



General Studies-1; Topic: Salient features of Indian Society

Baby Trafficking

Introduction

- Criminal activity is mostly driven by a combination of socio-economic factors — poverty and unmet needs or desires.
- According to a recent UNICEF report, between 2012 and 2014, more than 60,000 child trafficking cases were detected in over 100 countries and regions.

Recent Incident

- The news of baby smuggling rackets dominates headlines from time to time.
- The recent inter-State baby smuggling racket was busted by the Telangana police.
- An inter-State gang smuggled children from Delhi and Pune and sold them to prospective parents in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Reasons

- Poverty of the biological parents in many cases.
- Smuggling of newborns from government hospitals where security is lax.
- Couples eager to have children, and impatient with the long waiting time to adopt a baby legally.
- In some cases, non-availability of babies for adoption.

Way Forward

- Children are not commodities to purchase at a premium from the free market.
- The government needs to do many things to ensure such incidents do not occur again:
 - provide effective poverty alleviation schemes;
 - employment opportunities for youth;
 - generate awareness about adoption schemes for both biological and adoptive parents;
 - remove unnecessary bureaucratic processes in adoption,

- ensure effective policing to nip such plots in the bud,
- Providing emotional support and counselling to infertile couples.

Conclusion

- Governments, NGOs, and communities must collaborate to protect vulnerable children and create a safer environment for their growth and development.

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