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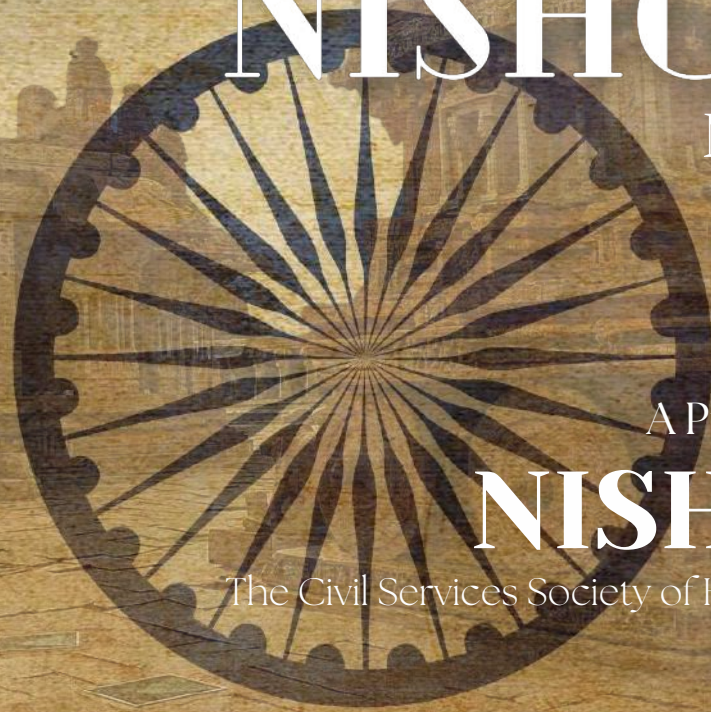
निश्चय

The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College

निष्ठा धृति सत्यम्

NISHCHAY

NEWSLETTER



A Publication of

NISHTHA

The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College

Indian Society



NISHTHA- THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY HANSRAJ COLLEGE



NISHTHA

The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College

EDITION III

NISHCHAY



Indian Society

From the Principal's Desk

प्रिय पाठकों,

निष्ठा- द सिविल सर्विसेज सोसाइटी ऑफ हंसराज कॉलेज के मासिक समाचार पत्र "निश्चय" के नवीनतम संस्करण के प्रक्षेपण पर मैं संपादक मंडल और सभी सदस्यों को हार्दिक बधाई देती हूँ। निष्ठा द्वारा नियमित रूप से आयोजित किए जाने वाले विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों और वक्ता सत्रों से मैं वास्तव में प्रसन्न हूँ। निष्ठा ने उम्मीदवारों की आकांक्षाओं और उनकी सहायता करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास किया है। मासिक समाचार पत्र सबसे प्रतिष्ठित यूपीएससी-सीएसई के सभी महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्षेत्रों को संरेखित करने की प्रतिबद्धता और एकमात्र उद्देश्य को दर्शाता है। सरकारी नीतियों के व्यावहारिक विश्लेषण से लेकर सिविल सेवकों के प्रेरक प्रोफाइल तक, आपके लेख उस कठोर और विचारशील विचारों को प्रदर्शित करते हैं जिसे हम हंसराज कॉलेज में बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास करते हैं और निष्ठा सोसाइटी के माध्यम से राष्ट्र निर्माण हेतु कुशल प्रशासकों की स्वर्णिम पीढ़ी के निर्माण हेतु हंसराज कॉलेज प्रतिबद्ध है।



मैं इस न्यूजलेटर को फलीभूत करने के लिए सभी योगदानकर्ताओं की कड़ी मेहनत और समर्पण के लिए हार्दिक प्रशंसा करना चाहती हूँ। आपके अथक प्रयास हमारे कॉलेज समुदाय की ताकत और जीवंतता की गवाही देते हैं।

हंसराज के अमृत काल में सिविल सेवकों की अगली पीढ़ी को पोषित करने के लिए समर्पित सोसाइटी के रूप में, मुझे विश्वास है कि आप आने वाले वर्षों में अपनी उपलब्धियों पर हमें गौरवान्वित करना जारी रखेंगे। स्टूडेंट्स की भलाई के लिए आपकी लगन और प्रतिबद्धता वास्तव में प्रेरणादायक है। मुझे संदेह नहीं है कि आप अपने चुने हुए क्षेत्र में सार्थक प्रभाव डालेंगे।

एक बार फिर, मैं आपको इस उत्कृष्ट समाचार पत्र को लॉन्च करने के लिए बधाई देती हूँ, और मैं हमारे कॉलेज समुदाय के सभी सदस्यों को इसके द्वारा उठाए गए प्रासंगिक मुद्दों को पढ़ने और संलग्न करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती हूँ।

प्रो.(डॉ) रमा
प्राचार्या, हंसराज कॉलेज

From the Convenor's Desk

प्रिय पाठकों,

निष्ठा सोसाइटी मासिक पत्रिका " निश्चय" के तृतीय संस्करण के प्रकाशन पर संपादकीय मंडल को हार्दिक बधाई। प्रति माह प्रकाशित होने वाली यह पत्रिका प्रशासनिक सेवा के परीक्षा की तैयारी कर रहे अभ्यर्थियों के लिए पूरक की भूमिका निभाती है। इस प्रतिष्ठित परीक्षा के पाठ्यक्रम के महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर बेहद सरल भाषा और रचनात्मकतापूर्ण लेख पाठकों के समक्ष परोसा गया है। पत्रिका में सामान्य अध्ययन तथा ज्वलनशील सामायिक घटनाओं का बहुयामी दृष्टिकोण से विश्लेषण प्रस्तुत किया गया है। इंटरनेट पर मौजूद स्रोतों के बहुमार के बीच यह पत्रिका अपने विषय सामग्री के सार्थकता और प्रामाणिकता के मापदंड पर खरा उतरती है।



इस पत्रिका के विषय वस्तु के चयन, प्रूफ और उनके संपादन के दृष्टि से संपादक मंडल, तकनीकी विभाग और सभी सदस्यों ने जो श्रमसाध्य कार्य किया है वह अभिनंदनीय है। कॉलेज की प्राचार्या प्रो. रमा ने हमेशा की तरह इस बार भी समचि त मार्गदर्शन और सानिध्य से इस अंक को अंतिम रूप देने में बड़ी भूमिका निभाई है और हंसराज के अमृत काल में अनेक ज्ञानवर्धक गतिविधियों के प्रोत्साहन के लिए प्राचार्या महोदया का विशेष धन्यवाद। प्राचार्या प्रो. रमा मैम के कुशल नेतृत्व में हंसराज कॉलेज राष्ट्र निर्माण हेतु कुशल प्रशासकों के निर्माण हेतु प्रतिबद्ध है।

आशा है की "निश्चय" का यह अंक आपको पसंद आएगा और आपके परीक्षा-उन्मुख ज्ञान को नया आयाम प्रदान करेगा।
धन्यवाद

प्रो.(डॉ) प्रभांशु ओझा
संयोजक, निष्ठा सोसायटी

From the President's Desk

Dear readers,

I am infused with great delight and exuberance to announce the launch of our new monthly newsletter Nishchay. This novel initiative aims to proffer all the ardent aspirants with valuable insights and information on a wide range of topics that are important from the perspective of the prestigious civil services examination.



It is written for the sole purpose of coordinating all the critical areas of the coveted UPSC-CSE. It not only focuses on the static portions of syllabus of the examination but also revolves around the current affairs as the heart of this novel endeavour.

We believe that this initiative will be of great benefit to our members, helping them to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in and around the globe along with the essential knowledge of the static portions.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy our newsletter!

Sincerely,

Akshat Bhadoriya
President

Nishtha— The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College



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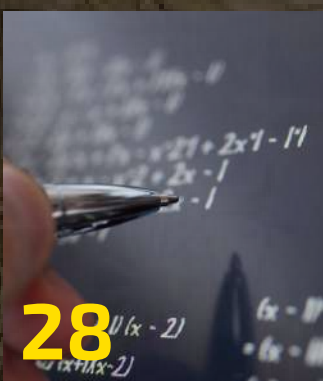
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01

EDITION III

NISHCHAY

The real essence of Indian society can be explained with the help of 'Salad bowl theory'- within the large Indian society, the newly arrived cultures do not lose their identity, but rather get intermixed without losing their unique characteristics, just like ingredients in a salad bowl are recognizable while contributing to the overall composition of the salad. This is how unique our Indian society is.

India is known for its "unity in diversity" so no matter how diverse we are, how differently opined we are, how many ways do we have to greet each other-be it namaste, sat sri akal, vanakkam etc, we all are still under one umbrella with the feeling of nationalism and patriotism in our heart for our beloved country and this overrules all differences, and establishes a sense of common belongingness which we feel for ourselves which is 'Bharat'.

We are proud to announce that Nishtha - The Civil Services Society of Hansraj College presents to you the same unity in diversity part in the third edition of Nishchay - the monthly newsletter of Nishtha but this time in a preparational mode. The content not only covers the GS-1 paper but also covers the soulful character that is in the sense of belonging with everything pivoted around the society in which we live, and around the society in which we have grown.

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What makes Indian society unique is the inclusiveness which is an exclusive character of Indian culture. Indian society is known for its capability of forbearance and acceptance, and social cohesion making it unique in sustaining its culture. The significance of fraternity elevated in the Preamble of the constitution makes it a duty of every citizen. Indian society is considerably different in artistic and indigenous aspects and it is material that it's posited in each existent the realisation of ideas and objects in the Preamble concerning every other existent. India from ancient times has thrived to produce a nation that's neither governed by universalism nor by exclusivity to its interest groups. The multi-cultural riddle is a salient point of Indian society that has been a boon and a bane over the history of the country.



In *The Discovery of India* Jawaharlal Nehru wrote- “**Indian Society and Culture** are like some ancient palimpsest on which layer upon layer of thought and reverie had been inscribed, and yet no succeeding layer had fully hidden or canceled what had been written previously.” For understanding and simplifying the riddle, the salient features of Indian society can be listed as- **Multi-Ethnic Society**, **Multilingual Society**, **Multi-Religious Society**, **Multi-Caste Unity In Diversity Tribes**, **The balance between spiritualism and materialism**, **Individualism and collectivism**, **Co-existence of traditionalism and modernity**.

The multi-ethnic Indian society

Multi-ethnicity is a major salient point of Indian society. An ethnical group or race is an order of people who identify with each other, generally grounded on a common language or dialect, history, society, culture, or nation.



A society with the co-existence of a wide variety of ethnical groups is a Multi-Ethnic Society. India is home to multiple ethnical biographies like Nordic, Dinaric, Proto-Australoid, Mongolian, etc.

Multilingualism

Multilingualism is a salient point of Indian society, India is home to numerous native languages, and it is also common for people to speak and understand further, than one language or dialect, which can number the use of different scripts as well. India's 2011 census documents that 121 languages are spoken as mother tongues, which is defined as the first language a person learns & uses.

Multi-religious society

India is a cradle of world religions whose ancestors have sermonized and rehearsed nearly all major religions of the world giving rise to worldly beliefs, practices, rites, rituals, ceremonies, and institutions. The concurrence of all the religions and variety of faiths has been a shining illustration of religious pluralism and forbearance.

Caste system in Indian society

The social division of society in India is peculiar. Unlike numerous other societies in the world where the society was divided into or clans, Indian society is astronomically divided into a scale of the estate.

The salient point of Indian society rests in the Unity in diversity

India as a nation is a classic illustration of it despite having multiple geographical, religious, verbal, artistic, and ethnical diversities, India has always stood up as an intertwined nation. In India, people of different religions have continued to admire the ideals and values of people of other religions, and hence, India has always stood up as an intertwined nation ready to put its arms around everybody in this world.



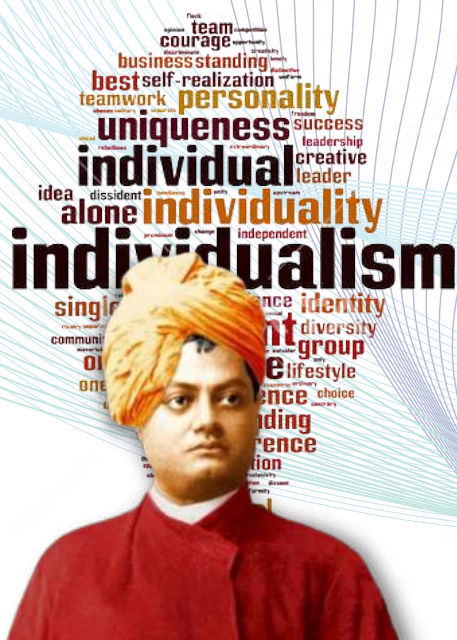
The balance between spiritualism & materialism in Indian society

Contradictions between spirituality and materialism have existed in Indian society for a long time. The ancient studies differ in positing that material life is all that matters, matter and knowledge interact to produce the world, or matter is just the base from which one has to rise to full knowledge.

Swami Vivekananda is one of the prominent numbers and makers of ultramodern India who was known for his speeches on spiritualism and materialism.

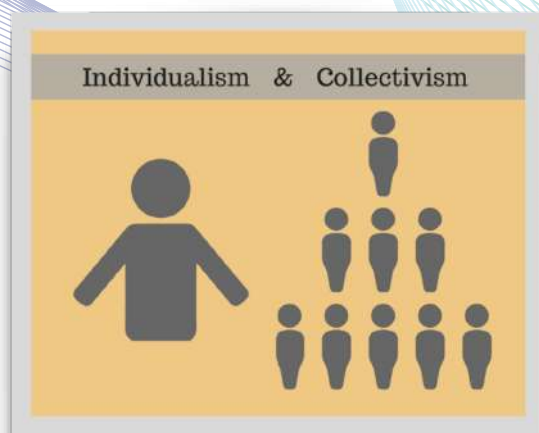
The balance between individualism and collectivism in Indian society

India is a society with both collectivistic and Individualistic traits. The collectivist side means that there's a high preference for belonging to a larger social frame in which individuals are anticipated to act for the lesser good of their defined in-groups.



The coexistence of traditionalism and modernity in Indian society

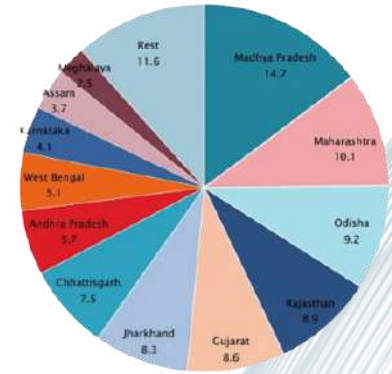
Indian Society is always trying to balance traditions and modernity, especially with changing times, which is a salient point of Indian society. Indian society will always be in transition, continually flashing and witnessing a constant process of change. It implies the idea of constant change, which is natural in contemporary Indian society.



Tribes

There are about 705 Scheduled tribes in the country and they constitute 6 percent of the population of the country, according to the 2011 census.

Scheduled Tribes substantially inhabit two distinct geographical areas – Central India and the North-Eastern Area. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in Central India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh(14.69), Chhattisgarh(7.5), Jharkhand(8.29), Andhra Pradesh(5.7), Maharashtra(10.08), Orissa(9.2), Gujarat(8.55) and Rajasthan(8.86). The other distinct area is the North East (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh).



Distribution Of Schedule Tribe Population by States -2011

Conclusion

Indian society is the result of a trip from the Indus civilization to the globalized world. During this trip, it has gone through numerous transformations under the influence of the outside world and reform movements within the society. Still, what's unique and perceptible is the fact that it has managed to borrow and accept colorful features while conserving its history.

There are numerous factors out there hanging the unity of Indian society but India has the strength to overcome collaborative violence and religious pitfalls. The common values of republic, equivalency, and justice, as defined in the constitution, are a part of the value system of Indian Society.



Poverty

Poverty is a multifaceted problem. When a person is in poverty, their level of employment-based income is too low to cover even their basic necessities. A person or society living in poverty lacks the necessary resources and means of subsistence.

The World Bank defines poverty as a severe lack of well-being that takes numerous forms. Low salaries and the inability to obtain the fundamental goods and services required for humane survival are examples of this. Low levels of health and education, limited access to sanitary facilities, insufficient physical security, a lack of voice, and a lack of opportunities to improve ones situation are all included in the definition of poverty.

In 2011, 21.9% of Indians were considered to be living in poverty. About 8% of all workers and their families in the world in 2018 survived on less than US\$ 1.90 per person, per day (the International Poverty Line).

The persistence of unchecked poverty is one of the sarcasms of the technically developing world. Poverty is an ancient and observable fact that nations around the world experience. It is a vague idea with many implications and pretenses. Bhalla Surjit stated, "there is a rich history of formal definitions of poverty, going back to the mid-nineteenth century. It is an attempt to capture the bottom half of the population, the have-nots, and the poor (2000:1)."

Academics and policymakers disagree passionately about poverty. The modern multidimensional approach is distinguished by a larger perspective and sees poverty as a loss of fundamental chances and productive resources to which every person should have access to. This method claims that defining poverty in terms of spending and consumption is misleading. The distribution of assets is a key element.



According to the **World Health Organization**, the greatest source of human suffering is poverty. The inability to achieve a specified minimum basic level of consumption is the classic definition of poverty. In a market economy, the nominal expenditure and the cost of goods determine one's capacity to consume. The degree of spending is determined by purchasing power, which is largely determined by income. As incomes can only be acquired through employment, there is a connection between employment and the prevalence of poverty.



**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANISATIONS**

Types of Poverty:

There are two main categories for describing poverty:

Relative Poverty:

It is characterized from a sociological standpoint as a living standard that is below that of the surrounding population's economic standards. Hence, it is a gauge of income disparity. Typically, the percentage of the population with incomes below a set amount is used to measure relative poverty.

Absolute Poverty:

A state in which household income is below what is required to maintain minimal standards of living (food, shelter, housing). The "a dollar a day" poverty line, first established in 1990, measured absolute poverty based on the standards of the world's poorest nations. The World Bank reset it to \$1.90 per day in October 2015.



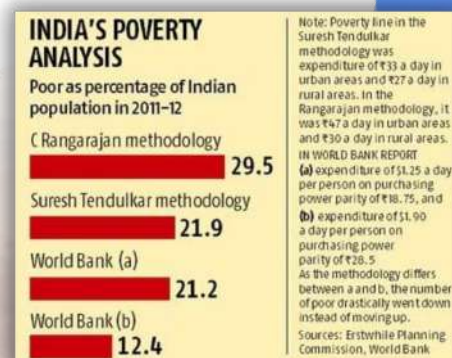
India is a developing nation, and it is obvious that poverty is pervasive and a subject of great worry for academic researchers and policy analysts due to its scope and intensity. The main goals of a nation's planning and policies are to raise the standard of living and boost the workforce's capacity for productivity. India faces a particularly daunting challenge because of its rapidly increasing population.

The task force of **NITI Aayog** determines Indian's poverty level using information gathered by the National Sample Survey Office, which is a part of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

In India, estimating the poverty line is based on consumption costs rather than income levels. The National Sample Survey Organization's consumer expenditure surveys are the basis for measuring poverty. A household is considered poor if its expenditures fall below a given poverty limit.

The poverty ratio, which is the ratio of the number of impoverished people to the entire population stated as a percentage, is used to determine the incidence of poverty. Another name for it is a head-count ratio.

- **The Alagh Committee (1979)** established a poverty level based on an adult's minimal daily caloric needs in rural and urban areas, respectively, of 2400 and 2100 calories.
- The poverty estimation was then carried out by many committees, including the **Lakdawala Committee (1993)**, **Tendulkar Committee (2009)**, and **Rangarajan Committee (2012)**.
- According to the Rangarajan Committees report from 2014, the poverty line is set at Rs. 1407 in urban areas and Rs. 972 in rural regions for monthly per capita expenditure.



Relative and absolute poverty rose after 2012

Tracking poverty in India from 2005 to 2020

Incidence of Poverty		As per NSS CES data		As per PLFS data
		2004-05	2011-12	2019-20
Poverty Head Count Ratio (%)	Rural	41.8	25.7	30.5
	Urban	25.7	13.7	15.5
	Total	37.2	21.9	25.9
Number of poor (Million)	Rural	325.8	216.7	270
	Urban	81.4	53.1	71
	Total	407.2	269.8	348
Tendulkar Poverty Line (MPCE in ₹) All India	Rural	₹446.68	₹816	₹1,217.96
	Urban	₹578.8	₹1,000	₹1,467

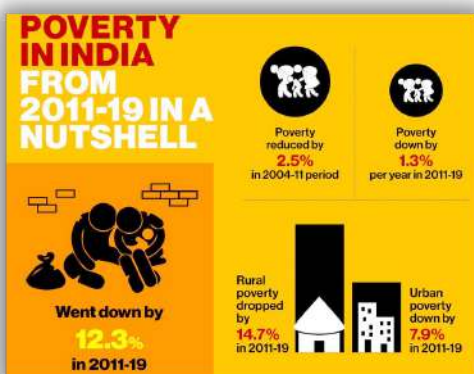


Rising poverty in India has a variety of causes, including the country's explosive population growth, poor agricultural production, inefficient resource usage, rising prices, unemployment, etc. It also consists of a few social and environmental elements, all of which ultimately result in the poverty trap.

Regarding the governments efforts to develop and carry out India's initiatives for reducing poverty, it should be noted that they were planned and run to the fullest extent possible. Several initiatives were introduced, including the IRDP, Food for Work Program, NOAPS, Annapurna Scheme, MGNREGA, Aajeevika, and PM Jandhan Yojana. The following points could bring forth the analysis:

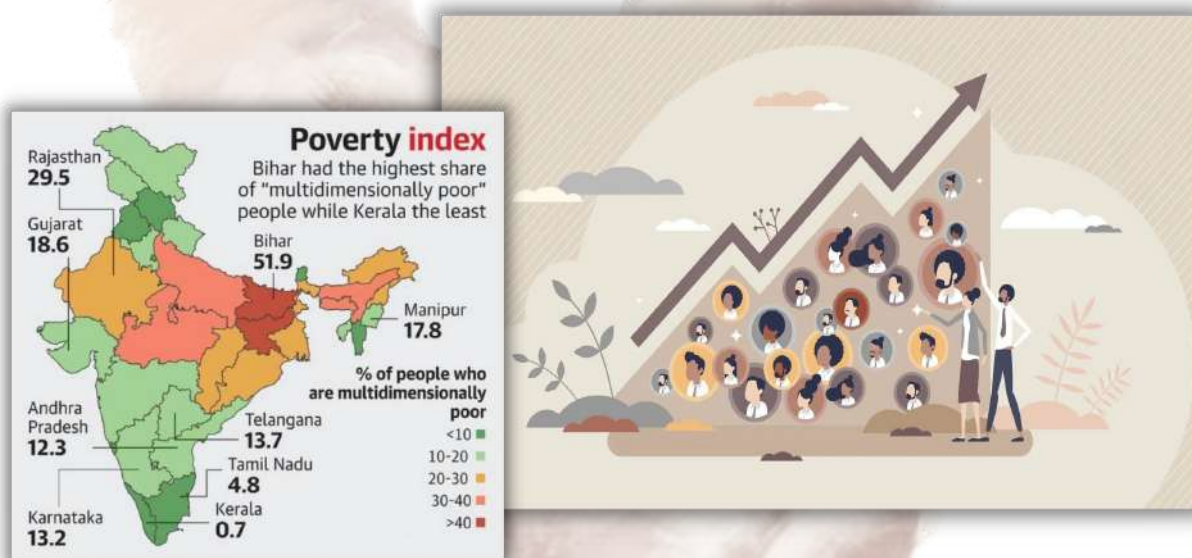


- Although we gained freedom more than 70 years ago, the majority of people continue to live subhuman lives, while a tiny minority enjoys extreme luxury.
- Despite all of the aforementioned initiatives to combat poverty, India's democracy continues to be marred by poverty.
- To end poverty in India, more radical measures are needed. No anti-poverty initiative can be successful in an inflation-riddled economy. By its very nature, inflation highlights disparities, reduces the income of the lower classes, and thus worsens their economic situation.
- So, a program to end poverty must collect surpluses from the upper classes (landlords, money-lenders, and capitalists). Since majority of the surpluses are hidden in the form of black money, drastic steps must be taken to find them to prevent resources from being used for opulent consumption.
- India's pervasive and historic poverty is a huge issue that no amount of wizardry can remove. The goal of the five-year plan has been the gradual eradication of poverty, but despite the government's efforts to close the gap, inequality between the rich and the poor has grown.
- The poor have already benefited significantly from the implementation of the program's numerous pillars, which has improved their lives a lot. People, especially those in the lowest income groups, have benefited greatly from the very first item, which combats the issue on the pricing front by increasing the production and distribution of necessary commodities.
- Similar to this, several initiatives to help rural residents—including the distribution of surplus land to agriculture workers, the liquidation of debt, the provision of housing sites, the cessation of the cruel practice of bonded labor, the provision of books and other necessities to underprivileged students, and increased employment opportunities through development—all contribute to the reduction of poverty.
- So the question is: Why did India's five-year plans fail to end poverty? This was because "growth plus" strategy, which aimed to raise national income and was reinforced by policies of progressive taxation and public spending, was thought to raise the standard of life of the poor.
- The owners of the production equipment—the richer class—appropriated the development advantages as a result of the production-oriented approach to planning, which did not modify the mode of production. The issue is how to increase low-level employment productivity while also creating more jobs. Making employment the center of strategy in this regard is crucial.



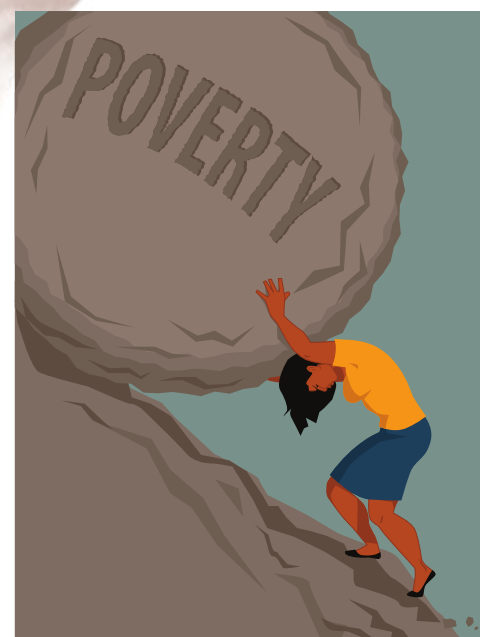
Conclusion

According to the UN's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018, 271 million Indians rose out of poverty between 2005–06 and 2015–16. Over ten years, the country's poverty rate decreased by almost half, from 55% to 28%. In India, a sizable portion of the population continues to live in poverty. The poor are being increasingly left behind as a result of the economy's rapid growth. India cannot afford to develop into a potential global power while millions of its citizens go without two square meals each day. A serious stain on our democracy is poverty. Equity and equal opportunity cannot exist while there is poverty.



The Constitution's guarantees and our ancestors' hopes for an equitable society have not been realized. It is now necessary to consider unconventional solutions to end poverty and give everyone basics. It has been a commendable start to the economic survey's debate on Universal Basic Income.

The government must put its words into action and effectively implement measures to reduce poverty to make a significant dent in the problem. Tools like JAM (Jan dhan - Aadhar - Mobile) could give services the boost they need to be better. E-governance, Direct Benefit Transfer, rationalizing subsidies, effective monitoring, etc. can check leakages. The time has come to put an end to every tear that has been shed and to realize Gandhi's aspirations for Antyodaya and Sarvodaya.



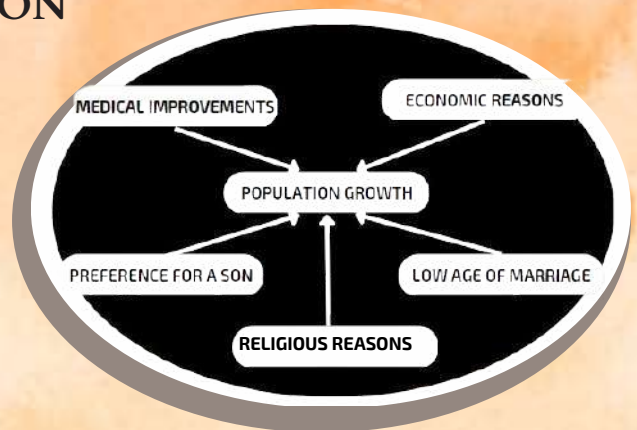
POPULATION & Associated Issues



India is set to take over as the world's most populous country in 2023. With this development, it is necessary to understand the issues, challenges, and opportunities associated with this vast population. Indian society has seen a population explosion over the last few decades. It accounts for roughly one-fifth of the world's population, out of which 65% of the population is below the age of 35 years. This article explores the causes, implications, and future course of action that India can take.

CAUSES OF RISE IN POPULATION

- Medical improvements:** With improved health facilities, death rates, and infant mortality rates have witnessed a sharp decline. Hence, the population has grown steadily over time.
- Economic reasons:** Poverty is the major cause of population rise in developing countries. Poverty pushes people into producing more children because of their potential to be earning hands. Moreover, due to the high infant mortality rate in such families, more children are preferred because of the low probability of survival of all children.
- Religious reasons:** Due to religious beliefs, many communities do not practice the use of contraceptives and family planning, thus leading to a higher population.
- Low age of marriage:** Despite the ban on child marriage, many women are married off at the young age of 14-15 leading to a higher number of children.
- Preference for a son:** Due to the patriarchal desire of having a son, many families end up having more children than expected to fulfill this desire.





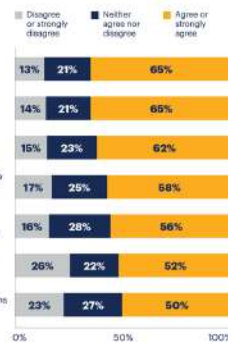
OPPORTUNITIES

- The GDP growth of many countries will be driven by immigration in the coming future. Remittances constitute a major source of forex reserves and growth for India. Thus, immigration to foreign nations holds high potential.
- The vast youth, if made skilled can turn the entire economy into a knowledge economy.



What Employees Say About How the Pandemic Has Changed Their Feelings About Work and Life

The pandemic has ...



- India will have the largest working population in the entire world, which can propel the chance for rapid economic growth in the short term.
- India can become an economic giant and provide more than half of Asia's potential workforce in the future decades owing to its more than 65% working-age population.





CHALLENGES

- **Overburdening of resources:** With a rising population and limited resources, present assets are compromised and overburdened leading to over-exploitation and unsustainable development.
- **Unemployment:** Due to a lack of capital resources, it is difficult to provide a minimum-wage job to the sizeable army of labourers (due to overpopulation). It also gives rise to disguised unemployment in rural areas, pressurising the agriculture sector and diluting the potential GDP growth.



- **Crime:** Frustrated by the lack of resources and employment opportunities, the youth tends to divert towards crimes such as theft, robbery, terrorism, etc.

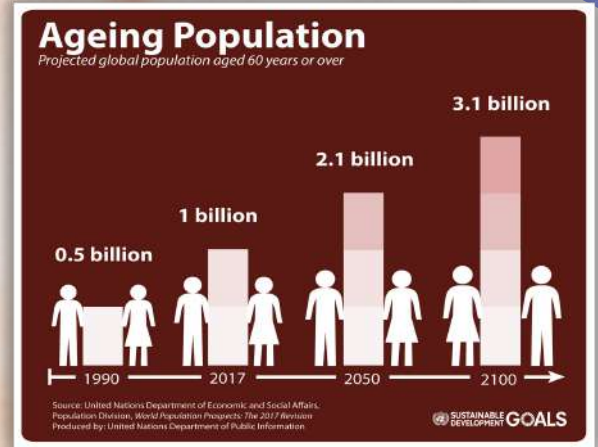


- **Income disparity and poverty:** Redistribution of income and wealth becomes a challenge with a vast population, leading to income disparities. Population growth is directly related to poverty. Because of lack of resources, unemployment, and uneven income distribution, many are clutched by poverty..





- Ageing population:** With improved healthcare and higher life expectancy, the percentage of the elderly population is rising constantly. This causes society to bear increased health as well as social security costs. This significantly increases the financial burden of the state and shrinks the funds for capital investment. For eg., China is struggling with an ageing population at present.
- Interstate variations and migration:** The percentages of population growth vary from state to state. Such variations induce interstate migration that might lead to insider-outsider debate and dependence on immigrants for economic growth.
- Environmental degradation:** Overpopulation and high population density have led to the over-exploitation of resources. It has given rise to a number of new age problems such as deforestation, pollution, smog, degradation of land, global warming, etc. For eg. As per NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) Tracker, Delhi, which has a population density of 11297/ sq km remains the most polluted city in the country.



INDIA'S POPULATION POLICY

To address the population's unmet needs, the government has rolled out various population policies. The objective is to have a stable population that fulfills the needs of the social, environmental, and economic development of the country.



The Indian government had launched a population policy soon after its independence (as early as 1952), where the use of natural family-planning devices was emphasized. After the forced sterilization drives during the Emergency, the Family Planning Department was renamed as Family Welfare Department by the succeeding Janata government. The National Population Policy was announced on February 15, 2000 (based on recommendations of an expert group chaired by M.S. Swaminathan) which provided a policy framework to meet India's need for reproductive and pediatric health and to achieve replacement level TFR by 2010. More recently, it has been proposed to raise the age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years. Moreover, states like Uttar Pradesh have come up with their own population policies aimed at achieving zero population growth.



WAY FORWARD

- **Women-Centric Approach:** Providing education and nutrition to women, awareness, and access to contraception, increasing the age of marriage, and encouraging later births can help not only in bringing gender parity in terms of health and education but also control the population.
- **Build human capital:** This can be achieved by improving health and education standards and skills of the population, accelerated with the use of new technology such as the internet and virtual classrooms. Higher education level is also linked to low fertility rates among women.
- **Enhance private sector initiatives:** Public Private partnership (PPP) models can help in skills development, financial investment, improving the quality of healthcare, and increasing employment opportunities for the rising population.
- **Focus on attitudinal changes:** Structural reforms must be accompanied by a thrust to bring about changes in the outlook of people with regard to women and the population. For example, Beti Bachao, and Beti Padhao schemes.
- **Access to contraceptives:** It must be ensured that birth control methods and health facilities are affordable and accessible to the people. Eg, the government has launched a scheme for ASHA workers to deliver contraceptives to the doorstep of the beneficiaries.





To fully benefit from a favorable age distribution, nations must invest in the long-term development of their human resources. To achieve this, they must ensure that all citizens have access to high-quality healthcare, education, and job opportunities. With a well-devised strategy, India can transform its demographic bulge into a demographic dividend, and emerge as a global center of power.

“Nations consist of people. And with their effort, a nation can accomplish all it could ever want.”

- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



Role of Indian Women's Organizations

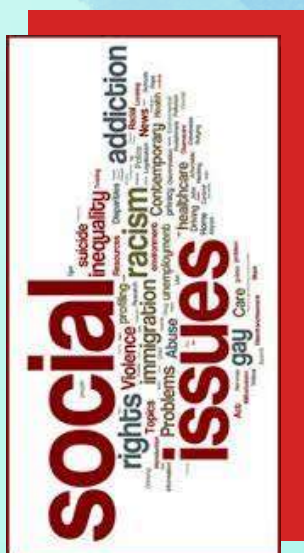
Women in India have played a major role in various spheres of life over the past centuries many centuries, but their acceptance in these spheres has been a pivotal issue. Therefore, the involvement of women in social, political, and economic scenarios has brought in a major change in terms of equivalency. Given below are a few factors which emphasize on the significance of women and women organizations in the country :

Gender Equality – With equal opportunities for all genders, multiple women have been an inspiration for young girls to dream and aspire to come big. Also, to insure that women are given equal status in society, numerous organizations are working towards giving equal status to women in the society.

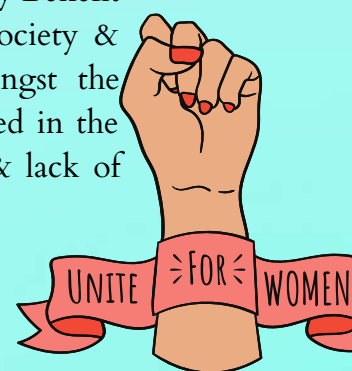


Women in Political Spheres – Several women leaders have laboriously participated in the Indian freedom struggle, and occupied important positions in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, state houses; women also have acquired the position of the Prime Minister and President of the country.

Economic Roles – At the workplace, women are working at par with the other gender. The neglect of women's economic roles results in the exploitation of women workers, unstable stipends, late employment, etc.



Social Issues – A National Commission for Women (NCW) has been set up to establish an equal and just livelihood for women by making legal and indigenous amendments for women in India. Due to the women's movement, several legislations were passed like the Equal Remuneration Act, Minimum Wage Act, Maternity Benefit Act, etc. to ensure equal status for women in society & more importantly at work. Still, illiteracy amongst the major women pool (87% of women are employed in the unorganized sector), fear of losing employment & lack of mindfulness of the laws legislated to cover them, make it delicate for women to profit from them.



A few organizations are working to give voice to women workers for enhancement in their working conditions.

Self-Employed Women's Association(SEWA) – SEWA is a trade union. It's an association of poor, self-employed women workers in the unorganized sector of the country. They're a vulnerable labor force as they don't gain benefits like the workers of the organized sector. SEWA's main aim is to organize women workers for full employment.



Working Women's Forum(WWF)- The forum is committed to poverty reduction and strengthening the economic, social, and cultural status of poor working women, through micro-credit, training, social mobilization, and other interventions for poor women.



Annapurna Mahila Mandal(AMM) – It works for the well-being of women and the girl child. It conducts different types of activities which include educating women on health, nutrition, mother and child care, family planning, education, and environmental sanitation. It works for the empowerment of women and enables them to express their own opinions and fight for security and rights. The association also promotes individual and group leadership.



Annapurna Pariwar

For the Empowerment of poor women

The women's movement in pre-independent India has been called the first surge of feminism. In this phase, women criticised tradition and social structure for their suffering and sought requital through education and legal change. The women organisations had brought women's issues to the forefront. These organisations helped women to come out from domestic boundaries, assemble, and fight for their cause. This also founded the base of women's active participation in the struggle for freedom also.

Social Empowerment Initiatives in India

Social Empowerment is the process by which people are made aware of their rights and responsibilities and are empowered to achieve social goals. In India, Social empowerment has been defined as follows: "Social Empowerment is a condition in which all individuals can participate in decision-making processes, especially those relating to their health care needs, education levels and employment opportunities."



Social Empowerment means providing people the access to basic resources such as food, shelter, and education. It also means ensuring equal access for every individual, regardless of race or gender identity, so everyone has equal opportunities while achieving social justice through educational programs focused on youth development (which may include parenting skills).

Social Empowerment Initiative – Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is a process of enabling women to exercise their rights and achieve equivalency with men. In short, it's about giving women chances that would allow them to live better lives than men do.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) :

BBBP is a campaign of the Government of India which aims to induce mindfulness and ameliorate the effectiveness of well-being services, especially educational rights intended for girls.



Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) :

PMMVY is a maternity benefit program run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which provides partial compensation for salary loss in the form of a cash incentive so that women can take acceptable rest before and after delivery of the first living child.



One-Stop Centre Scheme :

The One-stop Centre (OSC) is an action of the Ministry of Woman and Child Development, Government of India. OSC was launched in January 2014. It aims to give a comprehensive package of services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.



• **Social empowerment initiatives for Poor and Marginalised Sections**

Poor and marginalised sections are the most affected by social rejection, poverty, and unemployment. They also witness caste- based demarcation, religious demarcation, and gender- grounded violence(GBV). In addition, the poor and marginalised groups are generally disadvantaged in penetrating education openings due to their lack of fiscal offers. This can lead to under- representation at the academic position, which makes them unfit to familiarize themselves of similar openings or, indeed worse – drop out altogether! Poverty reduction initiatives are aimed at helping those who need it the most – including families living below the poverty line.

• **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana(PMJDY)**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana(PMJDY) was launched in 2014 to ensure banking installations to the poorest section of the country who didn't have access to formal banking services before its launch. This scheme aims at bringing all grown-ups above 18 years old into formal fiscal structures within six months after opening their bank account through the Aadhaar verification process. PMJDY is a public charge for fiscal addition to insure access to fiscal services similar to banking savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, and pension in an affordable manner.

• **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana(PMMY)**

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana(PMMY) was launched in 2015 to give low-cost loans through Micro Units Development Agency(MUDRA) banks and other financial institutions. These finances can be used for any livelihood exertion like trading, manufacturing, or service businesses per their requirements and pretensions. PMMY has three orders, namely,

Shishu: covering loans upto Rs. 50,000,

Kishor: covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and upto Rs. 5 lakhs, and

Tarun: covering loans above Rs. 5 lakhs and upto Rs. 10 lakhs.

• **Skill India Mission**

The Skill India Mission was launched in 2015 to train the youth of our country to meet the conditions of varied industries. The National Skill Development Mission aims to make education more focused on assiduity requirements by enhancing employability chops through skill development programs.

The administration has been using a multi-pronged approach to attempt and empower varied groups within our society. The major Social Empowerment Initiatives in India are related to the following:

1. Women empowerment
2. Poor and marginalised sections
3. Social empowerment of elderly citizens
4. For Differently Abled
5. Social empowerment of Scheduled Tribes

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is a flagship scheme aiming to develop model villages with basic amenities. Literacy has been provided for girls and women under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme. Under the BBBP scheme, there's a provision for pre-matric and post-matric literacy for girl scholars to promote education among girls from low-income families.

Social Empowerment Initiatives for elderly Citizens :

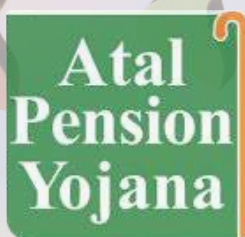
Social empowerment of elderly citizens is a major issue in India. With the increasing number of senior people, it has become important for the government to give them good quality life and freedom. The government has launched colourful schemes to give fiscal backing to elderly citizens, but these aren't enough for them to lead staid lives. To address this problem, it has been banded how social empowerment can help you live better with less money :

Atal Pension Yojana :

This scheme provides retirement benefits at an age lower than what was offered by private companies or insurance companies. It also ensures no waiting period between carrying employment and entering pensions; you get it right down after completing approx. 20 years of service in any organisation registered under EPF Act 2006(Workers Provident Fund Organisation).

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana :

This program aims at furnishing fiscal backing towards healthcare costs incurred during sickness or injuries suffered while on duty during extremities like cataracts, etc. They have been working continuously as members from March 1st, 2017, till December 31st, 2020.



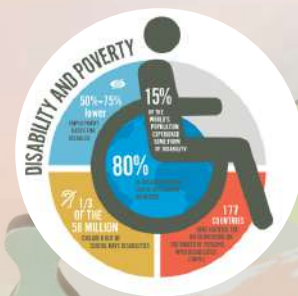
Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana :

This scheme provides fiscal backing towards medical charges incurred due to habitual conditions similar as diabetes mellitus type II, asthma, etc. It also provides impulses like cash payment if you can not work because of sickness.



Social Empowerment Initiatives – Disabled Group :

Social Empowerment is a crucial element of the social sector, which aims to increase the openings for impaired people. It encompasses numerous different forms of exertion and has been an important part of the development process in numerous countries since its preface in the mid-1990s. Social empowerment is about enabling people with disabilities to achieve their full eventuality through access to education, employment, and independent living. The concept has been applied across colorful areas, including health care services, legal rights (casing), rest installations similar to premises or swimming pools, transport services, etc.



Social Empowerment and Communalism :

Social empowerment is a step towards collaborative harmony. It aims at creating conditions which makes people interested in the development of their own lives and make them socially responsible.

In the last ten years, there has been an upsurge in social consciousness among the people. They have realized that they are producers and consumers and hence feel obliged to look after themselves and their families as far as possible. They understand that this is necessary so that they can lead a happy life and contribute something towards nation-building or social upliftment.

Conclusion

Social empowerment is a process of enabling people to improve their quality of life. It is important for society, the economy, and the environment. Social empowerment is improving the quality of life through empowering individuals or groups with knowledge and skills that allow them to shape their destinies. Social empowerment involves providing citizens with opportunities, resources, and information needed to make informed decisions about their lives, thus allowing them more control over their futures.

This explains the need for social empowerment in India.

It is a challenge for all of us to work towards it.

We have been able to achieve some success by putting our efforts together, but there are still many areas that need to be addressed.



TOP STORIES

STRIKE WITHDRAWN SALARIES HIKED BY 17%



- **Karnataka government offers 17% hike in basic salary**

Employees of the Karnataka government who had started an indefinite strike withdrew it after the government offered them an interim relief of 17% hike in basic salary. The announcement was made by the President of the Karnataka State Government Employees Association C.S. Shadakshari who said the strike had been called off with immediate effect and urged his colleagues to report to work immediately.

- **GST revenues grow 12.4% in February 2023**

India's Goods and Services Tax revenues grew 12.4% in February 2023 to over ₹1.49 lakh crore, with tax receipts from goods imports rising 6% and domestic transactions along with services imports yielding 15% more, compared to a year ago. The ₹1,49,577 crore gross GST kitty collected in February marks the 12th successive month that monthly revenues have been over ₹1.4 lakh crore, although it was 5.06% lower than January's ₹1,57,554 crore receipts. However, the year-on-year growth in January was a tad lower than February at 11.75%.

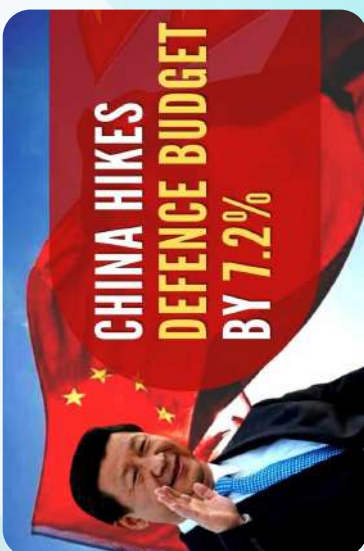


- **India's power consumption rises 10%**

India's power consumption surged 10% to 1375.57 billion units (BU) during April-February this fiscal year and has already surpassed the level of electricity supplied in entire 2021-22. The government data showed that power consumption in April-February 2021-22 was 1245.54 BU. In entire fiscal year 2021-22, power consumption was 1374.02 BU, which is less than 1375.57 BU recorded during April 2022 to February 2023 period

- **El Nino expected to return, likely to fuel spike in global temperatures: WMO**

A warming El Nino event may develop in the coming months, according to a new update from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The El Nino event may develop after three consecutive years of an unusually stubborn and protracted La Nina, which influenced temperature and rainfall patterns in different parts of the world, WMO said in a statement. However, while the return of El Nino is considered likely this will be preceded by a period of El Nino-Southern Oscillation neutral conditions, with 90% probability, during March-May, the statement said.



- **China hikes defence budget for 8th consecutive year by 7.2%**

China on March 5 hiked its defence budget by 7.2%, marginally higher than last year, to 1.55 trillion yuan (about \$224 billion), marking the eighth consecutive year of increase in its military spending. China last year pegged its defence budget at 1.45 trillion yuan, a 7.1% increase. This year, the defence spending is increased to 1.55 trillion yuan. However, in view of the appreciation of the dollar against the yuan, this year's defence spending of China totalled about \$224 billion compared to last year's \$230 billion.

TOP STORIES

- **India reducing dependence on foreign countries in healthcare: PM Modi in the post-Budget webinar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a post-Budget webinar on health and medical research said India is constantly trying to ensure minimal dependence on foreign countries in healthcare. He said healthcare should be viewed in the paradigm of the pre data and post-COVID era. “The cashless health insurance scheme [Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana] has led to healthcare savings of nearly ₹80,000 crores for patients. Additionally, savings of ₹20,000 crore have been achieved through buying of generic medicines by patients from Jan Aushadhi Kendras,” he said.



India reducing dependence on foreign countries in healthcare: PM Modi in post-Budget webinar

- **Indian Navy successfully test-fires indigenous surface-to-air missile from INS Visakhapatnam**

The Indian Navy carried out a successful test-firing of a Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) from frontline warship INS Visakhapatnam, officials said. The test firing validated the capability to engage the weapon as an anti-ship missile, they said. The MRSAM has been jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI), and produced at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), reflecting the Navy’s commitment to Atma-nirbhar Bharat.



- **Salhoutuonuo Kruse is Nagaland’s first woman minister**

Salhoutuonuo Kruse made history by becoming Nagaland’s first woman minister. The berth in the Nagaland cabinet led by Neiphiu Rio came five days after she and Hekani Jakhalu was elected as the first women MLA of the State. Both represent the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP).

- **Afghanistan world’s Most repressive country for women: U.N.**

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the country has become the most repressive in the world for women and girls, deprived of many of their basic rights, the United Nations said. In a statement released on International Women’s Day, the U.N. mission said that Afghanistan’s new rulers have shown an almost “singular focus on imposing rules that leave most women and girls effectively trapped in their homes.” Despite initial promises of a more moderate stance, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures since seizing power in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO forces were in the final weeks of their pullout from Afghanistan after two decades of war.



- **Finance Ministry imposes money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies**

The government has imposed money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies or virtual assets as it looks to tighten oversight of digital assets. In a gazette notification, the Finance Ministry said the anti-money laundering legislation has been applied to crypto trading, safekeeping and related financial services. After this, Indian crypto exchanges will have to report suspicious activity to the Financial Intelligence Unit India (FIU-IND). The move is in line with the global trend of requiring digital-asset platforms to follow anti-money laundering standards similar to those followed by other regulated entities like banks or stock brokers.

TOP STORIES

- **NASA hands over the NISAR satellite to ISRO**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite from the U.S. space agency. NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. According to ISRO, NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days and provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea level rise, groundwater and natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.



- **Israel PM Netanyahu urges military chief to contain reservist protest**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged the military's chief of staff to contain a wave of protest from within the ranks over a contentious government plan to overhaul the judiciary. Mr. Netanyahu's remarks come as Israel is embroiled in a major crisis that has sent tens of thousands of people into the streets protesting every week for the last two months. The divide over Mr. Netanyahu's plans to change the legal system has not spared the country's military, its most trusted institution, where many reservists have pledged not to show up for duty under what they see as an impending regime change

- **Nitu Ghanghas becomes the world champion with a 5-0 win over Lutsaikhan Altansetseg**

Ace India boxer Nitu Ghanghas etched her name in history books, becoming the world champion in the 48 kg weight category in the ongoing Women's World Boxing Championships in the national capital. She defeated Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altansetseg in the final for the gold. Nitu registered a dominating 5-0 win over the Mongolian opponent.



- **UN oceans biodiversity pact agreed**

An agreement on a UN treaty to protect the high seas has been hailed as a "historic moment". The legally binding pact to conserve and ensure the sustainable use of ocean biodiversity has been discussed for 15 years. It was finally agreed after five rounds of protracted UN-led negotiations that ended in New York. "With the agreement on the UN High Seas Treaty, we take a crucial step forward to preserve the marine life and biodiversity that are essential for us and the generations to come," said Virginijus Sinkevičius, the European Union commissioner for the environment, oceans, and fisheries.

- **RBI imposes ₹3.06 crore penalties on Amazon Pay (India) for violation of norms**

The RBI said it has imposed a penalty of over ₹3.06 crore on Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions related to Prepaid Payment Instruments and Know Your Customer direction. "It was observed that the entity was non-compliant with the directions issued by RBI on KYC requirements," the RBI said in a statement. The RBI had issued a notice to Amazon Pay (India) advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions.



CSAT

Basics

Percentage means per hundred denoted by %

X% means $x/100$

Important formulae

- 1) Percentage increase = $\text{Increase/Original value} \times 100$
- 2) Percentage Decrease = $\text{Decreases /Original value} \times 100$
- 3) If the price of the commodity increases by $r\%$, then the reduction in consumption so as not to increase the expenditure is $[r/(100+r) \times 100] \%$
- 4) If the price of the commodity decreases by $r\%$, then the increase in consumption so as not to decrease the expenditure is $[r/(100-r) \times 100] \%$
- 5) If the A's income is $r\%$ more than the B's income, then B's income is less than A's income by $[r/(r+100) \times 100] \%$
- 6) If A's income is $r\%$ less than B's income, then B's income is more than A's income by is $[r/(100-r) \times 100] \%$
- 7) Let the population of a town by P and it increases at a rate of $r\%$ per annum, then
 - Population after n years = $P [1 + r/100]^n$
 - Population n years ago = $P / [1 + r/100]^n$
- 8) Let the present value of the machine be P and if it depreciates at the rate of $R\%$ per annum
 - Value of machine after n years = $P [1 - r/100]^n$
 - Value of machine n years ago = $n/P[1-r/100]^n$

CSAT

Some Questions

1. The price per kg of sugar decreases by 20%. By what percentage should the consumption be increased such that expenditure remains the same?

a) 18% b) 30% c) 20% d) 25%

2. P scored more than Q in an examination. If Q scored 10% marks than P, how much marks did Q score? (2021)

a) 360 b) 380 c) 400 d) 420

3. What percent decrease in salaries would exactly cancel out the 25% increase?

a) 25% b) 20% c) 24% d) 27%

4. The population of a village in 2500. It decreases by 4% in the first year and increases by 3% in the second year. What is the population at the end of two years?

a) 2472 b) 2500 c) 2272 d) 2043

5. The population of a city increases at the rate of 5% per annum. There is additional annual increase of 5% due to influx of job seekers. The per cent increase in population after 3 years is:

a) 33.1% b) 33% c) 34% d) 33.24%

6. The value of a machine depreciates at the rate of 10% per annum. If its present value is Rs. 1,62,000, what was the value of the machine 2 years ago?

a) 2,00,000 b) 3,50,000 c) 1,00,000 d) 5,00,000

7. If the price of an article is decreased by 20% and then the new price is increased by 25%, then what is the net change in the price? (2021)

a) 0% b) 5% increase c) 5% decrease d) not sufficient information

8. If P is a% more than Q and Q is b% less than P, then

a) $1/a - 1/b = 100$ b) $1/a - 1/b = 1/100$
 b) $1/a + 1/b = 100$ d) $1/b - 1/a = 1/100$

Solutions

1. D)
 Increase in Percentage
 $= \frac{r}{(100-r)} \times 100$ %
 $= \frac{20}{(100-20)} \times 100$ %
 $= \frac{20}{80} \times 100$ %
 $= 25$ %

2. C)
 $P = Q + 40$
 $Q = 0.9P$
 $P = 0.9P + 40$
 $0.1P = 40$
 $P = 400$

3. B)
 Let original salary be Rs. 100
 New Salary = Rs. $(100+25) =$ Rs. 125
 Decrease on 125 = 25
 Decrease on 100 = $(25/125 \times 100)$ %
 $= 20$ %

4. A)
 $= 2500 \times \frac{96}{100} \times \frac{103}{100}$
 $= 2472$

5. A)
 Total Increase = 10%
 Let the population be 1000
 Population after 3 years = $1000(1 + 10/100)^3$
 $= 1331$
 Increase% = $(1331/1000 \times 100)$ %
 $= 33.1$ %

6. A)
 $=$ Rs. $\{162000/(1 - 10/100)^2\}$
 $= 162000 \times \frac{10}{9} \times \frac{10}{9}$
 $=$ Rs. 200000

7. A)
 Decrease = $100 - 20$
 $= 80$
 Increased by 25% = $80 + 80 \times \frac{25}{100}$
 $= 100$
 Change = 0

8. D)
 $P = Q + Q \times \frac{a}{100}$
 $= \frac{Q}{100} \times (100 + a)$ --- 1)
 $Q = P - P \times \frac{b}{100}$
 $= \frac{P}{100} \times (100 - b)$ --- 2)
 Multiplying 1 & 2,

$PQ = \frac{PQ}{(100)^2} \times (100 + a) \times (100 - b)$
 $= (100 + a) \times (100 - b)$
 $= (100)^2$
 $= 1/b - 1/a = 1/100$

Top Performers

Occasionally showering adulations for ensuring the stable synergy of the members has always been imperative for our society. Such approbations have always turned out to be a fillip to its members and elevated their commitment towards Society. We are brimmed with ecstasy and felicity to announce this month's top performers of our respective wings, who not only mounted the expectations of their wings but the society per se. The stalwarts who outperformed our conjectures are:



Nomisha Sahu
Creative Wing



Ankit Agrawal
Technical Wing



Pragya Jain
PR & Spons. Wing



Vineet Vansil
Organizing Wing



Harmanpreet
Editorial Wing

We congratulate all of them with all our hearts and hope that you outshine yourself in the due course of your expedition with Nishtha. For the rest of the members, don't let your guard down and persist in your endeavors and you might find it rewarded soon.

Weekly FOCUS



The Colonial Past is still relevant

Colonialism:

- It implies domination of people's life and culture.
- The main goal of colonialism is the extraction of economic benefits from the colony.
- Colonialism results in control over the life of natives in political, economic, cultural, and social spheres.
- It is more subtle whereas Imperialism is more formal and aggressive.

Indirect results of colonialism:

- The Belgian classification of Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda and Burundi, which reified a distinction that had not existed before.
- It continues to haunt the region of the African Great Lakes.
- British invention of "martial races" in India, which skewed recruitment into the armed forces and saddled some communities (Punjabi Muslims, for instance)
- Old colonial administrative habit of "divide and rule" (By British policy in the subcontinent after 1857)
- Promoting political divisions between Hindus and Muslims, which led inexorably to the tragedy of Partition.
- Unequal distribution of the resources of the state within the colonial society.
- Belgian colonialists favored Tutsis, leading to Hutu rejection of them as alien interlopers
- Sinhalese resentment of privileges enjoyed by the Tamils in the colonial era in Sri Lanka
- It prompted discriminatory policies after Independence, fueling the Tamil revolt.

Way Forward

- Civil war was made that much easier for local leaders challenging a “national” leader whose nationalism fails to resonate across his country.
- Rebellion against such a leader is, after all, merely the reassertion of history over “his” story.
- State failure in the wake of colonialism is evidence of conflict, as the by-product of an unprepared newly-independent state’s inability to govern.
- The crisis of governance in many African countries is a real and abiding cause for concern in world affairs today.
- The collapse of effective central governments — as manifested in Sierra Leone and South Sudan recently, and in Liberia and Somalia
- It could unleash a torrent of alarming possibilities
- Several “weak states”, particularly in Africa, seem vulnerable to collapsing in a welter of conflict.
- The uneven development of infrastructure in a poor country, as a result of priorities skewed for the benefit of the colonialists, can lead to resources being distributed unevenly
- It leads to increasing fissures in society between those from “neglected regions” and those who are better served by roads, railways, power stations, telecommunications, bridges, and canals.

Advancing underdevelopment in many countries of the South, faring poorly in their desperate struggle to remain as players in the game of global capitalism

It has created conditions of desperate poverty, ecological collapse and rootless, unemployed populations beyond the control of atrophying state systems.

Weekly FOCUS



No slander please, they are our freedom fighters first

Background

On March 23, 1919, Mahatma Gandhi was in Chennai on the invitation of Kasturi Ranga Iyengar. Gandhiji had been struggling to find a way to counter the draconian and recently enacted Rowlatt Act by the British

Thread of selfless zeal in India's freedom struggle

- The 1857 rebellion is called the First War of Independence.
- Revolts against the British Empire in South India such as the Attingal revolt, Poligar rebellion, Vellore Mutiny
- Lal-Pal-Bal triumvirate and Aurobindo underwent rigorous imprisonment.
- The valorous Bhagat Singh, Birsa Munda and Vanchinathan sacrificed their lives.
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale and B.R Ambedkar, who served in the British Viceroy's executive council and were probably never imprisoned.
- But this does not dilute or even diminishes their patriotism and contributions to India's freedom.
- Subhas Chandra Bose valiantly raised an army overseas to free India, a venture where he worked with Japan, an Axis power.
- The patriots Bhikaiji Cama, Shyamji Krishna Varma, Chempakaraman Pillai and Thillaiyadi Valliammai championed the cause of India's liberty from abroad.

Important events and controversies:

V. D. Savarkar:

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi wrote to Secretary of the Swatantrya Veer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak: "Veer Savarkar's daring defiance of the British Government has its own importance in the annals of our freedom movement.

There needs to be an understanding of the era before indulging in coarse criticism.

Jawaharlal Nehru's tryst with Nabha jail, in September 1923: He was arrested along with Santhanam and Acharya Gidwani. Nehru was released on signing a bond that he would never enter the princely State of Punjab. Nehru in his Autobiography: "I took shelter behind the advice of friends, and made a pretext to cover my weakness. For, after all, it was my weakness and disinclination to go to Nabha Jail again that kept me away, and I have always felt a little ashamed of thus deserting a colleague.

As often with us all, discretion was preferred to valour".

In 1942, C. Rajagopalachari stayed away from the Quit India Movement as he felt it would not serve India's best interests.

Way Forward

- The Satyagraha of April 6, 1919 was an act of defiance that brought the nation to a standstill and shook the foundations of the Raj. Many may still be unaware of this pivotal moment and its importance in our history despite Gandhiji describing it in his autobiography, in the chapter, 'That wonderful spectacle'.
- The central government's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative, to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of freedom, has endeavoured to honour unsung mileposts and icons. History should be looked at holistically instead of becoming an exercise where there is selective denunciation and nit-picking.
- The Congress party did play a pre-eminent role in India's freedom movement, but this struggle that spanned over two centuries is not the fiefdom or sole preserve of any one person or establishment. "Janani Janmabhoomischa Swargadapi Gariyasi(Sanskrit shloka from the Ramayana): Mother and motherland are superior even to heaven".
- Our gallant freedom fighters did not plunge into their battle against the British for pelf, position or power, and they certainly did not know whether they would live to see the next day. They were fallible humans who assessed circumstances and arrived at decisions with the sole aim of liberating their motherland.

Weekly FOCUS



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC):

- It is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate-related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Progress report:

- The report finds some tangible evidence of progress in the proliferation of laws and policies, and confirms the effectiveness of existing policy tools such as regulations and carbon markets. Policy packages, which are a coherent and comprehensive set of policies tied to a particular policy objective that can help countries meet short-term economic goals.
- The report points out that there are gaps between modeled sustainable pathways and what countries have pledged (ambition gaps) as well as substantial gaps between what countries pledge and what they do (implementation gaps).

- Delayed action risks locking-in to high carbon infrastructure in this decade, and creating stranded assets and financial instability in the medium term.
- High upfront investments in clean infrastructure are imperative. Despite sufficient global capital, both adaptation and mitigation financing need to increase many-fold: between three to six times for annual modeled mitigation investments, from 2020 to 2030. The report paints a picture of progress and innovation in the face of inadequate ambition, implementation, climate finance and investment despite the cost-effectiveness of several response options.

Way Forward

- The IPCC report can shape our collective response in this critical decade, which may be make-or-break for humanity, and is likely to be the last IPCC report for a few years.
- It is important to aspire to a 1.5°C target, the correspondingly lower carbon budget heightens questions of equity and who bears the responsibility for achieving these ambitious targets.
- As countries cannot entirely develop their way out of climate risk and vulnerability, mitigation remains essential.
- While a climate-related development pathway is the journey, the destination is net zero emissions at the global level. If sustained, net-zero GHG emissions will result in a gradual decline in global temperatures.
- The IPCC AR6 synthesis report is a landmark report because it offers a blueprint for sustainable development, while presenting a sobering account of present and future damages to ecosystems and the most vulnerable amongst us.

1. Which country recently became the first in the world to achieve net-zero emissions?

- a) Sweden
- b) Norway
- c) Denmark
- d) Iceland

2. Who recently won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics?

- a) Donna Strickland
- b) Andre Geim
- c) Kip Thorne
- d) Albert Fert

3. The 97th Constitutional Amendment deals with the:

- (a) Constitutional status and protection to cooperative societies.
- (b) Increase in the number of official languages from 18 to 22.
- (c) Continuation of reservation for backward classes in government employment.
- (d) Constitutional Status was granted to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

4. Which country recently announced plans to build the world's first underwater city?

- a) United Arab Emirates
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Qatar
- d) Bahrain

5. Who was recently elected as the new President of France?

- a) Emmanuel Macron
- b) Marine Le Pen
- c) Francois Hollande
- d) Francois Fillon

6. Which country recently became the first in the world to achieve 100% renewable energy?

- a) Sweden
- b) Germany
- c) Denmark
- d) Costa Rica

7. Who won the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup?

- a) United States
- b) Germany
- c) France
- d) England

8. Which country recently launched a manned mission to Mars?

- a) United States
- b) Russia
- c) China
- d) India

9. Who recently won the 2023 Academy Award for Best Actor?

- a) Leonardo DiCaprio
- b) Tom Hanks
- c) Joaquin Phoenix
- d) Brad Pitt

10. MISHTI initiative primarily focuses on which of the following?

- (a) GI products and handicrafts
- (b) Mangroves conservation
- (c) 3D printing
- (d) Food processing

Answers

1: D
2: B

3: A
4: A

5: B
6: D

7: A
8: C

9: C
10: B

MONTHLY INITIATIVES

MAR'23

Vyakhyan Mala Episode 4

The 4th Episode of the ongoing Vyakhyan Mala Series was held on 22nd March. Dr. A.R. Khan, an educationist & founder of KSG graced the event as the speaker. The speaker proceeded to suggest some ingenious methods to enhance the aspirant's preparations. The audience's minds were rejuvenated by the experiences and strategies enlisted by our remarkable speaker.



Launch of विमर्श : The Reading Sessions



Nishtha's novel initiative "Vimarsh" holistically caters to these intricacies and facilitates a smooth and spot-on preparation to ace this examination. With the launch of this new initiative the participants indulged in deliberations and negotiations on a vital topic of UPSC-CSE. The first episode encompassed a scrutinized analysis of three essential revolutions in the world which are the French revolution, the Russian revolution, and the Industrial revolution. The overwhelming participation of our members added a sterling aura to the already enlightened session..

Launch of Adhyayan : Workshop Series

We initiated 'Adhyayan', a new enlightening series of workshops to enhance the pace of preparation for all the members of the society, to build a consortium of mind-striking thoughts and lived experiences. The first workshop of this series started with Mr. Shabbir, the Co-founder & CEO of 'Edukemy'. His prowess proved to serve as a magnifying lens for expanding one's horizons.



NISHCHAY

EDITION III



NISHTHA

THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY OF HANSRAJ COLLEGE