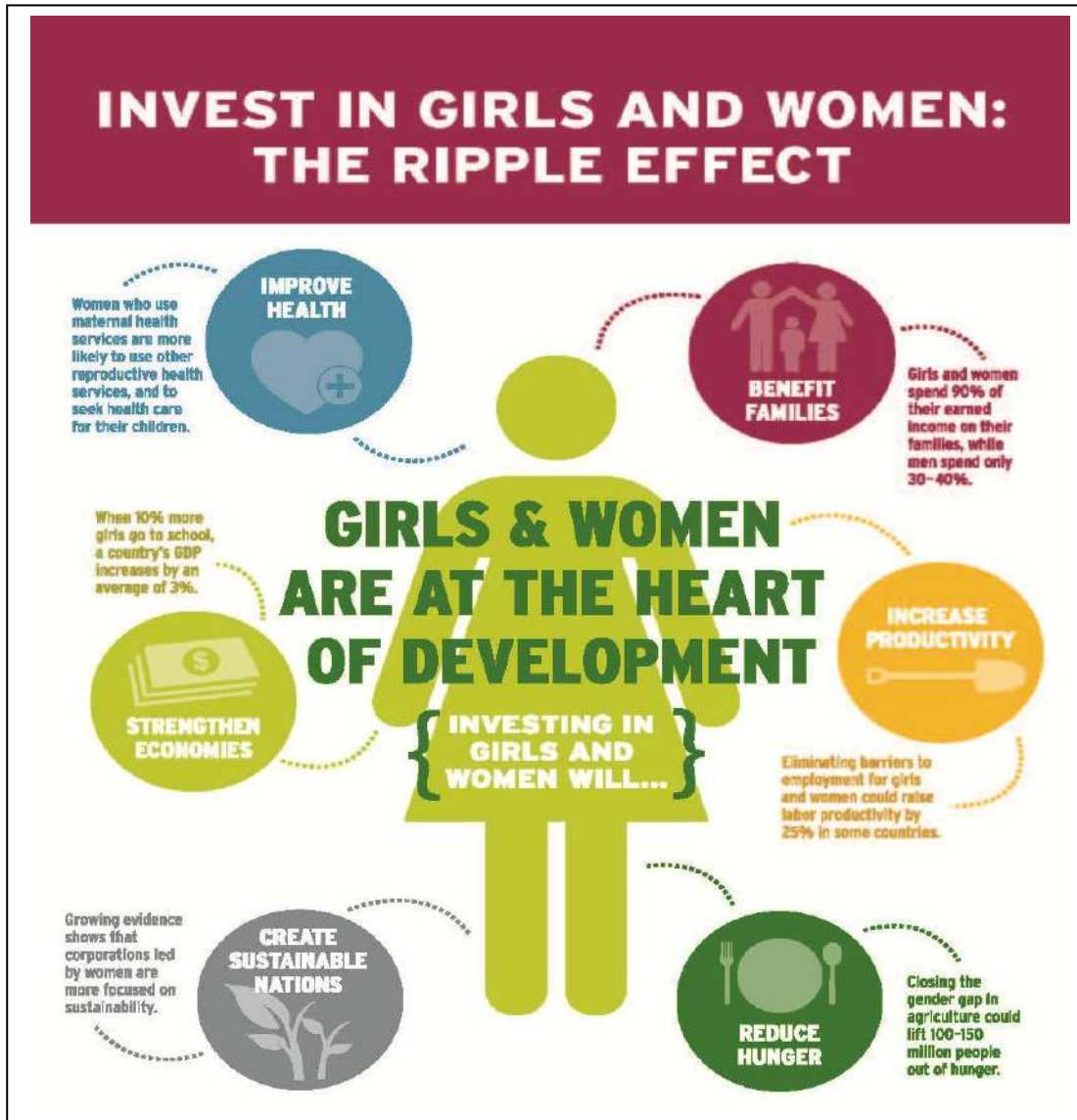
3. Gender Equality

- UNICEF says gender equality "means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections". - **Always remember a standard definition.**
- Gender Equality is **central to inclusive economic growth** and is critical for the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- **Pink is the colour of the Economic Survey 2017-18**, signifying the support to women, end violence against women and to promote women's rights.
- India has now registered its best performance on the **Gender Parity Index (GPI)** in the last seven years- from 0.86 in 2010-11 to 0.94 in 2016-17.
- The north-eastern States are showing the way to the rest of the country when it comes to gender equality.
- However, more than 50 percent of women have no valuable assets to their name.
- Though they comprise almost 40 percent of agricultural labour, they control only 9 percent of land in India.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Gender-Equality-in-India.pdf>

4. Educating girls can improve India's health outcomes

- Nationally, according to 2017 government data, **34 out of every 1,000 newborns** will not survive till their first birthday, of whom 25 would not have lived beyond their first 28 days.
- **Female literacy = Delayed marriage.**
- **Female literacy rates in Kerala and Tamil Nadu are 92% and 73.9%**, respectively, while the same rates for **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** are about half, **at 42.2% and 33.1%**, respectively.
- In northern states, women are routinely forced into **early marriages**.
- **Female literacy + delayed marriage = Fewer babies per woman (Low fertility rate).**
- **Multiple pregnancies with inadequate spacing adversely affect the health of mother and child.**

- Female literacy + delayed marriage + fewer babies per woman = Higher child survival.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/23/insights-into-editorial-educating-girls-can-improve-indias-health-outcomes/>



5. Missing women in Indian politics

- B.R. Ambedkar once said that “**political power is the key to all social progress**”. **Remember some famous quotes.**
- **Article 325 and 326:** They guarantee political equality, equal right to participate in political activity and right to vote, respectively.
- The proportion of women in the Lok Sabha has seen only a paltry increase since independence—from 4.5% in the first Lok Sabha to the **current 12% in the 16th Lok Sabha (2014)**.
- The **Economic survey for 2017-18** said **factors such as domestic responsibilities, prevailing cultural attitudes regarding roles of women in society and lack of support from family** were among main reasons that prevented them from entering politics.

- The survey said there are developing **countries like Rwanda** which has **more than 60% women representatives** in parliament in 2017.
- Sweden with **47% female participation** has almost equal participation of women in Parliament followed by Cuba and Iceland.
- **Women's Reservation Bill** which reserves **33% of seats for Indian women** at the legislatures has to be passed soon.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/26/insights-into-editorial-cost-of-the-missing-women-in-indian-politics/>

6. Women Labour Force Participation

- India can increase its **GDP by up to 60% by 2025** by enabling more women to participate in its workforce, a **2015 study by the McKinsey Global Institute**.
- As per the World Bank report, India has one of the lowest workforce female participation rates, ranking 120th among 131.
- At 17%, India has a **lower share of women's contribution to GDP** than the global average of 37%.
- According to ILO study, the participation of women in informal employment or in informal sector is higher than men.
- The **India Human Development Survey** highlighted that MGNREGA brought more rural women into wage labour.
- The theme of **2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES)** was "**Women First, Prosperity for All**".
- China has 64% of its women working, one of the highest rates in the world.
- In the US, it is over 56%. In Nepal and Bangladesh it is ahead of us.
- Globally, the value of women's unpaid work performed is three times higher than that of men, whereas in the Asia-Pacific region, it is four times higher.
- **Women in Solar Energy (WISE) in USA** is the networking centre point of the solar energy industry, united towards a **common goal of advancing women** in all aspects of the solar energy industry and promoting diversity.
- WISE was founded on the idea that the **collective power of the female community** is massive, and if we can all work together, the end result can be revolutionary.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Empowering-Women-through-Job-Creation.pdf>
- <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Preventing-Sexual-Harassment-at-Workplace.pdf>

7. Women Financial Inclusion

- **With present trend**, it will take 217 years for women's access to economic opportunity to be on a par with that of men.
- **Global Findex Report 2017** estimates that **77% of Indian women** now own a bank account against respective 43% and 26% in 2014 and 2011.
- The male-female difference, or the gender gap, in account ownership narrowed to 6.4 percentage points in 2017, it was 19.8 in 2014.
- Women trail behind even more in **access to formal credit markets**.
- **Only 5% took a loan**—less than half their Chinese counterparts (11%) and below the global 9%; while **30% continue to borrow informally** (family and

friends).

- Considering that about **10% of India's total entrepreneurs are women**, and that 98% of women are concentrated in micro-enterprises and informal (99%) segments, the **virtual lack of access to formal credit is a huge constraint**.
- **Indian women are less financially included** than men by other metrics as well like owning debit cards and credit cards.

8. Honour Killing

- **Supreme Court** has said that adults are free to marry persons of their own choice and hurting couples, or summoning them before clan members, groups, or a khap, is **"absolutely illegal"**.
- Holding honour killings as a slur on the nation, and terming it a barbaric, feudal practice that ought to be stamped out, the Supreme Court directed courts to view such cases as in **"rarest of rare" category** for awarding **death penalty** to the convicts.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/01/20/insights-editorial-protecting-marriages-across-castes/>

9. Women entry into Sabarimala temple

- **1991 Kerala High Court judgment**, which held that the restriction was in accordance with a usage from time immemorial and not discriminatory under the Constitution.
- Twenty-five years after this judgment, the Supreme Court has questioned the "logic" behind the restriction.
- Entry of women would be tested against the fundamental rights of **Article 14** (equality under law) and **Article 15** (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste etc) of the Constitution of India.
- It curtails her religious freedom assured by **Article 25(1)**.
- Prohibition of women's entry to the shrine solely on the basis of womanhood and the biological features associated with womanhood is derogatory to women, which **Article 51A (e)** aims to renounce.
- The classification based on age is an act of discrimination based on sex.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/10/21/insights-editorial-women-right-enter-sabarimala/>

Issues related to Children

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** defines the child as a person under 18 years of age. It acknowledges the primary **role of parents and the family** in the care and protection of children, as well as the **obligation of the State** to help them carry out these duties. **Always remember a standard definition.**
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 14 and Article 15.**
 - **Article 21-** no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
 - **Article 21 A-**The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6-14 years.
 - **Article 23-**Traffic in human beings and beggary and other forms of forced labour are prohibited.
 - **Article 24-**No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
 - **Article 45** - envisages that the state shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
- **Legal Provisions:**
 - Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (**RTE Act**, 2009)
 - **POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act)** was passed in 2012 and it deals with sexual offences against persons below 18 years of age.
 - **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act** of 2006.
 - **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** - allows for juveniles in conflict with Law in the age group of 16–18, involved in Heinous Offences, to be tried as adults.
 - **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.**
- **Supreme Court Judgements:**
 - In October 2017, Supreme Court of India gave a landmark judgement criminalising sex with a child bride.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - **National Policy for Children, 2013.**
 - The Policy has identified four key priority areas: survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection and participation, for focused attention.
 - **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme.**
 - **Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal:**
 - Electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.
 - **National Child Labour Project** - to eliminate all forms of child labour.
 - **Khoya Paya portal** - exchange information on missing and found

children.

- **POCSO e-Box** - Online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children.
- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme** - building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances through Government-Civil Society Partnership.
- **Operation Smile / Operation MUSKAAN** - to rescue/rehabilitate missing children.
- **Institutions:**
 - **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).**
 - **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** - promotion of voluntary action, research, training and documentation in the domain of women and child development.
 - Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) - monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- **NGOs working for Child Welfare:**
 - **Child Rights and You** - ensure that the fundamental rights of children are protected.
 - **Save the Children** - fighting child sex abuse, and providing rehabilitation to victims of abuse.
 - **Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA)** - started by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi is working for the protection of children and ensuring their quality education.
 - **Aarambh Initiative** - India's 1st Online Portal Dedicated to Protect Children from Sexual Offences.
- **100 Million For 100 Million Campaign** - organized by the **Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation** - aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world, to end child labour, child slavery, and violence against children and promote the right of every child to be safe, free, and educated.
- **Child Sex Ratio:** As per the Census, 2011 the child sex ratio (0-6 years) has shown a decline from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 919 females per thousand males in 2011.
- India should prioritise spending on children: **Kailash Satyarthi. Quote the statements or recommendation made by famous personalities.**

2. Child Marriages in India

- **UNICEF** defines child marriage as marriage before 18 years of age and considers this practice as violation of human right. **Always remember a standard definition.**
- **As per the law in India**, a child marriage is one in which the girl is below the age of eighteen years and the boy is below the age of twenty one years.
- **Prohibition of child marriages act** was enacted in 2006, yet child marriages are continuing in India.
- Nearly three percent of girls are married in the age group of 10 to 14 years.
- As per **National Family Health Survey** 26.8% women were married before 18 years.
- One out of every 5 marriages violates provisions of the Prohibition of Child

Marriage Act.

- **Rajasthan** has the highest incidence of child marriages
- India has largest number of Child marriage incidences around the world.
- **UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2016 report** noted that "Girls from the poorest households—and those living in rural areas—face twice the risk of being married before 18 than those living in urban areas.
- **'National Girl Child Day'** - To promote sensitization and awareness on the girl child.
- **Dhan Laxmi scheme** and the **Apni beti apna dhan programme** - cash incentives and awareness-raising to induce behaviour change.
- **Odisha Child Marriage Resistance Forum: Quote such unique initiatives**
 - Children who have resisted parental and societal pressure to get married before the legal age have joined hands to bring an end to the regressive practice in Odisha.
 - Prevent untimely marriages and spread awareness among parents.
 - **ActionAid**, an international voluntary organisation, and **UNICEF** have supported the initiative.
- Law Commission of India suggested amendments in the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 to make registration of marriages compulsory, like births and deaths, as an effective antidote to social evils like child marriage, bigamy and gender violence.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/11/20/insights-editorial-database-registration-marriages/>

3. Child Labour in India

- "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." – **Nelson Mandela**. **Remember some famous quotes.**
- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** defines child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. **Always remember a standard definition.**
- As per **Census 2011**, in the age group (5-14) years, 10.1 million (3.9% of total child population) were working, either as 'main worker' or as 'marginal worker'.
- Child labour has decreased in rural areas. However, it has increased drastically in the urban areas.
- India has ratified two key global conventions for combating child labour.
- The **Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No 138)** and the **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)**.
- The ratification of these conventions will help in achieving Goal 8 of the sustainable development goals.
- Goal 8 aims to Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- A **National Policy on Child Labour** was formulated in 1987 to focus on rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations.
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016** - prohibit the engagement of children in all occupations and to prohibit the engagement

of adolescents in hazardous occupations.

- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Child-Labour-in-India.pdf>
- **Constitutional provisions:**
 - **Article 21(A) and Article 45** – The child has the right to Education i.e. the state shall provide compulsory and free education to the children of the age six to 14 years.
 - **Article 24** –child below the age of 14 years cannot be employed in any mine, factory or hazardous workplace.
 - **Article 39(f)** –The child’s youth and childhood are to be protected against moral and material abandonment and exploitation.
- ILO launched **Alliance 8.7**, a global partnership designed to align the efforts of those working towards the achievement of SDG Target 8.7.
- The ILO report said, “We must turn this renewed commitment into accelerated action and consign child labour to the dustbin of history, once and for all.”
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/11/30/insights-editorial-childhood-foregone/>

4. Child Abuse in India

- Child Abuse is defined as “injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child”.
- This abuse can be of several kinds according to the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** – physical, mental, emotional, psychological or in the form of neglect or exploitation. **Always remember a standard definition**
- Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 19(1) (a), 21, 21(A), 23, 24, 39(e) 39(f) - protection, safety, security and well-being of all people, including children.
- **Rape of children** – 2016 NCRB data - rape of children have increased by over 82% compared to 2015.
- (POCSO) Act, 2012 and POCSO e-Box.
- Child pornography is a crime in India. Information Technology Act, 2000 & Indian Penal Code, 1860 provides protection from child pornography.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Child-Abuse-in-India.pdf>

5. Child Adoption

- Adoption means the process through which the adopted child becomes the lawful child of his adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to a biological child. **Always remember a standard definition**
- An inter-ministerial panel headed by external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj had cleared a proposal making district magistrates the final authority to clear child adoption cases.
- 800 to 850 adoption cases are pending in civil and family courts at any given time.
- Survey shows that there are over 50,000 orphans in the country. The adoption continues to be low because of the delay in getting legal clearances.
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a statutory body of Ministry

of Women & Child Development.

- It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children.
- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Child-Adoption-in-India.pdf>

NOTES

Old Age / Elderly Issues

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

- According to the law, a "**senior citizen**" means any person being a citizen of India, who has attained the age of sixty years or above.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 41:** The State shall make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, **old age**, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.
- **Legal Provisions:**
 - **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007:**
 - The Act makes it obligatory for children and their heirs to provide **monthly allowance** to their parents and other senior citizens of the family.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - **National Policy on Senior Citizens 2011**
 - The policy addresses issues concerning senior citizens living in urban and rural areas, special needs of the oldest old and older women.
 - **National Council of Senior Citizens**
 - Advise the Central and State Governments on issues related to the welfare of senior citizens and enhancement of their quality of life.
 - **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana** - providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category'.
 - **Vayoshreshtha Samman** - The Awards are given to eminent citizens and institutions in recognition of their outstanding services to the elderly people, especially indigent senior citizens.
- **NGOs working for Old age welfare:**
 - **HelpAge India** - working for disadvantaged elderly for nearly 4 decades.
- According to Population **Census 2011** there are nearly 104 million elderly persons in India.
- A report released by the **United Nations Population Fund** and **HelpAge India** suggests that the number of elderly persons is expected to grow to 173 million by 2026.
- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** ensures equitable treatment to such sections of society.
- **Vietnam's Old People's Associations (OPAs): Quote such unique initiatives**
 - In Vietnam, Old People's Associations (OPAs) are improving the lives of the elderly in many parts of the country.
 - The associations are democratically run by the elderly in the communities.
 - They represent the needs of the community and the elderly to government agencies, which also see them as a vital support for the government's outreach programmes into communities.

Issues related to Differently Abled

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines disability as** “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”
Always remember a standard definition
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), 2006 was a big step towards viewing persons as “subjects with rights” and not “objects of charity”.
- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** pledges to “leave no one behind”. It states that persons with disabilities must be both “beneficiaries and agents of change”.
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** - aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - The Constitution secures to the citizens including the disabled, a right of justice, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity and for the promotion of fraternity.
 - **Article 14 & 16** of the Constitution guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizen of India.
 - **Article 38** - the State to promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order and the State is required to make efforts to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities amongst individuals.
- **Legal Provisions:**
 - **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2016**
 - The bill repeals Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act of 1995.
 - It covers a whole spectrum of problems from physical disabilities to mental illness and multiple disabilities.
 - It complies with the **UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, to which India became a signatory in 2007.
 - The new Act also increased the quota for disability reservation in higher educational institutions from 3% to 5% and in government jobs from 3% to 4%, for a more inclusive society.
 - **National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999**
 - Establishment of an institution for the welfare of people with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities.
- **Institutions / Departments:**
 - **National Trust**
 - Organise National Conference on Down Syndrome.
 - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (**Divyangjan**), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

- **National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)** - NCPEDP is India's only cross-disability advocacy organisation working towards empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- India is home to one of the largest disabled populations in the world.
- The **2011 Census** - number of disabled in India at 2.68 crore, or 2.21% of the population.
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** - promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.
- Exclusion of persons with disabilities from education, employment and participation cost at around 7% of national GDP.
- Research estimates the market size of product categories needed by persons with disabilities in India at Rs. 4,500 crore.
- Data from the **National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People** show that 84% of seats for persons with disabilities lie vacant in top universities.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Disability-Rights.pdf>
- **Marrakesh Treaty:**
 - Seeks to **facilitate access to published works for visually impaired persons.**
 - India becomes the first country to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - **Divyang Sarathi:**
 - The accessible and comprehensive mobile application for easy dissemination of information to '**Divyangjans**'.
 - Providing all relevant information pertaining to the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, including various acts, rules, regulations and guidelines, employment opportunities, and the disability market in an accessible format.
 - **Accessible India Campaign or (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)** - to make a barrier free and conducive environment for Divyangjans all over the country.

Caste Related Issues / SCs and STs

1. Facts for Mains

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Right to equality (**Article 15, 16 and 17**).
 - Right against exploitation (**Article 23**).
 - Cultural and Educational Rights (**Article 29**).
 - **Article 46** says that educational and economic interests of SCs and STs shall be protected and promoted.
 - Prohibition against disenfranchisement in elections based on one's religion, race, caste or sex (**Article 325**).
 - **Article 330 and Article 333** permit union and state legislature to reserve seats for members of the SCs and STs based on their population in each constituency.
 - **Article 338** mandates the creation of a National Commission for SCs and STs to monitor safeguards provided to them.
- **Supreme Court Judgements:**
 - **Indra Sawhney & Others Vs. Union Of India (also known as Mandal Commission case)**
 - Supreme Court upheld the Mandal Commission's **27% quota for backward classes**, as well as the principle that the combined scheduled-caste, scheduled-tribe, and backward-class beneficiaries should not exceed 50 percent.
 - The court also said the creamy layer of the OBCs should not get the benefits of reservation.
 - It confined the exclusion of the creamy layer to the OBCs and not the SCs/STs.
 - **Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy** pointed out in a **1985 judgment**: "efficiency is not to be discounted, it cannot be used as a camouflage to let the upper classes take advantage of the backward classes in its name and to monopolise the services, particularly the higher posts and the professional institutions".
 - Jobs, Admissions Secured On Invalid Caste/Tribe Certificates Void: Supreme Court.
- **Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011** was the first-ever caste-based census since 1931 Census of India.
- If we want information regarding the size and characteristics of various castes in India, we must look to the Census of 1931.
- There are demands for collection of caste data in 2021 Census.
- First Census in 1871, included questions about caste.
- National Sample Survey (NSS) data shows that **poverty persists among forward castes**.
- **India Human Development Survey** shows that 56% of Dalit children ages 8-11 cannot read but neither can 32% of forward caste and 47% of OBC children.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Caste-Census-in-India.pdf>

2. Untouchability in India

- Article 17 abolishes and forbids untouchability in any form.
- In order to fulfil the mandate of Article 17 of the Constitution, the Parliament enacted the **Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955**.
- Later the Act was revamped as the **Protection of Civil Rights Act**.
- Under this Act, 'untouchability' as a result of religious and social disabilities was made punishable.
- A more comprehensive and more punitive Act was required to protect SCs and STs from violence committed by other communities.
- This gave rise to the **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.
- **Section 8 in Representation of People's Act, 1951** states that the people found guilty of committing offence under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 will be disqualified from contesting elections.

NOTES

3. Key findings of the NCRB Report

- India has over **180 million Dalits**. A crime is committed against a Dalit every 15 minutes.
- Over the last 10 years (2007-2017), there has been a 66% growth in crime against Dalits.
- A total of 40,774 cases were registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and other sections of law over alleged crimes against SCs and STs in the year 2016.
- Of these, charge-sheets were filed in 78.3 per cent cases, and the conviction rate was 25.8 per cent.
- Uttar Pradesh in reporting the maximum number of crimes against Dalits.
- Based on data it shows that it is **mostly ineffective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act that is leading to atrocities**.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/04/27/insights-into-editorial-supreme-court-judgement-dilution-the-sc-st-act/>

4. Creamy Layer for SC / ST

- Supreme Court in **Nagraj vs Union of India case** ruled that the people belonging for SC & ST should be classified into groups and the creamy layer should be excluded from reservation.
- Studies such as the **Lokur Committee** had shown that the benefits were not percolating down to genuine beneficiaries.
- **Article 14, 15 and 16** ensure fundamental right of equality and social justice to all citizens, including protection of the actual backward and deprived within the SC/STs.
- The intention of the framers of the Constitution ensures that benefits percolate to the right persons.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Seeking-Creamy-Layer-for-SCST.pdf>

Tribal Issues

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

• **Constitutional Provisions:**

- Reservation in educational institution has been provided in **Article 15(4)** while reservation in posts and services has been provided in **Article 16(4), 16(4A) and 16(4B)** of the Constitution.
- **Article 46** – the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the society and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 23** which prohibits traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour has a special significance for Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 24** which prohibits employment of Children below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous activity is also significant for Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 243D** provides reservation of Seats for Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats.
- **Article 330** provides reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People.
- **Article 332** provides reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Legislative Assemblies of the States.
- Other specific safeguards have been provided in **Article 244** read with the provisions contained in **Fifth and Sixth Schedule** to the Constitution.

• **Legal Provisions:**

- In pursuance of Article 23, Parliament has enacted the **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**.
- **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.
- The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** - The law concerns the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources.

• **Government Initiatives:**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a scheme namely **“Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”** which covers the 75 identified PVTGs among Scheduled Tribes in 18 States/ UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools** - Government has sought to extend the facility of EMRSs in all the 672 Blocks where ST population is more than 50% of the total population in a span of next five years.

Healthcare System in India

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1. Facts for Mains

• **Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Article 38** - the state shall secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people. Providing affordable healthcare is one of the ways to promote welfare.
- **Article 39(e)** - the state to make sure that health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused.
- **Article 41** - duty on state to provide public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement etc.
- **Article 42** makes provision to protect the health of infant and mother by maternity benefit.
- **Article 47** - duty of the state to improve public health, securing of justice, human condition of works, extension of sickness, old age, disablement and maternity benefits.
- **Article 48A** - State shall Endeavour to protect and impose the pollution free environment for good health.
- Provisions in **11th schedule and 12th schedule** - drinking water, health and sanitation, family welfare, women and child development, social welfare etc.

• **Judiciary:**

- Judiciary has widely interpreted the scope of **Right to Health under Article 21 (right to life)** and has thus established right to health as an **implied fundamental right**.
- The Supreme Court in ***Paramanand Katara v Union of India*** case gave a landmark judgement that every doctor at government hospital or otherwise has the professional obligation to extend his services with due expertise for protecting life of a patient.

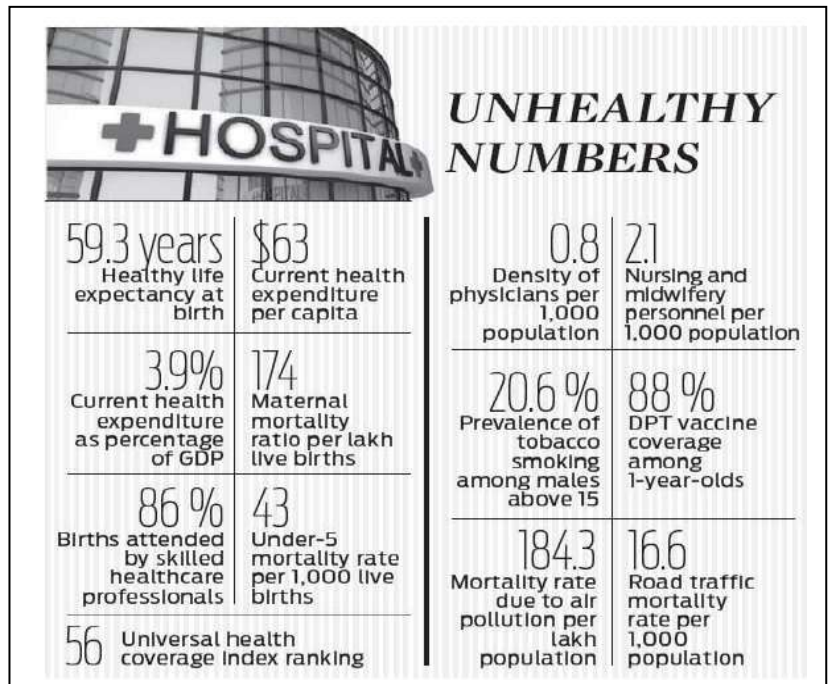
• **Government Initiatives:**

- **National Nutrition Mission:**
 - To rein in malnourishment and stunted growth.
 - NNM will address three aspects—the food that should be given to rein in **stunting, undernourishment, low birthweight and anaemia**.
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)** - accelerate full immunization coverage to more than 90% by December 2018.
- **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana** - government-run health insurance scheme for the BPL family (a unit of five).
- **LaQshya – Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative** - aims to improve the quality of care that is being provided to the pregnant mother in the Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres.

2. Reports

- **World Health Statistics report, 2018 released by the WHO**

- India's per capita expenditure on health spends at a dismal \$ 63, less than that in neighbouring Bhutan and Sri Lanka.
- Life expectancy in India is just 59.3 years which is very low as compared to several other developing countries.
- India's health spending is a measly 3.9 per cent of GDP. Of this, public spending is just 1.15 per cent, which the government aims to raise to 2.5 per cent by 2025.
- Unless a country spends at least 5-6% of its GDP on health, it is difficult to meet the basic healthcare needs of its population.



- **India: Health of the Nation's States**

- The report by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Public Health Foundation of India, and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation provides crucial information on the disease burden at the subnational levels.
- Non-communicable diseases now contribute more to India's disease burden than communicable diseases.
- We still face a double burden of disease and non-communicable diseases are just the bigger burden.
- In 2016, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) accounted for nearly 62% of all deaths, up from 37.9% in 1990.
- A key culprit for NCDs is tobacco use, which accounted for 6% of India's total disease burden in 2016.
- Relatively wealthier states such as Kerala, Goa, and Tamil Nadu recorded the largest proportions of deaths caused by NCDs compared to the poorer states.
- Diarrhoea, TB, road injuries and suicides are among top 10 causes of death.

- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Lifestyle-Diseases-Biggest-Health-Risk-for-Indians.pdf>

- **Health In India: NSS 71st Round Survey Report**

- **Global Nutrition Report 2017**

- India's dual burden of malnutrition and obesity was highlighted in the Global Nutrition Report 2017.
- The report that looked at 140 countries also found 'significant burden'

NOTES

of childhood stunting in India

- 38 per cent of children under five are affected by stunting.
- About 21 per cent of children under 5 have been categorised as 'wasted' or 'severely wasted'.
- Overweight and obesity are on the rise in almost every country.
- **The Global Nutrition Report 2017 calls for nutrition to be placed at the heart of efforts to end poverty, fight disease, raise educational standards and tackle climate change. (For questions related to nutrition – it can be used in the introduction)**
- **Healthy States, Progressive India Report – Niti Ayog**
 - The report ranks states and Union territories on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.
 - States with a record of investment in literacy, nutrition and primary health care have achieved high scores.

3. Healthcare Sector in India

- Key reason for the poor quality of public healthcare services in India is the **lack of adequate data and monitoring**.
- The health ministry's **real-time health management information system (HMIS)** suffers from poor quality and data gaps.
- **A 2017 Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report** showed that **18% of health facilities** did not even report basic infrastructure data in the HMIS portal in 2015-16.
- The country's **average out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare** is one of the highest globally, at 68%.
- The **out-of-pocket expenditure** is much lower in China, at 34%, and in the US it is 11%.
- Due to this high out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure, **7% of the population in India** is pushed below poverty threshold every year.

4. National Health Policy, 2017

- It seeks to reach everyone in a comprehensive integrated way to move towards wellness.
- It aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.
- **Life Expectancy and healthy life**
 - Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
 - Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.
- **Mortality by Age and/ or cause**
 - Reduce under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and MMR from current levels to 100 by 2020.
 - Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019.
 - Reduce neo-natal mortality to 16 and still birth rate to "single digit" by 2025.
- **Reduction of disease prevalence/ incidence**
 - Achieve global target of 2020 which is also termed as target of 90:90:90, for HIV/AIDS i.e, - 90% of all people living with HIV know

their HIV status, - 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

- Achieve and maintain elimination status of Leprosy by 2018, Kala-Azar by 2017 and Lymphatic Filariasis in endemic pockets by 2017.
- To achieve and maintain a cure rate of >85% in new sputum positive patients for TB and reduce incidence of new cases, to reach elimination status by 2025.
- To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.
- **Health finance**
 - Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5% by 2025.
 - Increase State sector health spending to > 8% of their budget by 2020.
 - Decrease in proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure from the current levels by 25%, by 2025.
 - **Preventive and Promotive Health** - The policy identifies coordinated action on seven priority areas for improving the environment for health:
 - The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
 - Balanced, healthy diets and regular exercises.
 - Addressing tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse
 - Yatri Suraksha – preventing deaths due to rail and road traffic accidents
 - Nirbhaya Nari – action against gender violence
 - Reduced stress and improved safety in the work place
 - Reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution

5. Leprosy Cases in India

- Leprosy is one of the **world's oldest diseases** with India accounting for over 60% of the annual new cases of leprosy.
- Leprosy was officially declared eliminated as a public health concern in India in 2005 when new cases fell to less than 1 per 10,000.
- Yet **India still accounts for the largest number of leprosy affected people** in the world.
- Number of new Leprosy cases detected during 2016-17 is 135485 and the prevalence Rate per 10000 population as on March 2017 for India is 0.66.
- The current global prevalence is estimated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be 0.23 per 10000 population.
- In 2017, India along with Brazil and Indonesia are the only countries where more than 10000 new cases are reported per year.
- **Two out of three new global Leprosy cases are detected in India**, according to official data.
- There are currently 119 provisions across various Acts passed by the Central and State governments that discriminate against people affected by leprosy (PAL).
- These 119 provisions not only violate the **Rights of Person with Disabilities Act 2016**, but also Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

- In 2010, there was no district in India with a prevalence level of more than 5/10000 population, in 2017, there are four such districts.
- In the Adivasi community the percentage of Leprosy patients have increased from 13.3% in 2009, to an alarming 18.8%.
- **Government Interventions:**
 - India is currently running one of the largest leprosy eradication programs in the world, the **National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP)**.
 - The **National Health Policy 2017 (NHP)** has elimination of Leprosy as a national level target.
 - **Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC)** is being implemented by the Union Health Ministry.
 - **SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign (SLAC)** was launched on 30th January 2017 to promote awareness and address the issues of stigma and discrimination.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Fight-against-Leprosy.pdf>

6. Malnutrition in India: A Snapshot

- Statistics compiled by the **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)** show that while the Sub-Saharan countries of Africa have the highest prevalence of hunger, in absolute terms, India has the **highest number (one quarter) of undernourished (hungry) people** in the world (194.6 million or **15 percent of India's total population** during 2014-16).
- Malnutrition in children under-five also results in nearly **half of the 1.3 million deaths occurring in the country each year**.
- According to NFHS 2015-16, **every second tribal child** suffers from growth restricting malnutrition **due to chronic hunger**.
- India's efforts at improving access to **food and good nutrition** are led by the **National Food Security Act**.
- At the national level, **53% of women are anaemic**, Health Ministry data show.
- It is recommended that each person should **have diverse diet of at least eight food groups**, that include: cereals, roots and tubers; legumes and nuts; dairy products; flesh foods; eggs; fish; dark green leafy vegetables; and other fruits and vegetables.
- The **NITI Aayog** found that families below the poverty line consumed **more cereals and less milk** compared to the affluent.
- **PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) scheme** - to boost nutrition among children and women.
- Research suggests that \$1 spent on nutritional interventions in India could generate \$34.1 to \$38.6 in public economic returns.
- According to **M S Swaminathan**, to promote nutrient value food production, a multi-pronged strategy involving academic institutions, government, scientists and farmers should be evolved
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/30/insights-into-editorial-for-nutrition-security-on-undernourishment/>
- <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/State-of->

[Nutrition-in-India.pdf](#)

7. Child Nutrition – Government Initiatives

- **Early child nutrition** is the **foundation for the health and well-being** of an individual.
- Raising nutritional standards for young children has **become a policy imperative** only in recent years, with the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, incorporating the mandate in Schedule II, and the **Supplementary Nutrition (Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017**, laying down entitlements.
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan.**
- Innovative and successful schemes from different states should be adopted on national level. Like the **PHULWARI scheme of Chhattisgarh** aims to curb malnutrition by providing balanced and nutritious diets to women of infants and children every day.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/05/05/insights-into-editorial-food-first-on-child-nutrition/>

8. Government De-addiction Plan

- The government plans to adopt 15 districts in the country on a pilot basis to implement an action plan for **de-addiction** and **make the districts drug-free**.
- This is according to the redrafted **National Drug Demand Reduction Policy**.
- An inspection report submitted by **Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA)** revealed how inmates in de-addiction centres are being ill-treated, subjected to sexual and physical torture, asked to perform sexual favours, and not allowed to contact their families.
- It violates fundamental rights to life, liberty and dignity, as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Proximity to the largest producers of heroin - the **Golden Triangle (Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar)** and **Golden Crescent (Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran)** -has made India's border vulnerable to drug trafficking.
- The **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**, prohibit a person to produce, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store, and/or consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Government-De-addiction-Plan.pdf>

9. Hygiene and Sanitation

- The quality of hygiene and sanitation had a significant impact on improving the health outcomes.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission has increased the sanitation coverage in rural India from 39% in 2014 to 76% in January 2018.
- According to **UNICEF report**, a household in an ODF village saves up to Rs. 50,000 every year.

10. Powering rural healthcare

- Around 38 million Indians rely on health facilities without electricity.
- Without access to regular power supply, numerous life-saving interventions

cannot be undertaken.

- A study, '**Powering Primary Healthcare through Solar in India: Lessons from Chhattisgarh**', highlights the role of solar energy in bridging the gaps in electricity access in rural healthcare facilities.
- It was found that the solar-powered PHCs in Chhattisgarh admitted over 50% more patients and conducted almost twice the number of child deliveries in a month compared to the power-deficit PHCs without a solar system.
- There must be a focus on making '**Solar for Health**' a national priority.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/12/12/insights-editorial-powering-rural-healthcare/>

11. International Examples

- **Swedish Model:**
 - Private and public health facilities compete for government funding and the right to provide healthcare to citizens.
 - There are incentives for providing the quickest and cheapest treatment.
 - It is a level playing field, and if the government health facility does not provide quality service, it stands to lose out.
- **Thailand Model:**
 - **Thailand's Universal Health Coverage** has earned global appreciation.
 - Public and private hospitals are treated on a par, and the beneficiary chooses where she goes.
- **Canada Model:**
 - **Medicare**, which covers all Canadians, is publicly financed and privately run.
 - Medical practitioners must only charge fees fixed by governments.

12. Public Health Cadre

- Instituting an **All India Health Cadre (AIHC)**, much like IAS, is the much needed and long awaited institutional reform in the health sector.
- In 1959 the **Mudaliar Committee** advocated dedicated personnel for Public health management.
- In 1973, the **Kartar Singh Committee** said that "doctors with no formal training in surveillance systems, data management, leadership and communication skills etc are ill-equipped to work in public facilities".
- In 2011, a **High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage** recommended creation of an All India Public Health Service Cadre.
- The **12th Five Year Plan** and the **National Health Policy, 2017** also advocated establishing a public health management cadre to improve the quality of health services.
- **Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra** have maintained a Public Health Directorate staffed by a trained cadre of public health managers.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/The-case-for-a-Public-Health-Cadre.pdf>

Education

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 21-A** - free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years.
 - **Article 28** - freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in educational institutions.
 - **Article 29** - equality of opportunity in educational institutions.
 - **Article 30** - right of the minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
 - **Article 45** - Provision for free and compulsory education for children.
 - **Article 46** - promotion of education and economic interests of the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and the weaker sections of society.
 - **Article 350 A** - facilities for instruction in mother tongue at primary stage.
- **Legal Provisions:**
 - The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
- **Supreme Court Judgements:**
 - The Supreme Court, in its judgment in the **J. P. Unnikrishnan v. the State of Andhra Pradesh** case, has held that children under the age of 14 have the fundamental right to free education.
- In the Union Budget for the financial year 2018-19, Education sector has witnessed an increase of almost **4% in terms of funds allocation**.
- “The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves,” said **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**.
- Indian education framework needs to change completely – Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. **(Remember some famous quotes)**
- As per UNESCO data, India has one of the **lowest public expenditure rates on education per student**, especially compared to other Asian countries like China.
- With a **literacy rate of 77 percent**, India lags behind other BRICS nations, which have literacy rates above 90 percent.
- Data from the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** show that only half of all students who enter primary school make it to the upper primary level and less than half that get into the 9-12 class.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/27/insights-into-editorial-to-reform-the-education-system/>
- **Impacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT)-India:** aimed at developing a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India.

2. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)

- **Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Bill 2018 (HECI)** seeks to repeal UGC Act and provides for setting up of **Higher Education Commission of India**.
- The **focus of Higher Education Commission of India** will be on **improving academic standards and the quality of Higher Education**.
- Several committees like **Yash Pal committee, National Knowledge Commission and the Hari Gautam committee** have recommended a single education regulator to rid higher education of red tape and lethargy.
- **Reference:**

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES FALL IN THE RANKINGS

Indian universities continued to perform poorly in global rankings with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore sliding in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2018.

Though IISc remained the top school in India, it was ranked in the 251-300 group, a fall from the 201-250 cohort of the previous edition. After the first 200 ranks, THE places universities in groups instead of assigning them individual ranks. While the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay continues to be in the 351-400 band, IIT-Delhi and IIT-Kanpur have dropped by one grouping—from 401-500 to 501-600.

Globally, the University of Oxford retains first place in the rankings, followed by Cambridge University.

Best universities in the world

Rank	2018	2017	University
1	1	1	Oxford University
2	4	2	Cambridge University
3	2	3	California Institute of Technology*
3	3	4	Stanford University*
5	5	5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*Caltech and Stanford were placed joint third

Best universities in India

Rank		
2018	2017	University
251-300	201-250	IISc Bangalore**
351-400	351-400	IIT-Bombay
501-600	401-500	IIT-Delhi
501-600	401-500	IIT-Kanpur
501-600	501-600	IIT-Kharagpur

**After top 200 ranks THE puts universities in groups

Source: THE World University Rankings 2018

THE CHANGES

UGC ACT

- UGC will have chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, 10 other members
- No provision for govt to remove chairman, vice-chairman, members
- UGC to disburse grants to universities
- Can withhold grants of an institution that doesn't comply with its directions and standards
- Retirement age of chairman, vice-chairman fixed at 65 yrs
- Chairman, vice-chairman, members can accept job offers from higher education institutions run by Centre, state, private bodies
- No provision for online application
- No provision for an advisory council

HECI ACT

- HECI will have chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, 12 other members
- Govt can remove chairman, vice-chairman, members for nine reasons
- HECI not responsible for disbursing grants to universities; this function will be discharged by HRD Ministry
- Can revoke approval of an institution for not complying with its standards
- Retirement age of chairman, vice-chairman fixed at 70 yrs
- Two-year cooling-off period for chairman, vice-chairman, members
- Only online applications for HECI's approval
- Will have an advisory council chaired by HRD Minister

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/03/insights-into-editorial-reform-101-on-higher-education/>

- <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Higher-Education-Commission-of-India-HECI.pdf>

3. Institutions of Eminence

- The Centre plans to offer 10 government and 10 private institutions the status of Institution of Eminence to enable them to break into the world's top 500 in a decade and into the top 100 after that.
- At present **Six higher education institutions**, including IISc, Bengaluru, IIT at Mumbai and Delhi, and the proposed Jio Institute have been named Institutions of Eminence (IoE) by the Centre.
- The Jio Institute in Maharashtra has been chosen in the greenfield category among three private institutions; the Manipal Academy of Higher Education and BITS, Pilani, being the other two.
- An empowered committee, under former Chief Election Commissioner **N. Gopalaswami**, recommended these institutions.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Institutions-of-Eminence.pdf>
- <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/18/insights-into-editorial-a-helping-hand-for-indian-universities/>

NOTES

4. Charging of exorbitant fees in private schools

- Charging of exorbitant fees in private schools is a major cause of concern in India. Steep hike in tuition fees along with additional costs such as fees for transport, extra-curricular activities and sports will add much burden on parents.
- The constitutional basis for regulating the fees charged by private schools was considered by the Supreme Court in **T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka (2002)**.
- In **Islamic Academy of Education and Anr. v. State of Karnataka and Ors (2003)**, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that these institutions can have the autonomy to generate "surplus" which must be used for their betterment and growth. However, the word 'surplus' is not clearly defined.
- Last year, the Supreme Court ruled that any private school in Delhi running on land allotted by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has to take the permission of the Delhi government before hiking the fees.
- According to the **CAG report**, it is found that many private schools collect money from parents under false heads, while at the same time, teachers are being underpaid, and accounts misrepresented.
- **How did different states respond to prevent schools from charging exorbitant prices?**
 - **Tamil Nadu** follows the **fee fixation model** whereby a government committee is empowered to verify and approve fee structures proposed by private schools.
 - **Karnataka** is for a formula that caps fees for schools by way of framing rules under its school education legislation.
 - **Maharashtra** has a weakly enforced legislation to regulate fees and has multiple government bodies to approve school fees.
 - The Gujarat High Court has upheld the **Gujarat Self-financed Schools (Regularisation of Fees) Act**, which imposes caps on the fees that private schools can charge, as legally valid.

- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/03/27/insights-into-editorial-the-cost-of-education/>

5. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

- The **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)-Rural, 2017** by NGO-Pratham has been concerned with children in the age bracket of 14 to 18.
- The survey looks '**Beyond Basics**', exploring beyond foundational reading and arithmetic in an attempt to throw light on activity, ability, awareness and aspirations of youth in this age group.
- **Reasons for the discontinuing of studies:**
 - 14.4% of youth aged 14 to 18 years are not enrolled in school or college.
 - Around 25% of the youth dropped out after grade 8 due to financial reasons.
 - A large number of students (34% of boys and 19% of girls) dropped out due to lack of interest, pointing to deficiencies in the curriculum and teaching infrastructure.
 - More no of girl students dropped out due to 'family constraints'.
 - Some of the students dropped out because they failed in their studies.
- ASER report points out, while the intention of the no-detention policy is commendable, there need to be measures in place to identify and focus on students who have fallen behind in the earlier grades.
- ASER's statistics indicate that overall, only 5.3% of the age group is enrolled in a vocational course, while 60.2% of out-of-school youth are engaged in some form of work.

6. Government Initiatives in the area of vocational education

- **National Vocational Qualifications Framework (NVQF)** is being established by the Central Government.
- Several states have initiated vocational education programmes operated in alignment with NVQF.
- Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched the **Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY)** that provides seamless movement from education to skill.
- **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** - skilling the unemployed youth in engineering skills using the facility of the technical institutions.
- **Gram Tarang** – Targeting tribal/naxal affected areas. Training centres created to train people in Auto CAD, advanced welding on advance machinery funded by NSDC.
- **Successful Vocational education model in Germany – 'classroom instruction plus apprentice training':**
 - The German system of Dual **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** has proven itself to be successful over the last centuries.
 - Bridge the gap between the increasing need for theoretical knowledge and real world application of these skills.
 - The German system encourages the **direct involvement and ownership of the industry** in the educational process and is in demand all over the globe – also in India.

Urbanisation in India

NOTES

1. Facts for Mains

- **Goal 11 of UN's SDG** - make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- About 34% of India's population now lives in urban areas, the **U.N. World Urbanization Prospects 2018 report** has said.
- India's level of urbanization is lower than its peer group of developing countries: China (45%), Indonesia (54%), Mexico (78%) and Brazil (87%).
- As per **World Bank**, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050.
- By 2030, India's urban population is projected to increase to 600 million.
- 14 Indian cities are being ranked amongst the world's 20 most polluted by a **WHO report**.
- Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world by 2028, according to the **United Nations**.
- In India the urban population contributes over 60% to the GDP and is projected to contribute around 75% in the next few years.
- India spends about \$17 per capita annually on urban infrastructure projects, against a global benchmark of \$100 and China's \$116.
- A 2014 study by the **National Council of Applied Economic Research** indicates that every additional rupee of capital invested in the housing sector adds Rs1.54 to the GDP.
- Every Rs1 lakh invested in residential housing creates 2.69 new jobs in the economy.
- **UN's SDG goal 11**- ensure adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has formed a committee to draft India's **National Urban Policy**.
- There are **strong correlations between urbanisation and economic growth**
 - Between 1978 and 2018, China's urbanisation rate jumped up from 18% to 58%.
 - In the process, over 500 million people were lifted out of poverty and the country attained middle-income status.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Urbanisation-in-India.pdf>

Union Budget 2018-2019

- Two major initiatives in health sector, as part of **Ayushman Bharat programme: Health and Wellness Centre and National Health Protection Scheme**.
- Under National Health Protection Scheme, providing a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year announced.
- Setting up 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness centres to provide health facilities with an allocation of Rs 1,200 crore.
- **Health, Education and Social Protection**
 - Aim to move from black board to digital board with push for digital technology and e-education.
 - By 2022, every block with over 20,000 tribals and over 50 per cent STs will have a special **Eklavya school**.
 - To address brain drain, a new scheme to identify students studying B Tech in top engineering schools and allow them to study and do research in IITs and IISC.
 - **“Revitalising of Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)”** scheme to promote research in Higher education institutes.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) was initiated through the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- The act mandated companies and government organisations with a turnover of Rs1,000 crore, a net worth exceeding Rs500 crore or having more than Rs 5 crore in net profits, to set aside 2 per cent of their average net profits for CSR activities.
- Bulk of the funding going into **education and health**.
- An average of Rs 12,000 crore finds its way into the CSR fund annually in India.
- States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat receive the largest chunk of CSR funds.
- Significant number of companies are surpassing 2%
- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has observed that among the 5,097 companies that have filed annual reports till December 2016, only 3,118 companies had made some contribution towards CSR expenditure.
- During FY 2014-15, 3,139 companies had spent 74% of the prescribed CSR expenditure — most were to the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Corporate-Social-Responsibility-CSR-in-India.pdf>

2. World Social Protection Report 2017-19

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** released the World Social Protection Report 2017-2019.
- 4 billion people worldwide are left without social protection: ILO.

- According to ILO, **Social protection is a human right and is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle.**
- **Social protection includes** benefits for children and families, maternity, unemployment, employment injury, sickness, old age, disability, survivors, as well as health protection. **Always remember a standard definition.**
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/World-Social-Protection-Report-2017-19.pdf>

3. Social Progress Index (SPI)

- It is a measure of **wellbeing of our society** completely separate from GDP. It is a whole new way of looking at the world.
- Three dimensions:
 - **Basic Human needs** (Nutrition and Basic Medical care, Water and Sanitation, Shelter, Personal Safety)
 - **Foundation of wellbeing** (Access to basic knowledge, Access to info and Communication, Health and Wellness, Ecosystem sustainability)
 - **Opportunity** (Personal Rights, Personal freedom and choice, Tolerance and inclusion, Access to Advanced education)
- The global Social Progress Index ranks India at the 93rd position.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/11/08/insights-editorial-plotting-social-progress/>