

Forum IAS

7 PM COMPILATION

1st and 2nd Week Nov, 2024

Features of 7 PM compilation

- ❖ Comprehensive coverage of a given current topic
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Rural Wages in India- Reasons and Way Forward

Despite the **decent-to-good growth** in the **country's GDP** and **farm sector**, the rural wages have been stagnant in India. Indian economy has seen an average **annual growth of 4.6%** between 2019-20 and 2023-24. There has been a notable surge of **7.8% in the GDP in the past three years**. The farm sector has grown at **4.2% over the five-year span** and **3.6% in recent years**. However, rural wage growth has not matched this economic progress. According to the Labour Bureau, for the current fiscal year, the **rural wages** has grown at **0.5%** in real terms.



Figure 1. Source- The Indian Express

What is the status of Rural Wages in India?

1. Indian Growth Rate not Translating into Higher Rural Wages-

While India's GDP has shown resilience, and has averaged around **4.6%** from **2019 to 2024**, this GDP growth has not translated into higher rural wages. The average nominal wage growth has been around **5.2%**. However, when adjusted for inflation, the real wage

growth has witnessed a negative growth at **-0.4%**.

2. Rural Wage Disparities- Reserve Bank of India data highlights stark differences in rural wages across various states. **For ex-** Agricultural workers in Madhya Pradesh earn an average of **Rs 229.2 per day**, while the agricultural workers in Kerala earn **Rs 764.3 per day**.

What are the reasons behind the Low Rural Wages in India?

1. Rising Labour Force Participation Among Women- The female LFPR in India has grown from 24.5% to 41.7% from 2018-19 to 2023-24, with rural female LFPR rising from 26.4% to 47.6%. This increased labor supply has led to a greater pool of workers, which has exerted downward pressure on real rural wages.

2. Flawed Indian Growth model- India's economic growth has increasingly relied on capital-intensive, labor-displacing sectors. This has **reduced the demand for labor**, and hence **suppressed rural wage growth**.

3. Agricultural Dependency and Seasonal Nature of Work- Rural India is highly dependent on agriculture. Agriculture as an occupation is seasonal in nature. The **fluctuation in labor demands based on crop cycles**, has led to rural wage instability.

4. Labor Oversupply and Migration Patterns- High population growth and limited job diversification in rural areas has led to an oversupply of labor. This labor surplus has been compounded by **reverse migration after COVID-19**. This has pushed more people into agriculture and has further depressed the rural wages.

5. Skills Gap and Education- Many rural workers possess inadequate educational qualifications and lack marketable skills. This skills gap limits their bargaining power and depresses the rural wages.

What schemes have been launched for rural growth?

MGNREGA	MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development. The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY)	The scheme specifically aims to incentivise the employment of individuals, including those who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic.
National Career Service Project	It is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India.
DAY-NRLM	It is a Centrally Sponsored Programme , launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011. It aims to eliminate rural poverty through the promotion of multiple livelihoods and improved access to financial services for the rural poor households across the country.

What Should be the Way Forward?

- 1. Agricultural Diversification-** Encouraging diversification in rural economies by **promoting allied sectors** such as **animal husbandry, fisheries, and agro-processing**, could generate supplementary income sources, and reduce sole dependence on agriculture and improving overall earnings.
- 2. Technology Adoption and Innovation-** Integrating technological advancements into agricultural practices and access to **modern farming techniques, machinery, and market linkages** can elevate rural incomes.
- 3. Infrastructure Development-** Improved infrastructure like better roads, irrigation systems, and connectivity **can stimulate economic activities, create job opportunities, and attract industries to rural areas**, boosting wages.
- 4. Focus on Migrant Workers' Welfare-** Ensuring fair wages, adequate living conditions, and social security benefits for the workforce can incentivize a balanced distribution of labor and wages across states.
- 5. Promotion of Agri-Entrepreneurship-** Encouragement and support rural entrepreneurship by **providing incentives, mentorship, and market access to aspiring agripreneurs**, could create a ripple effect, generating jobs and augmenting rural incomes.

Read More- [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 3- Indian Economy

COP-16 of Convention on Biological Diversity- Explained Pointwise

The **COP-16 of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** which was organized in Cali, Colombia. The convention which was initially scheduled to conclude on November 1, **extended past its deadline of conclusion**, as around **190 countries worked to reach a conclusive agreement** on biodiversity targets and financing. COP-16 aims to build on the momentum gained after the adoption of **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** at **COP-15 in Montreal in 2022**. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework lays down four goals and 23 targets to be achieved collectively by 2030.

Key Outcomes of Biodiversity COP16

1. Establishment of the Cali Fund- Cali Fund was established to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources. At least 50% of the Cali Fund will focus on the self-identified needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly women and youth.

2. Permanent Subsidiary Body- A permanent subsidiary body will be set up to include the indigenous groups and local communities in biodiversity conservation.

3. Resource Mobilisation- Parties agreed to develop a new “Strategy for Resource Mobilization” to help secure USD 200 billion annually by 2030 to support biodiversity initiatives worldwide.

4. Management of Invasive Alien Species- New guidelines were proposed for the management of invasive alien species through new databases, improved cross-border trade regulations, and enhanced coordination with e-commerce platforms.

5. Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)- COP 16 agreed on a new and evolved process to identify EBSAs.

6. Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health- Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health designed to help curb the emergence of zoonotic diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems, was approved at COP-16.



Source- The Indian Express

What is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was the outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)) along with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD).

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into force in December 1993. India became a party to the convention in February 1994. With 196 Parties, the CBD has near universal participation among countries.

The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through:

- (a) Scientific assessments
- (b) Development of tools, incentives and processes
- (c) Transfer of technologies and good practices
- (d) Full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors and the business community.

Objectives: Three main objectives of the Convention are:

- (a) Conservation of biological diversity
- (b) Sustainable use of resources
- (c) Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of these resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Protocols Under the Convention: There are two protocols under the Convention (CBD):

- (a) The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** seeks to protect biodiversity from genetically modified organisms by ensuring their safe handling, transport and use;
- (b) The **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing** deals with the commercial utilisation of biological and genetic resources.

Structure: The CBD's governing body is the **Conference of the Parties (COP)**. It includes all nations that have ratified the treaty and it meets every two years to review progress, set priorities and commit to work plans. The **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)** is based in **Montreal, Canada**. Its main function is to assist governments in the implementation of the CBD and its programmes of work, to organize meetings, draft documents, and coordinate with other international organizations and collect and spread information. The Executive Secretary is the head of the Secretariat.

What are the challenges in protecting Biodiversity?

1. Population growth and increasing demand for biological resources- Rapid rise in population and the expanding demand from biological resources has led to **over-exploitation of natural resources**. Rapid deforestation especially in the Amazons (and other evergreen forest regions) is responsible for large-scale extinction of species.

2. Habitat Degradation- The major threats to biodiversity that result from human activity are **habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, habitat degradation, overexploitation of species for human use, introduction of exotic species, and increased spread of diseases**. Most threatened species face at least two or more of these threats, speeding their way to extinction and hindering efforts to protect them.

3. Climate Change- Climate change is disturbing the **fragile ecological balance** leading to extinction of species. **For ex-** A study has found that **Australia's Great Barrier Reef** has lost more than half of its corals since 1995 due to warmer seas driven by climate change.

4. Exotic Species- Introduction of exotic species (deliberate or inadvertent) **poses a threat to native species**. According to the CBD, Invasive alien species have **contributed to nearly 40% of all animal extinctions** since the 17th century for which the cause is known.

5. Government Policies- Government policies, in pursuit of development and without adequate safeguards, have contributed to loss of biodiversity. **For ex-** The major reasons for **deforestation in Amazons** is due to exploitative policies of the Brazilian Government.

What is the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)?

It is a multilateral treaty aimed at halting and **reversing biodiversity loss globally by 2030**. It was adopted in December 2022 during the **15th Conference of the Parties (CoP)**, it supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and builds on achievements and lessons from the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Purpose and Goals: It aims to ensure the effective restoration of at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, marine, and coastal ecosystems by 2030. It includes 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action by 2030.

Long-Term Vision: The framework envisions a collective commitment to living in harmony with nature by 2050, providing a foundational guide for current actions and policies related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

What are the major concerns of new global biodiversity framework?

1. Weak Legal language for protection of critical areas- The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) warns that the agreement's goal of reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 could be undermined if **weak language in critical areas** such as the **protection of intact ecosystems** and **tackling unsustainable production and consumption** is not addressed at the national level.

2. Lack of mandatory ratcheting Mechanism- The GBF lacks the mandatory ratcheting mechanism that **undertakes periodic review** and **upgradation of targets**. Ratchet mechanism is part of the Paris Agreement wherein NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) are reviewed and updated after 5 years.

3. Lack of proper implementation mechanisms- In the absence of proper implementation mechanisms, the targets **agreed under COP15** may **remain unfulfilled like the Aichi Targets**.

What should be the Way Forward?

1. Participation of all stakeholders- Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity requires the participation of all stakeholders and ministries responsible for such areas as **agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, tourism, trade** and **finance**.

2. Mainstreaming Biodiversity conservation- There is need to mainstream the **conservation and sustainable use of biological resources across all sectors** of the national economy, the society and the policy-making framework.

3. Integrated management of natural resources- This approach based on the **ecosystem approach**, is the most effective way to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

4. Good Governance- It is essential that the all countries, especially developing countries, take necessary steps to establish good governance, including **rule of law** and **improvement in the economic and social management capacity**. This can check unregulated exploitation of biological resources.

5. Alignment of International financial institutions- International financial institutions and multilateral development banks should align their portfolios with the conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The outcomes of COP- 16 are promising and provide hope that the rapid loss of biodiversity can be reversed. Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is expected to act as the new guiding force for the conservation efforts in the coming decade. However, the focus now has to be on implementation and achievement of targets or else GBF will also end up like rest of the global agreements and protocols that promised a lot but delivered a little.

Read More- [The Hindu](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 3- Environment

Trump's Re-election and India US Relations – Explained Pointwise

In a surprising outcome of the US President election result, Donald Trump has been re-elected for the 2nd term. His previous terms as the US President saw many drastic measures, which are not normally expected of any US leadership. His re-election signals potential economic shifts in the United States that could impact global economies, including India. Therefore, this article delves into a comprehensive overview of Trump's Re-election and India US Relations by providing the multifaceted impact of Trump's second term on India.

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A brief overview of India-US relations

What are some of the recent developments in India-US Relations?

Continued Strategic Policies: Biden maintained key policies from Trump, prioritizing India in the US's Asia strategy. This included downgrading Pakistan's role and focusing on China as a challenger.

Quad Elevation: Biden elevated the Quad to summit-level meetings, emphasizing cooperation among India, Japan, Australia, and the US on regional security.

Technology Cooperation: In January 2023, the iCET initiative was launched to enhance cooperation on emerging technologies, like semiconductors and jet engines.

Economic Strategy: Biden upheld Trump-era tariffs on China, aiming to de-risk the US-China relationship and strengthen supply chains involving India.

Defense Cooperation: The United States has emerged as the largest importer of Indian defence products, accounting for nearly 50% of India's total defence exports.

Regional Stability: Biden expanded cooperation with India in areas like cybersecurity, maritime security, disaster relief, and telecommunications through the Quad, aligning with India's non-military approach to the forum.

Read More – [Recent Development in India-US Relations](#)

What are some of the challenges of India-US relations?

Differences over Russia's actions: The U.S. and India disagree on how to handle Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While US expects an all-out criticism of Russia from India, India has maintained a balanced posture. Recently India's PM attended the BRICS summit, organised by Russia.

Tensions over diplomatic comments: Critical comments from the U.S. State Department about India's state of democracy and religious freedom, along with U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti's remarks on Manipur and human rights, led to a diplomatic spat. In response, India summoned a senior U.S. diplomat.

Alleged assassination plot: The discovery of an alleged plot involving Indian security officials targeting a U.S. citizen has added a layer of distrust and complicated the bilateral relationship.

What are some of the Trump's controversial policies globally?

Trade Policies: Trump's "America First" agenda includes imposing tariffs on foreign goods to protect domestic industries. He has proposed a 10% tariff on all imports, which could disrupt global trade dynamics.

Foreign Alliances: Trump has criticized NATO allies for not meeting defense spending commitments and has suggested reducing US involvement in international alliances, potentially weakening collective security arrangements.

Immigration Policies: Stricter immigration controls, including limitations on H-1B visas, could affect global talent mobility, impacting countries like India that have a significant number of professionals working in the US.

Climate Policy: Trump's previous withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and potential rollback of environmental regulations may hinder global efforts to combat climate change.

What Policies towards India defined his last term?

Defense Cooperation: The US designated India as a Major Defense Partner, facilitating the transfer of advanced military technology. The signing of the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018 enhanced military interoperability.

Trade Relations: While trade increased, disputes arose over tariffs and market access, leading to the termination of India's preferential trade status under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) in 2019.

Strategic Alignments: The revival of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) involving the US, India, Japan, and Australia aimed at countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Immigration Restrictions: The administration imposed stricter regulations on H-1B visas, affecting Indian IT professionals.

What are the possible negatives of Trump's Re-election for India-US relations?

Increased Tariffs on Imports: Trump's proposal to impose a 20% tariff on all imports and a 200% duty on automobiles is likely to spark trade tensions. Trump's earlier tenure was also marked by tariffs on Indian goods and the withdrawal of India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status. These measures could be reinstated, adversely affecting India's exports, particularly in industries like textiles and pharmaceuticals.

Unpredictable Trade Relations: Trump's tendency to make trade deals volatile and to aggressively negotiate tariffs might lead to frequent disputes, complicating India's trade environment and its efforts to maintain steady export growth.

Deficit Expansion: Despite a high budget deficit, Trump plans to continue tax cuts. A high US deficit could lead to volatility in global bond markets, affecting emerging markets, including India.

Federal Reserve's Rate-Cut Dilemmas: Trump's policies may affect the Fed's approach to rate cuts. Central banks, including India's RBI, may adopt a cautious stance, impacting India's monetary policy and limiting scope for rate cuts aimed at stimulating the economy.

Cryptocurrency policies: Trump's favorable view of Bitcoin, aiming to establish the US as a "Bitcoin superpower," has triggered a surge in cryptocurrency values. This development is largely positive for crypto investors, its implications for financial stability are mixed.

Increased Lobbying in Space and Satellite Sectors: Trump's preference for US space and satellite technology could create competitive pressures for India's satellite and space programs. Musk's lobbying for favorable regulatory frameworks in these sectors may affect India's partnerships and domestic industry growth.

Trump' South Asia policy: Trump's relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh will have implications for India. His recent comments against violence in Bangladesh against Hindus and past unfriendly relations with Pakistan will have implications for India. It means India may not have a mediator to pressurise it's neighbouring countries, except in extreme conditions like war.

Strategic Alignment Against China: US is expected to take a firm stance on China. It will expect cooperation from India in this regard. It may go against the recent developments like LAC agreement, that took place between India and China.

China's changing stance and its impacts: High tariffs on Chinese goods promised by Trump, would push China for a bigger stimulus package of 2-3% of GDP annually, for next several years. This could make other markets, including India, less appealing to FPIs and other key investors.

What are the possible positives of Trump's Re-election and India-US relations?

Renewal of Trade Negotiations: Trump's intent to resume discussions on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India could revive talks that had stalled in 2019-2020, potentially increasing trade volumes and technology transfer.

Access to Military Technology: Trump has expressed interest in providing US military hardware to India, which aligns with India's modernization goals. His administration is expected to facilitate technology transfers and defense purchases with less bureaucratic resistance.

Relief from Human Rights Scrutiny: Under Trump, India is likely to experience less pressure over issues such as minority rights, freedom of the press, and the operation of NGOs.

Stronger Stance Against Khalistani Separatism: Trump is expected to take actions against Khalistan groups in the US, which is seen as beneficial for India. He also is not Favourable towards Canada's Justin Trudeau government.

Potential Dollar Weakness and Forex Volatility: Increased inflation and trade deficits could weaken the US dollar. For India, a weak dollar may reduce import costs, benefiting sectors like IT, while simultaneously posing challenges in managing forex and interest rate stability.

Proposed Green Card Reforms: Trump's recent proposal to automatically grant green cards to international students graduating from US institutions could benefit Indian students. This policy may encourage more Indian students to pursue education and careers in the US, enhancing India's skills pipeline.

Impact on Legal and Illegal Immigration Controls: While stringent immigration controls could limit the flow of unskilled labor to the US, the focus on skilled immigrants aligns with India's interests, especially for sectors like IT and engineering.

Reduction in Corporate Tax Rate (from 21% to 15%): Trump's plan to reduce corporate taxes could free up capital for US businesses, potentially increasing demand for outsourced services from India.

What should be done by India to improve its position?

Pursuing a Strategic Economic Partnership: By capitalizing on Trump's openness to energy and defense cooperation, India can deepen its economic and military ties with the US.

Strengthen Domestic Demand and Trade Diversification: India should prepare for external shocks by enhancing domestic demand and diversifying its export markets to mitigate the impact of increased tariffs or trade restrictions from the US.

Maintain Vigilance on Monetary Policy Adjustments: The RBI should carefully navigate its rate-cut cycle, prioritizing financial stability amid global volatility. A cautious monetary policy will help India better manage exchange rates and inflation fluctuations influenced by the Fed's policies.

Leverage Immigration and Education Ties with the US: India can benefit from Trump's immigration reforms by fostering educational exchanges and technology partnerships that support India's IT and engineering sectors. Strengthening these ties can provide a stable pipeline of skilled professionals to India's economy.

Bolstering Regional Influence: With Trump's anticipated reduced focus on South Asia, India can strengthen its influence among smaller regional countries, utilizing its development programs to support stability and development, particularly if US aid declines in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

SC Judgement on Private Property- Explained Pointwise

In a landmark decision with **significant implications for private property rights**, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled that **not all private property** qualifies as "**material resources of the community**" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution. The SC held that the government cannot acquire and redistribute all privately owned property by simply deeming them as "**material resources of the community**" under Article 39(b) of the Indian Constitution.



Source- The Indian Express

What has been the evolution of the Right to Property?

Initially Fundamental Right	The right to property and compensation for acquisition were Fundamental Rights under Articles 19(1)(f) and Article 31 .
25th CAA passed to curtail property Rights	The 25th Amendment in 1971 introduced Article 31C. Article 31C provided immunity to laws aimed at fulfilling Articles 39(b) and (c) from challenges on the basis of Fundamental Rights violations, including property rights. However, in the Kesavananda Bharati case 1973 , the Supreme Court upheld Article 31C but subjected it to judicial review.

Downgrading of Right to Property	The right to property was downgraded to a constitutional right under Article 300A in 1978. This allowed government acquisition of private property to serve a public purpose with fair compensation.
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What were the Key Questions of Deliberations on Private Property?

The SC deliberated on two key Questions on Private property-

a. Existence of Article 31C – The SC was examining whether Article 31C, which pertains to property rights, remains valid despite amendments and court rulings that have affected its scope.

Article 31C	Article 31C- Article 31C was designed to protect laws aimed at ensuring the equitable distribution of resources for the common good (Article 39(b)) and preventing the concentration of wealth (Article 39(c)).
Evolution of Article 31C	In response to judicial challenges to government policies like bank nationalization, the 25th Amendment Act was introduced in 1971. 25th CAA expanded Article 31C to protect state laws implementing the principles of Article 39(b) and (c) , even if they conflicted with rights under Articles 14, 19, and 31. In the Kesavananda Bharati case 1973 , the Supreme Court upheld Article 31C but subjected it to judicial review. In 1976, the 42nd Amendment extended Article 31C to shield all Directive Principles (Part IV) from challenges. This extension was invalidated by the Minerva Mills judgment (1980) , which reaffirmed only the protection for Article 39(b) and (c).

b. Interpretation of Article 39(b) – The SC also deliberated on the question whether the **government can categorize privately owned property** as “**material resources of the community**” and thereby acquire it for redistribution.

Article 39(b)	Article 39(b) mandates the state to promote equitable distribution of material resources of the community.
Historical Evolution of Position on Article 39 (b)	In State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy (1977) , a seven-judge Bench by a 4:3 majority, ruled that privately owned resources are not necessarily “material resources of the community.” However, Justice Krishna Iyer’s dissenting opinion, held that “ material resource of the community ” in Article 39(b) extended to all national wealth, public or private , capable of meeting material needs. This view influenced subsequent cases like Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company v. Bharat Coking Coal Limited (1982) and Mafatlal Industries Limited v. Union of India (1996) , supporting broader government control over private resources.

What has been the SC judgement on the issue of private property?

In **Property Owners’ Association v. State of Maharashtra**, a seven-judge Bench sought clarification on Article 39(b), leading to the recent nine-judge decision. The **majority opinion**, led by seven judges including the **Chief Justice**, rejected Justice Krishna Iyer’s expansive interpretation of Article 39(b).

Recent SC Judgement on Article 31C	The current ruling clarifies that the position post-Kesavananda Bharati remains valid , preserving Article 31C protections solely for Article 39(b) and (c) .
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Recent SC Ruling on Article 39(b)	<p>The current ruling limits the government's authority by rejecting the broad interpretation endorsed by Justice Iyer. The Court ruled that not all privately owned property can be deemed "material resources of the community" and thus safeguarded from automatic acquisition.</p> <p>Material Resource Consideration Factors- Factors like the public trust doctrine, the resource's intrinsic qualities, its community impact, scarcity, and potential harm from private monopolization must be taken into consideration for consideration as material resource.</p> <p>Distribution Term Clarification- SC has held that the term "distribute" in Article 39(b) allows for either government acquisition or redistribution to private parties, as long as it serves the common good.</p>
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What are the implications of the SC ruling?

- 1. Narrows Government scope in acquisition of Private Property-** The SC ruling narrows the **government's scope to acquire private property under Article 39(b)**. The ruling emphasizes individual property rights and clarifies the limits on government power regarding private resources in society.
- 2. Support of "economic democracy"-** The SC judgment states that the Court's role is **not to prescribe economic policy** but to support "**an economic democracy**" as envisioned by the Constitution.
- 3. Respect for evolving market realities-** SC has recognized the **dramatic shifts in the nature of private property**, from **traditional assets** to **data and space exploration**. The judgement emphasizes on the need to respect evolving market realities.
- 4. DPSPs Guiding Policies-** The Supreme Court emphasized that the Constitution's Directive Principles are **guiding policies**, not enforceable laws.
- 5. People's role in shaping economic direction-** The SC ruling affirms the people's role, in shaping **India's economic direction** and **adaptation to changing** global and domestic conditions.
- 6. Protection for marginalized communities-** This judgment offers protection for marginalized communities against **unjust acquisition of their small farms** and **forest lands** while promoting responsible management of essential public resources.
- 7. Reinforcement of market-oriented economic model-** The judgement has reinforced that India now follows a market-oriented economic model.

Read More- [Redistribution of wealth- Explained Pointwise](#)

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's ruling reinforces a balanced approach to property rights, underscoring the Constitution's flexibility in supporting both private ownership and community welfare. The judgment allows for some private resources to be used for the public good under Article 39(b) while preserving individuals' property rights, supporting India's economic growth within a democratic framework.

Read more- [The Hindu](#)
UPSC Syllabus- GS 2- Issues related to constitution

Minority Institutions in India- Determination Criteria, Benefits and Challenges- Explained Pointwise

A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, in a 4-3 majority ruling, established a “holistic and realistic” test to assess the “minority character” of educational institutions in India. The decision by the SC could pave the way for Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to be recognized as a minority institution.



Source- The Indian Express

What is the background of the AMU Case?

S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India 1967	The SC ruled that AMU did not qualify as a minority institution under Article 30 of the Constitution , as it was neither established nor administered by the Muslim minority. AMU’s creation through a central legislative act (AMU Act of 1920), prevented its qualification as a minority institution.
Amendment of the AMU Act in 1981	The Government of India amended the AMU Act of 1920 , recognizing the institution as one established by the Muslim community for their cultural and educational advancement .
Allahabad HC’s Striking down of Muslim Reservation 2006	In 2005, AMU introduced a 50% reservation for Muslim students in postgraduate medical courses. However, the Allahabad HC struck down the AMU’s reservation policy and 1981 amendment of the AMU Act 1920 . The Allahabad HC referred to the Basha Ruling of AMU not being a minority institution.

The HC’s decision was appealed in the SC. The Supreme Court referred the matter to a seven-judge bench in 2019.

What has been the recent ruling of the SC regarding minority institutions?

The SC has defined the following key elements to determine the Muslim character of the institutions.

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Purpose	The primary objective of the minority institutions should be to preserve minority language and culture . However, the preservation of minority language and culture doesn't need to be the sole purpose.
Admission	Admitting non-minority students does not compromise minority character of the institutions.
Secular Education	Minority institutions may provide secular education without losing their minority status.
Religious Instruction	Institutions receiving government aid cannot require religious instruction for students. Fully state-funded cannot offer religious instruction. However, they will retain their minority status.

Supreme Court's "Test" for Minority Character

The Court introduced a two-part test to assess if an institution qualifies as a minority institution by "piercing the veil" to evaluate its establishment and administration.

Establishment	This part of the test examines the institution's origin and purpose. Genesis: Identification of initiation of the idea and whether the founding intention was primarily for the minority community. Funding and Implementation: Examining who financed the institution, how land was acquired, and who oversaw its development .
Administration	Minority institutions have the choice, but not the obligation , to appoint members from their own community to administer day-to-day affairs. However, if an institution's administration does not align with the minority's interests , it could imply the institution was not primarily for minority benefit.

What is the legal and constitutional protection of the minority institutions?

Article 30(1)	Grants all minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
Article 15(5)	Exempts MEIs from reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Minority institutions have greater control over administration, such as reserving up to 50% of seats for minority students and autonomy in staff recruitment.

What are the benefits of establishment of minority institutions?

- 1. Greater autonomy and control over Curriculum-** Minority institutions can **design their curricula** to include **cultural education** alongside standard academic subjects. This ensures the preservation and promotion of unique heritage of the community.
- 2. Promotion of Heritage-** The minority institutions serve as **vital platforms** for **promoting** and preserving the **specific languages, scripts, and cultures** of minority communities.
- 3. Community Cohesion-** Minority institutions foster community cohesion and solidarity by providing education within a familiar cultural context. This reinforces shared values and traditions.
- 4. Access to Quality Education-** Minority institutions focus on improving educational outcomes within their communities. This can lead to **higher literacy rates** and **better educational attainment** among minority students.
- 5. Reservation for minorities-** MEIs can reserve a significant percentage of seats for students from their own community. This ensures that members of the minority group have prioritized access to education.

What are the Challenges with Minority Educational Institutions?

- 1. Inadequate Resources-** Many minority institutions suffer from a **lack of adequate infrastructure, teaching materials, and trained educators**. This often leads to poor educational outcomes.
- 2. Concerns of Misuse of Minority Status-** There are concerns that some institutions **misrepresent themselves as minority-run** to **evade regulations under the Right to Education (RTE) Act**. This includes practices such as admitting non-minority students while claiming minority status.
- 3. Corruption and Mismanagement-** Some private unaided minority institutions are plagued by issues of financial irregularities and lack of transparency in operations.
- 4. Lack of Accountability-** There are issues of insufficient oversight regarding the operation of the institutions. This has led to poor governance and lack of accountability for educational standards.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's latest judgment has outlined a nuanced approach to assess the minority character of the institutions. This requires the institution's founding intent and administrative structure. The smaller bench's upcoming review of AMU's case will apply this new test, potentially confirming AMU's minority institution status, thereby affirming minority rights under the Constitution.

Read More- [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 2 Issues related to constitution

Status of Wind Energy in India- Explained pointwise

Recently, the wind energy generators opposed the Tamil Nadu Government's Wind power policy- "**Tamil Nadu Repowering, Refurbishment and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects – 2024**." The wind energy operators seek a framework that better promotes wind energy generation. In this article, we will look at the status of wind energy sector in India, the benefits the sector presents and the challenges faced by the wind energy sector in India.



Source- The Hindu

What is the status of Wind Energy in India?

Fourth globally in installed wind capacity	India ranks fourth globally for installed wind energy capacity . According to the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), India has a wind potential of 1,163.86 GW at 150 meters above ground level.
Wind Energy as percentage of India's installed renewable energy capacity	As of September 2024, India's total installed renewable energy capacity is approximately 200 GW , including large hydro. Wind Power contributes to nearly 47 GW of installed renewable energy capacity in India .
States with wind capacity generation potential	Key states for wind capacity include Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh . These states collectively account for over 93% of India's wind power capacity . With 10,603.5 MW of installed wind capacity, Tamil Nadu holds the second-highest capacity in the country.

➤ **Installed Generation Capacity (Fuelwise) as on 31.08.2024 :**

Category	Installed Generation Capacity (MW)	% Share in Total	
Fossil Fuel	Coal	2,10,970	46.8%
	Lignite	6,620	1.5%
	Gas	24,818	5.5%
	Diesel	589	0.1%
	Total Fossil Fuel :	2,42,997	53.9%
Non-Fossil Fuel	RES (Incl. Hydro)	1,99,583	44.3%
	Hydro	46,928	10.4%
	Wind, Solar & Other RE	1,52,654	33.9%
	Wind	47,192	10.5%
	Solar	89,432	19.8%
	BM Power/Cogen.	10,355	2.3%
	Waste to Energy	604	0.1%
	Small Hydro Power	5,071	1.1%
Nuclear	8,180	1.8%	
Total Non-Fossil Fuel :	2,07,763	46.1%	
Total Installed Capacity (Fossil Fuel & Non-Fossil Fuel)	4,50,760	100%	

Source- MNRE

What are the benefits of Wind Energy?

- 1. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Source-** Wind energy is inexhaustible and it replenishes naturally. This makes it a sustainable power source compared to fossil fuels. **For ex- Denmark generates nearly half of its electricity from wind energy**, thereby securing a steady, renewable energy supply.
- 2. Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions-** Wind turbines generate electricity without producing CO₂ emissions. This helps to reduce the carbon footprint and mitigate climate change. **For ex- In 2021, wind energy in the United States helped avoid approximately 189 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions**, equivalent to taking 41 million cars off the road.
- 3. Energy Independence and Local Economic Growth-** Wind power reduces dependence on imported fuels, bolstering energy independence and enhancing energy resilience.
- 4. Job Creation-** Wind energy projects create jobs in manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and operations. **For Ex- India's wind energy sector has created thousands of jobs**, with Tamil Nadu alone providing numerous opportunities for local technicians and engineers.

What are the Challenges with the Wind Energy Sector in India?

- 1. Land Acquisition Issues-** Acquiring large tracts of land for wind farms is a complex and time-consuming process in India. This often leads to **delays in project implementation** and **increased costs** due to **bureaucratic hurdles** and land disputes.
- 2. Intermittency and Unpredictability-** Wind energy generation depends on weather conditions. This makes it unpredictable and variable during rough weather conditions such as **monsoons**.
- 3. Inadequate Transmission and Grid Infrastructure-** India's grid infrastructure is not equipped to handle large-scale integration of wind energy. **For ex- Curtailment issues in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu due to limited transmission lines** connecting wind farms to the main grid.
- 4. Lack of Updated Policies and Incentives-** Older policies do not always accommodate modern technological advancements or the current needs of the sector. **For ex- Opposition to TN's wind energy policy from wind energy investors** for not accounting for older turbines in the wind energy policy.
- 5. High Initial Costs and Financial Viability-** Tamil Nadu turbines installed post-2018 lack a banking facility. This means that energy produced by repowered turbines cannot be banked, affecting the financial feasibility of these projects.
- 6. Inconsistent Wind Mapping and Resource Assessment-** India lacks consistent, high-quality wind resource leading to suboptimal site selection and underutilized resources. **For ex- In parts of Andhra Pradesh,** inadequate wind mapping has resulted in **underperforming wind farms**.
- 7. Increased Urbanisation-** Habitation growth near wind farms has also impacted the financial viability of the wind energy projects in India.
- 8. Local Ecological Concerns-** The construction of wind farms can disrupt local ecosystems and wildlife habitats. **For ex- Rajasthan** has faced resistance to wind energy installations due to concerns over the impact on bird migratory routes and local wildlife habitats.

What are the Government's policies for Wind Energy Sector in India?

National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy (2018)	The policy aims to encourage hybrid projects that integrate wind and solar power , improving grid stability and reducing dependency on one energy source.
Repowering Policy for Wind Power Projects	This policy focuses on repowering older wind turbines (under 2 MW) with more efficient, higher-capacity turbines to enhance output from existing sites.
Guidelines for Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (2017)	This policy promotes competitive bidding to drive down wind energy tariffs, encouraging transparency and cost-efficiency in power procurement from wind projects.
National Offshore Wind Energy Policy (2015)	This policy provides a framework to develop offshore wind energy in India's Exclusive Economic Zone . It grants the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) the authority to identify potential offshore sites and support project implementation.
Green Energy Corridor Project	The Green Energy Corridor project focuses on creating transmission infrastructure to facilitate renewable energy integration into the national grid, including wind energy.

What Should be the Way Forward?

- 1. Comprehensive and beneficial policy-** Commercially beneficial, field-responsive policy should be implemented for long-term investment in wind energy.

2. Promoting Land Use Efficiency- Wind farms can coexist with agricultural or grazing land, allowing dual use and enabling farmers to earn additional income through land leases for wind turbines. **For Ex- In Iowa, USA, many farmers lease portions of their land for wind turbines**, supplementing their agricultural income without significantly disrupting farming activities.

3. Rapid Deployment and Scalability- Wind farms should be built quickly and scaled to meet local electricity demand. **For ex- UK's recent rapid expansion of offshore wind energy plants in recent years.**

4. Promotion of Hybrid Renewable Projects- Wind-solar hybrid systems can help overcome intermittency issues by ensuring energy availability even during low-wind periods. Such hybrid projects will also help in the **maximization of land use** and **improvement of grid reliability**.

Read More- [The Hindu](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 3- Environment

Political Empowerment of Women- Significance and Challenges- Explained Pointwise

There is a growing focus on **political empowerment of women** across the world. The **candidacy of Kamala Harris as Democratic nominee in the U.S. presidential race**, was seen as a reflection of the maturity and inclusivity of American democracy. The focus on political empowerment of women highlights the necessity of a truly vibrant democracy to include all voices. India also recently took a historic step of passing the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam Bill**, reinforcing the importance of women's political leadership.

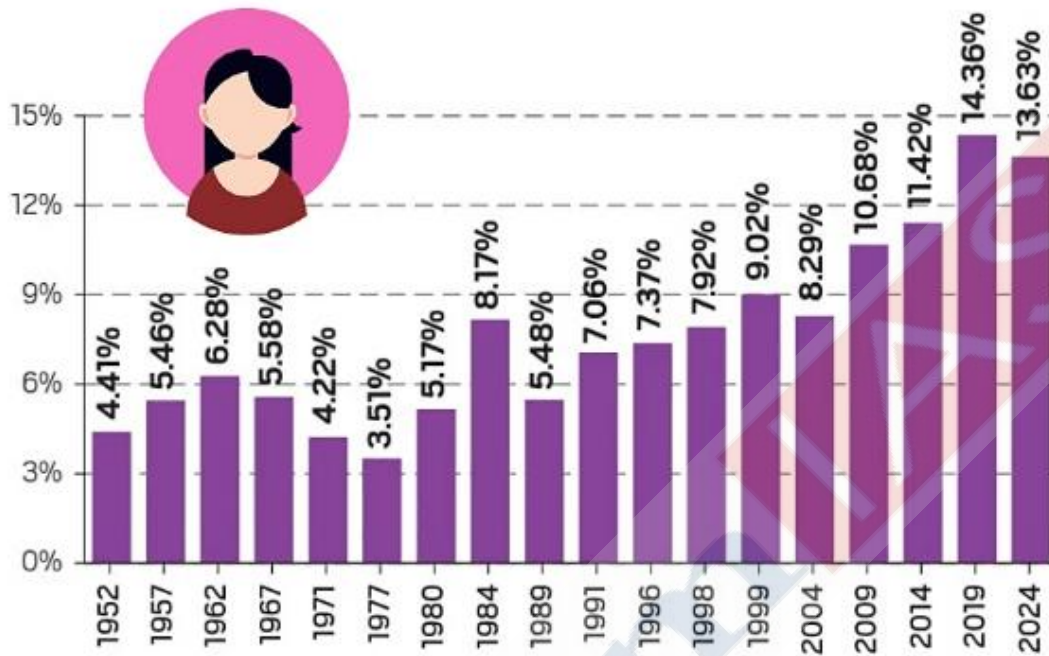
Today Indian women have moved beyond mere symbolic roles to become powerful influences in shaping electoral results. This has been possible with the support of women-centered policies like **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, and **Jan Dhan Yojana** empowering them as decision-makers and changemakers. In this article we will look at the political empowerment journey of women in India.

What has been the status of political representation of Women in India?

a. Representation of Women in Parliament over the Years

1. Women made up just **4.41%** of the strength of the **Lower House** in **1952**. The number increased to **more than 6% in the Lok Sabha** held a decade later.
2. However, the number **dipped to below 4% in 1971**, ironically, with **Indira Gandhi, India's first and only woman Prime Minister**, at the helm.
3. There has been a slow, but steady rise in women's representation (with a few exceptions). The women representation crossed the **10% mark in 2009** and peaked at **14.36%** in 2019.
4. Of the 74 women MPs elected in 2024, **43 are first time MPs**. Women MPs have an average age of 50 years and are younger as compared to the overall age of the House, which is 56 years. These women MPs are as educated as their male counterparts, with 78% completing under graduation.

CHANGE IN WOMEN'S STRENGTH IN LOK SABHA OVER THE YEARS

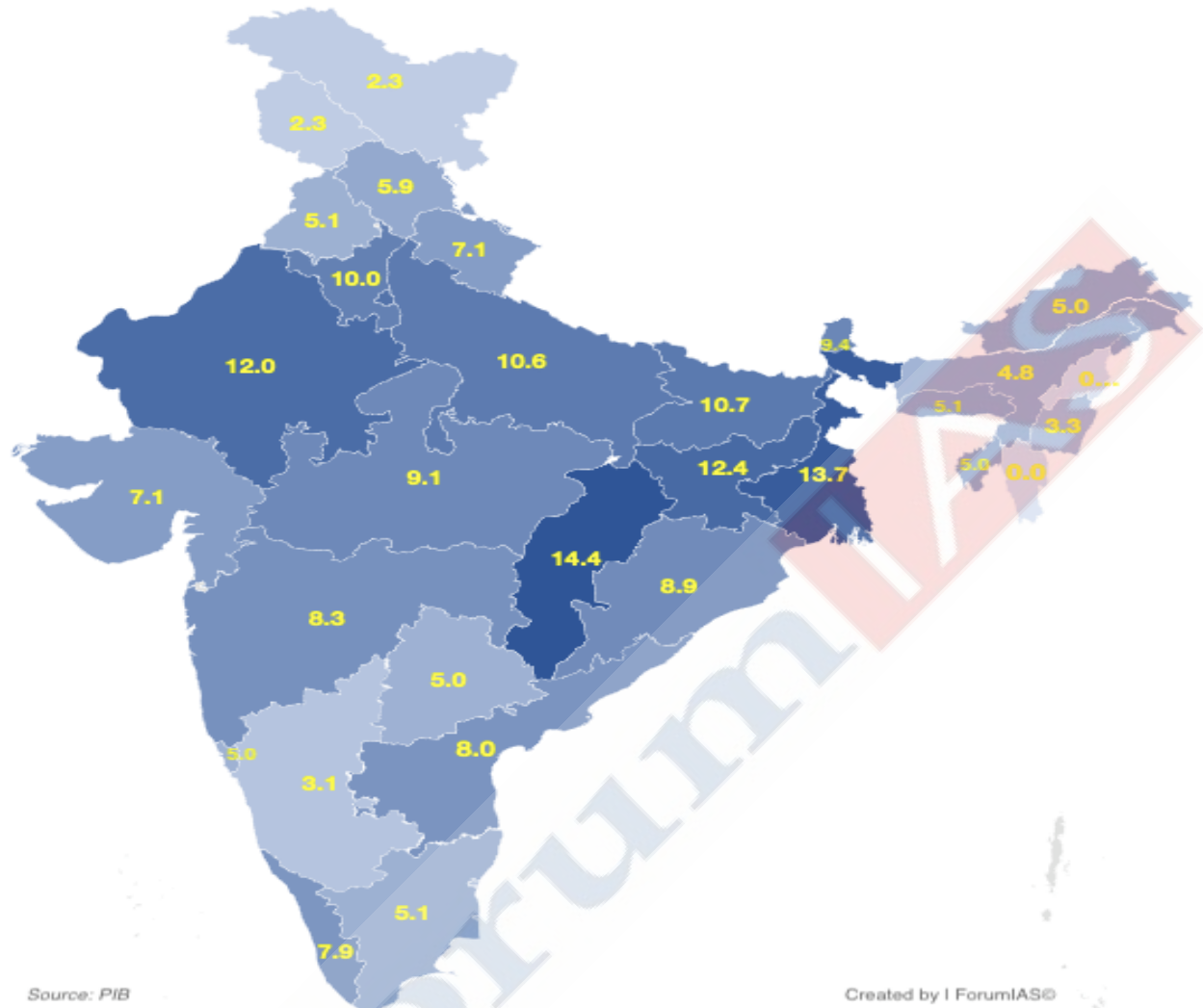


Women in Lok Sabha 2024. (Data via PRS Legislative Research)

Source- The Indian Express

b. State Legislative assembly representation

The representation of women in State Legislative Assemblies has been low. The highest is in **Chhattisgarh** (14.4%) followed by **West Bengal** (13.7%) and **Jharkhand** (12.4%).



Source: PIB

Created by | ForumIAS®

Source- PIB. Percentage of Women Representatives in State Legislative Assemblies as on December 31, 2021. The proportion for Jammu and Kashmir/Ladakh is based on last elections held in 2014.

c. Comparison with Global Standards

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) 'Women in Parliament' Report (2021), the **global percentage of women** in parliament was **26.1%**. India **ranks lower than 140 other nations** in terms of the number of women serving in their national legislatures. Even though the representation of women in Lok Sabha has increased post independence (~16% in 17th lok Sabha), India is **behind a number of countries of Africa and South Asia** (like Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).

Why is there a need for greater political empowerment of Women in India?

1. Accountability and Gender-sensitive Governance- Political empowerment of women facilitates **direct engagement in public decision-making** and is a means of **ensuring better accountability to women**. It helps in **undertaking reforms** that can help make **all elected officials more effective at promoting gender equality in public policy** and ensuring their implementation.

2. Breaking the Patriarchal mould of Indian Politics- Indian Politics has been patriarchal with top party positions and positions of power have been occupied by male. Increase in women representation in parliament, **dismantles the patriarchal nature** of Indian politics.

3. Focus on Gender issues- According to UN Women, higher numbers of women in parliament generally contribute to stronger attention to women's issues. This ensures appropriate policy response to **address gender issues** and **introduce women-sensitive measures**.

4. Gender Equality- Women's political participation is a **fundamental prerequisite** for gender equality and genuine democracy. It helps **establish public enquiries on women's issues** and use findings to place issues on **government agendas** and **within legislative programmes**.

5. Change of Stereotypes- Enhanced representation helps in cooperation with the women's movement and the media to **change the stereotyped image of women** as only 'homemakers', to change it to 'lawmakers'.

6. Improvement of Economic Performance and Infrastructure- According to UN University, Women legislators **improve the economic performance of their constituencies 1.8 per cent more than male legislatures**. Evaluation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana shows the **share of incomplete road projects is 22 percentage points lower in female** led constituencies.

What are the reasons behind low political representation of women in India?

1. Gender Gaps in Political Ambition- Gender conditioning leads to lack of political ambition in women:

(a) Women are **less encouraged** to run for office/election than men.

(b) Women's **tendency to shy away from competition** also plays a role since the political selection process is likely perceived as highly competitive.

(c) The fear of 'big politics' and factors such as **self-doubt, stereotypes** and **personal reservations** prevent even the most politically gifted women from entering government

(d) Women's **willingness to advance in their political careers** can also be influenced by family and relational considerations. **For ex-** In Sweden, **female politicians who are promoted to mayor** (i.e. the highest office in municipal politics) **experience a significant increase** in the likelihood of divorcing their partner, whereas this is not the case for men.

2. Patriarchal Society- The patriarchal nature of Indian politics also prevents the increase in women participation in India.

(a) **Gender Disparities-** There are still many obstacles in the way of women in positions of leadership due to gender inequality in areas like as **education, access to resources**, and **the persistence of biased views**.

(b) **Sexual division of labour-** Women are responsible for the **majority of housework and child care**. This creates hindrance for them to enter politics.

(c) **Cultural and Social Expectations-** Cultural and Social Expectations are **forced upon women** which prevent women from participating in politics.

3. Cost of Contesting Election- Cost of contesting elections is rising with times. **Lack of access to resources and assets** means that women are much less likely to be able to raise the funds for contesting elections than men.

4. Male politicians as Gate-keepers- Party leaders generally **prefer to promote male rather than female candidates**. There is a **general bias in the thinking regarding winnability of female candidates** preventing them from selecting women leaders for election.

5. Growth of criminalisation and corruption- The exodus of women from politics can also be attributed to a lack of political education coupled with the **growth in criminalization and corruption**.

What measures have been undertaken for political empowerment of Women and increasing their participation?

Legislative Measures

- 1. Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam (Women reservation Act)**- It has been passed to provide **33% reservation** for **women in the Lok Sabha** and **state legislative assemblies**.
- 2. 73rd and 74th amendment Act**- This amendment act provided **33% reservation to women in local bodies**. Some states like Bihar have **increased the women reservation in the local bodies to 50%**.
- 3. Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women**- In 1997 (11th Lok Sabha), the **Committee on Empowerment of Women** was formed to advance the position of women
- 4. Gender-Neutral Rules of Lok Sabha**- The rules of the Lok Sabha were made completely gender-neutral in 2014 under the leadership of Meira Kumar. Since then, every document has called the **head of a Lok Sabha Committee** as the **Chairperson**.

Constitutional Measures

- 1. Article 14**- It has established **equality as a fundamental right**. It inevitably necessitates equal opportunity, as stated in Article 15.
- 2. Article 46**- It puts on the state the **responsibility to safeguard vulnerable groups** against social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- 3. Article 243D**- It ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by mandating **at least 33% reservation for women** in total seats and the offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.
- 4. Article 326**- Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of **adult suffrage**.

International Covenants

Globally, several international commitments have been made, for achieving gender equality and these have emphasized on enhancing women's representation in political sphere.

- 1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)**- **Upheld women's right** to participate in public life.
- 2. Beijing Platform for Action (1995), Millennium Development Goals (2000) and Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)**- All these called for removing barriers to equal participation and also took into account **increasing women's representation in parliament** to measure progress towards gender equality.

Political Participation of Women: International Conventions

- **Basic Human Right:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) declare **Political Participation as a basic human right**.
- **Eliminate Discrimination:** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1979.
 - Article 7 calls for the State parties to **take appropriate steps to eliminate discrimination against women** in the political sphere.
 - Women must have equal right to vote and be eligible to hold public office, participate in policy formulation and implementation.
- **Women Participation:** The 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) considered 'Women in power and decision making' as one of the 12 critical areas in its **Platform of Action**.
- **30% Representation at Decision Making Level:** The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed a **30% target of women participation** at decision-making levels (1995).

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What Should be the Way Forward?

1. **Checks on the criminalisation of politics-** We must address the larger issues of electoral reforms such as measures to check **criminalisation of politics** and **influence of black money** to achieve the desired results of women reservation.
2. **Intra party democracy-** Institutionalisation of Intra party democracy will make available a wider pool of women candidates.
3. **Nomination to Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils-** Every Political Party must **nominate 33% women** and **67% men** for every election to **Rajya Sabha and State legislative councils** to achieve true women representation.
4. **Promotion of women participation at panchayat level** through strengthening women self-help groups. This will ensure able women candidates for MP/MLA elections.
5. **Strengthening women's agencies and organizations** for building a progressive society with equality of opportunities among all citizens.
6. **Promotion of girl's participation in College/Universities** student political parties and political debate to increase their political prowess for future.
7. **Reaffirmation to G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration-** India must be committed and should reaffirm to the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration which **underscores investment in political empowerment of women and girls** as it has multiplier effects in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. **Gender Sensitisation and Internships-** Gender sensitisation workshops, internships acquainting them with the political process will help in the creation of a healthy culture of gender parity in the political sphere.

Read More- [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 1 Issues related to women, GS II, Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

India Middle East Europe Corridor (IMEC)-Significance, Challenges and Progress- Explained Pointwise

The **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)** was unveiled at the **G20 summit** in New Delhi in September 2023. A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the **Governments of India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union (EU), the UAE, France, Germany and Italy** to establish this economic Corridor.

The corridor aims to **reduce transit times by 40%** and **transportation costs by 30%** as compared to the Suez Canal route. The successful operation of the IMEC will mark a **significant shift in global maritime trade**. However, the corridor faces significant challenges in its operation.

What is India Middle East Europe Corridor (IMEC)?

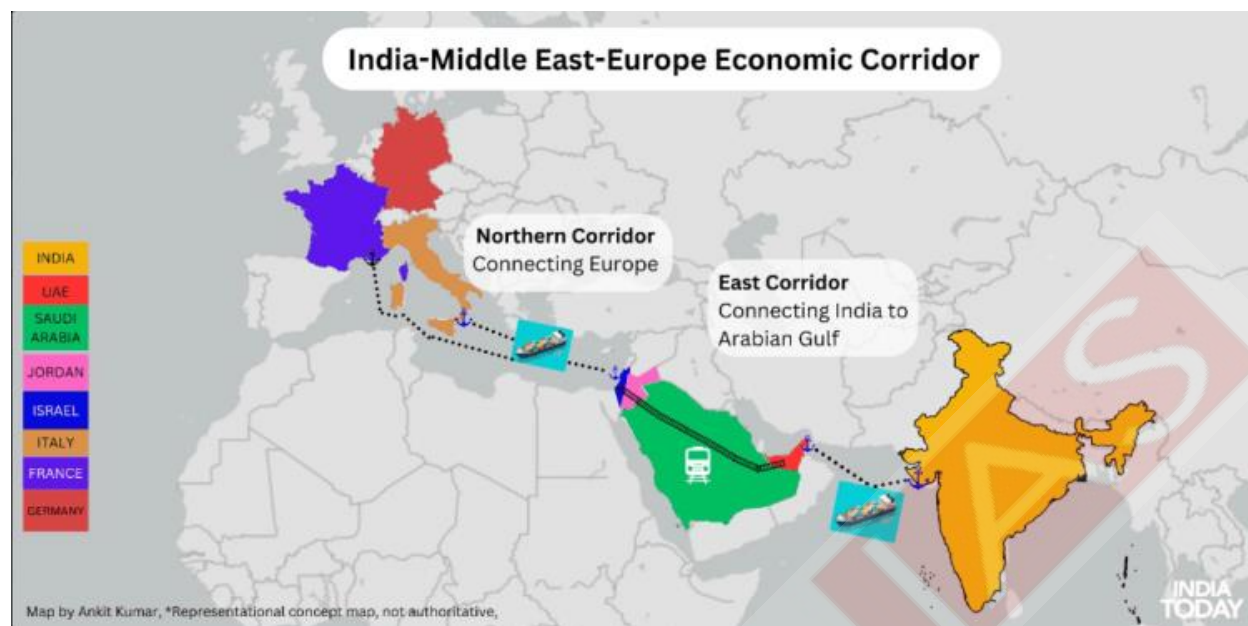
India Middle East Europe Corridor is a network of **transport corridors** comprising **railway lines** and **sea lanes** to **promote economic integration** between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe. The project aims to integrate India, Europe, Middle East through **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and European Union**.

Project Details- The proposed corridor will comprise of **two separate corridors-** the **Eastern corridor** and the **Northern Corridor/Western corridor**. The **Eastern Corridor** will connect India to the Arabian Gulf and the **Northern Corridor/Western Corridor** will connect the Arabian Gulf to Europe.

It will **involve transit by ship between India and Saudi Arabia**, followed by a rail link to the UAE and likely to Jordan from where the shipment will move by sea to Turkey and further by rail. Along with the railway track, cables for **energy and digital connectivity** as well as a **pipeline for clean hydrogen export** will be laid.

Part of PGII- It is part of the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)** which is a **collaborative effort by G7** nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations. PGII is the **G7 bloc's counter** to China's Belt and Road Initiative. PGII is part of G7's vision of **Build-Back-Better** framework.

Graphical Representation of the project-



Source- India Today

What is the Significance of India Middle East Europe Corridor?

Geo-Political and Geo-Strategic Significance

- 1. Counter to Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** – India Middle East Europe Corridor (IMEC) is an **ambitious counter to China's BRI project**. BRI has created a 'debt trap' and has diminished the sovereignty of member countries. It will be a counter to the expansionist policies of China.
- 2. Counter to China's growing geopolitical influence in Middle East**- China's geopolitical influence has been growing in the Middle East region. China has helped to broker a deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran. **Saudi Arabia and the UAE**-both old allies of US-have been strengthening their ties with China. It also provides an opportunity to counter the growing Chinese geopolitical influence.
- 3. Geopolitical Stability in Middle East** – This Corridor aims to bring countries in the Middle East together and establish that region as a **hub for economic activity** instead of as a “**source of challenge, conflict or crisis**” as it has been in recent history.
- 4. Normalisation of Diplomatic Relations**- It also aims to help **normalise diplomatic relations in the Middle east** with possibility of establishment of diplomatic relations between **Israel and Saudi Arabia** both of which are part of the project.
- 5. Reduced geopolitical dependence on Suez Canal and red sea** – Suez Canal has been witnessing congestions in the recent times. Further the Red Sea with **straits of Bab-al-Mandeb** and **Gulf of Aden** is being militarised by China through its militarised naval bases like the **Port of Doraleh**. It will open an alternate route for transportation.
- 6. Expansion of G20 role from purely economic grouping to geo-political grouping**- This project is also an attempt to further strengthen the G20 group by **expanding the role of G-20 to geo-political domain to counter the dominance** of China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Geo-Economic Significance

1. Boost to International Trade- The corridor aims to give a boost to international trade by **reducing transit times by 40%** and **transportation costs by 30%** as compared to the Suez Canal route.

2. Increase in Trade and employment opportunities- This proposed corridor project would increase the trade of manufactured goods and **facilitate the development of clean energy**. It would **increase efficiencies, save costs, promote economic cohesion, create jobs**, leading to a radical integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

3. Development of Infrastructure- This proposed economic corridor project would help deal with the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower and middle-income nations. IMEC will be a **green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations** as the corridor will include a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.

4. Promotion of Intra-regional Connectivity- It will promote Intra-regional connectivity and enhance trade, prosperity and connectivity.

What is the Significance of IMEC for India?

Launch of this connectivity corridor project is of immense significance to India.

1. Indo-US convergence in Middle East- India and US have **converged** their interests in **Middle East after Indo Pacific**. This economic and connectivity project is the second mega convergence between India and the United States in Middle East after the I2U2 forum. It can turn out to be far more significant for Indo-US relationship.

Read More-[I2U2](#)

2. Strategic engagement with the Arabian Peninsula- Through this connectivity project the Indian govt now has an opportunity to build enduring connectivity between India and Arabia. The current project will strengthen **India's role as a driver in shaping regional connectivity**.

3. Breaking Pakistan's dominance- It breaks **Pakistan's monopoly** over **India's overland connectivity to the West**. Since the 1990s Delhi has sought various trans-regional connectivity projects with Pakistan. But Islamabad was adamant in its refusal to let India gain access to land-locked Afghanistan and Central Asia.

4. Reduced dependence on Iran- It also provides India an **alternate transport corridor** route for Europe by reducing over dependence on **Chabahar Port and INSTC**.

5. Opportunity to join Trans-African Corridor- Trans-African corridor is an **envisaged US and the EU** plan to build a corridor connecting Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia. Effective implementation of **Indian Middle East Europe Corridor** project would **increase India's chances** of getting an opportunity to join Trans-African corridor.

6. Increase in Trade Competitiveness- According to US report this economic corridor will make trade between **India and Europe 40% faster**. This will increase the trade competitiveness of Indian exports.

What are the challenges for India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor?

1. Challenges on the Western Front of the project- IMEC's development has faced setbacks on the western side due to **escalation of Israel-Palestine tensions, widened trust deficit between the Israel-Arab World**.

2. West Asian Instability- Broader IMEC goal like **clean energy exports, undersea fiber-optic cables, energy grid linkages, and telecommunications**, have remained on hold due to instability in West Asia.

3. Non-binding MoU- MoU of IMEC **does not create any rights or obligations under international law**. The memorandum only sets forth political commitments of its participants which are non-binding.

4. Finance-The Corridor requires **massive finance** for its construction. Arrangement of such funds is a challenge considering the **recession** that has been creeping in US and other advanced economies. **Scale of investments** that can be raised by China is higher than that of the G7. **Mobilisation of Private-sector finance** also remains a major challenge.

5. Chinese Resistance-This economic corridor also faces the challenge of **Chinese pushback** as China as already invested heavily in BRI project. It has been making considerable investments in the middle eastern economies like Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

What Should be the Way Forward?

1. Establishment of IMEC Secretariat- IMEC secretariat should be **established** to **create structured processes** and **conduct evidence-based research** on project benefits.

2. Establishment of Virtual Trade Corridor- **Virtual Trade Corridor** like the **India-UAE Virtual Trade Corridor** can serve as an operational model for other IMEC countries. It would help in reducing administrative burdens, lowering costs, and fostering efficient trade.

3. Strengthening of infrastructure along the eastern corridor- Countries along the eastern route could use the time of **West Asian instability** to strengthen infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and preparing for future IMEC integration.

4. Avoiding the problems created by BRI- The speed of implementation of the corridor and its ability to **avoid the problem of financial and ecological sustainability** faced by BRI will determine the success of IMEC.

Success of Indian Middle East Europe Corridor could help diversify the options available to the countries who have infrastructure requirements.

[Read More- The Hindu](#)

[UPSC Syllabus- International Relations](#)

SC Verdict to prevent 'Bulldozer Justice' - Explained Pointwise

Recently, the SC bench headed by Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan, issued **comprehensive guidelines to ensure due process in property demolitions**, particularly in cases where demolitions are linked to property owners alleged to be involved in criminal activities. The Supreme Court through the verdict aims to **address the concerns with the misuse of power by the executive** in the name of providing "bulldozer justice".



Source- The Indian Express

What is Bulldozer Justice? What is the recent history of this action?

Bulldozer Justice- It refers to a controversial practice in India where authorities use **bulldozers** and **heavy machineries**, to demolish properties belonging to **individuals accused of serious crimes** like communal riots, rapes, and murders. The action is often **carried out without following due legal process**, provided for the demolition of immovable properties.

Instances of Bulldozer Justice

The practice of Bulldozer Justice has been reported in several Indian states, including **Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, and Maharashtra**.

Uttar Pradesh	The use of bulldozer against the immovable properties of individuals accused to be involved in serious crimes, has been rampant since 2017. Ex- Demolition of Immovable properties of Vikas Dubey, Atiq Ahmed .
Madhya Pradesh	Use of bulldozer to demolish 16 houses and 29 shops across four locations in Khargone, following communal clashes.
Haryana	Bulldozer action in Nuh after communal violence.
Maharashtra	Demolition of a part of actor-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut's bungalow in Pali Hill in Mumbai, after her controversial comments of comparing the city with Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).
Delhi	Bulldozer justice in North West Delhi's Jahangirpuri , in April 2022 following the communal clashes.

What are the key Guidelines Issued by the Supreme Court?

Notice Requirements	<p>a. Advance Notice- Authorities must provide at least 15 days' notice before any demolition. The 15 day period starts from the date the owner receives the notice.</p> <p>b. Content of Notice- The notice must detail the reason for demolition, describe the structure, and offer a date for a personal hearing to allow the owner to contest the action.</p> <p>c. Communication with Officials- Upon issuing the notice, officials must inform the District Magistrate or local Collector via email, with an automatic acknowledgment to prevent backdating allegations.</p>
Hearing and Final Order	<p>a. Recorded Hearing- Authorities must hold a hearing and record the proceedings.</p> <p>b. Contents of Final Order- The final demolition order must explain why the case cannot be resolved without demolition and specify if the entire or only part of the property will be demolished. It must also justify why demolition is the only viable option.</p>
Post-Order Implementation	<p>a. Waiting Period- After issuing the demolition order, authorities must wait another 15 days to allow the owner to challenge the decision in court or voluntarily remove the construction.</p> <p>b. Documentation- If the demolition proceeds, authorities must record a video, prepare an inspection report before the demolition, and document a demolition report listing all personnel involved.</p>

However, the guidelines do not apply to unauthorized structures in public areas or where a court order mandates demolition.

What is the rationale of the Supreme Court behind the verdict?

The court's decision draws on fundamental constitutional principles and underscores several key concerns:

a. Unlawful demolitions violate Separation of Powers- The Supreme Court emphasized that **only the judiciary has the authority to determine guilt and impose penalties.** Allowing state officials to demolish properties as punishment for alleged crimes would encroach upon judicial powers.

b. Unlawful demolitions violate the Right to Shelter- **Article 21** of the Constitution enshrines the right to life with dignity, which includes the right to shelter. SC held that **depriving families of the right to shelter** is **"wholly unconstitutional."**

c. Safeguarding Against Discriminatory Action- The Supreme Court advised a **separate evaluation for cases where an accused's property also violates municipal laws.** SC raised concerns that the targeting of a single structure while letting other similar structures remain untouched, suggests that the motive is to punish the accused rather than remove an illegal construction. The SC guidelines would help in safeguarding against such discriminatory actions.

d. Public Accountability and Transparency- The guidelines aim to **increase accountability, transparency** and **avoid** any **"high-handed"** actions by officials.

What are the arguments of the state in favour of Bulldozer Justice?

1. Fulfilment of Legal Compliance- State Government officials assert that bulldozer demolitions are **carried out in accordance with existing municipal laws and regulations laid down in cases of** illegal constructions. **For ex-** UP government officials contend that actions are carried out by adhering to legal protocols established under acts like the **U.P. Municipal Corporation Act** and the **U.P. Urban Planning and Development Act.**

2. Creation of Effective Deterrence- State Governments contend that 'bulldozer action' is part of a broader strategy to deter **illegal criminal activities** and **maintain public order**.

3. Restoration of law and order- State governments contend that **demolition of illegal properties of those accused in communal tensions**, helps to restore order and calm tensions during incidents of communal violence or mass unrest. **For ex- Haryana Government's Bulldozer action after Nuh Violence.**

4. Universal and not against specific communities- Solicitor General of India has stated that demolitions in states like **Madhya Pradesh** were not targeted against any specific minority communities. It also included **properties owned by individuals from various communities**, including Hindus.

5. Fulfilment of Public demand for visible action- Supporters often claim that bulldozer justice is a **decisive step** and serves as an **effective response mechanism to public demand** for **quick, visible action** against criminals.

What are the concerns with Bulldozer Justice in India?

1. Violation of the Rule of Law- Bulldozer demolitions without due process violate the rule of law and the principles of natural justice, that governs state actions in a country. **For ex- Demolitions without serving proper advance notices** and right of representation.

2. Violation of Fundamental Rights- The hasty bulldozer justice of demolition of private homes is violation of Right to Shelter which has been recognized as a part of the **right to life**, guaranteed by **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution**.

3. Violation of the established principle of Presumption of Innocence- Demolition of properties based on **alleged criminal charges** violates the principle of **presumption of innocence until proven guilty**.

4. Specific targeting of Minorities- Several reports highlight the selective targeting of minority communities, especially Muslims, by the use of bulldozer demolitions. **For Ex- Amnesty International reported that 128 properties, mostly owned by Muslims**, were demolished in between April and June 2022, affecting 617 people.

5. Promotes authoritarianism- According to some critics, bulldozer action reflects a **troubling shift towards authoritarianism** by making it a **means of political retribution against dissenters** or marginalized groups.

6. Ethical issues- Bulldozer justice conflates the roles of judge, jury, and executioner, and **goes against the constitutional principle of separation of power**. Further, there are ethical concerns of **disproportionate punishments** involving innocent family members of the accused.

What are the other observations of the Supreme Court in Cases of Demolitions?

Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India, 1978	SC held that the executive procedures must be fair, just, and reasonable .
Municipal Corporation of Ludhiana vs Inderjit Singh, 2008	SC held that no authority can directly proceed with demolitions , even of illegal constructions, without providing notice and an opportunity of being heard to the occupant .
Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation, 1985	SC emphasised the necessity of due process and ruled that eviction without notice violates the right to livelihood under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
Punjab and Haryana High Court's intervention in Nuh demolitions	The Punjab and Haryana High Court intervened to stop demolitions in Nuh, by citing lack of due process and potential ethnic targeting .

What Should be the Way Forward?

These guidelines establish a robust framework to protect citizens' rights and ensure lawful, accountable demolitions. Further, these steps should be taken to prevent any miscarriage of justice.

1. Adequate surveys before Demolition- The Supreme Court has mandated the administration to undertake a survey before carrying out demolitions. Also, the enforcement of basic procedural protocols, like **giving sufficient advance notices**, must be followed by the authorities.

2. Pan-India procedural guidelines- Pan India guidelines should be incorporated into **relevant legislation and rules of the municipal authorities**. Proper procedures must be followed during the pre-demolition, demolition and post-demolition phase.

3. Shifting the Burden of Proof- The burden of proof should be **shifted to the authorities to justify demolition and displacement**. This will ensure protection of the basic human right of right to shelter.

4. Independent Review Mechanism- An independent committee with judicial and civil society representatives should be constituted to **review the legality of proposed demolitions**.

5. Focus on Rehabilitation- Proper guidelines should be drafted for rehabilitation of innocent victims of the accused families in cases of bulldozer actions. International human rights standards also **emphasise the right to adequate housing and compensation for forced evictions**.

Read More- [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS 2- Governance Issues

SC Verdict on accessibility rights of Persons with Disabilities- Explained Pointwise

Recently, the Supreme Court has directed the Union government to **frame binding rules** to **ensure accessibility of public spaces and services** for persons with disabilities. The court has emphasized that **accessibility is a fundamental right** under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act**.



Information written in braille at a pedestrian crossing. (Via Pixabay)

Figure 2. Source- The Indian Express

Who are classified as Persons with Disabilities? What is the status of differently abled people in India?

According to **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)**, Persons with disabilities are the ones who have **long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments**, which **hinder their full and effective participation in society** on an equal basis with others.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, uses the same definition as the UN CRPD. It further defines **'Person with Benchmark Disability'** as **'A person with not less than 40% of a specified disability'**.

Expansion of Disabilities- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 has **expanded the types of disabilities** from **7** (under the Person with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995) to **21**. The act also provides the Union Government **the power to add more types of disabilities**.

Types of Disabilities

Physical Disability

- **Locomotor Disability**

- (i) Leprosy cured person; (ii) Cerebral Palsy; (iii) Dwarfism; (iv) Muscular Dystrophy; (v) Acid Attack Victims.

- **Visual Impairment**

- (i) Blindness; (ii) Low Vision.

- **Hearing Impairment**

- (i) Deaf; (ii) Hard of Hearing.

- **Speech and Language Disability.**

Intellectual Disability

- (i) Specific Learning Disabilities; (ii) Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Mental Illness

Chronic Neurological Conditions

- (i) Multiple Sclerosis; (ii) Parkinson's Disease

Blood Disorders

- (i) Haemophilia; (ii) Thalassemia; (iii) Sickle Cell Disease.

Multiple Disabilities including Deaf-Blindness

Data on Disability in India

a. Number of Persons with Disability in India- In India, there are around **26.8 million** persons with disabilities. It constitutes around **2.21% of India's total population** (2011 Census). There are around **14.9 million men** (2.41% of men) and

11.9 million women (2.01% of women) with disabilities.

Disabilities are **highest** in the age group **10-19 years** (46.2 lakh people). **69%** (18 million) of persons with disabilities reside in rural areas.

b. Disability % distribution- **20%** of persons with disabilities in India have a **disability in movement**, **19%** have **visual impairment**, **19%** have a **hearing impairment** and **8%** have **multiple disabilities**.

PwDs by Disability

Proportion of disabled Indian Population by type of disability



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What are the provisions for accessibility of persons with disabilities in India?

India as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Article 9 of the CRPD mandates measures to ensure equal access to physical spaces, transportation, communication, and public services. India, as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), is committed to promoting accessibility .
Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016	The RPwD Act aligns with the CRPD's objectives, and seeks to ensure a dignified, discrimination-free, and equitable life for persons with disabilities . The RPwD Rules (2017) were introduced to establish accessibility standards.

However, the Supreme Court noted a lack of enforcement mechanisms under the RPwD rules. The SC held that the rules offered self-regulatory guidelines.

A report by the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) has also highlighted the gaps in accessibility for persons with disabilities in India.

Highlights of the NALSAR Report	
Lack of Transport accessibility	There is huge interstate variation in the transport accessibility in India. In Delhi, 3,775 low-floor CNG buses were available for accessible travel , while Tamil Nadu lagged significantly, with only 1,917 out of 21,669 buses accessible for disabled travelling.
Intersectionality of accessibility with other challenges	The report noted that accessibility challenges were compounded by factors such as caste, gender, and region . For instance, Job portals often exclude visually impaired users, and lack of sign language recognition is disadvantageous for individuals with hearing and speech impairments.

What are the key highlights of the SC ruling on accessibility for disabled?

The SC ruling on accessibility for the disabled stems from a **2005 writ petition filed by Rajive Raturi**, a visually impaired petitioner advocating for safety and accessibility in public spaces.

Key highlights of the ruling-

- a. Mandatory Rules to be drafted by the central government-** The Court declared **Rule 15(1) of the RPwD Rules ultra vires**. The court held that the RPwD rules **only provided recommendatory guidelines**. It directed the Union government to **frame enforceable, "non-negotiable" standards within three months**.
- b. Stakeholder Consultation-** The government must consult stakeholders, including **NALSAR's Centre for Disability Studies (CDS)**, while drafting the rules.
- c. Compliance and Penalties-** The SC has directed that **non-compliance with accessibility standards would be penalized**. The penalty will include withholding completion certificates and imposing fines.

What other provisions have been made for persons with disabilities in India?

Constitutional Provisions

Preamble	The Preamble of the Indian Constitution seeks to secure social, economic and political justice to all citizens (which includes persons with disabilities) along with equality of status and of opportunity.
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Fundamental Rights	Dignity of the individual is the fundamental notion behind all the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. All fundamental rights are available to the persons with disabilities.
Directive Principles	Article 41 exhorts the State to make effective provisions for securing the right to work, education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disability. Article 46 provides that the state shall promote educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and protect them social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
Schedules of the Constitution	Relief of the Disabled is a State Subject (Entry 9 in List II) under the Seventh Schedule. Welfare of the Disabled and mentally retarded is listed as item 26 in the Eleventh Schedule and item 09 in the Twelfth Schedule.

Legal Provisions

The Mental Health Act, 2017	It replaced the Mental Health Act, 1987. It has been passed with the objective to provide for mental healthcare and related services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfill their rights.
The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016	This Act came into force in April 2017, and replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. It fulfils the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Act has several provisions for benefit of persons with disabilities- a. It has increased the magnitude of reservation for Persons with Disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes. b. It stresses to ensure accessibility in public buildings in a prescribed time frame.
The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992	It provided statutory status to the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI, established in 1986). The mandate given to RCI is to a. regulate and monitor services given to persons with disability b. standardize syllabi and to maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of all qualified professionals and personnel working in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education.
The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999	It has been enacted with the objective to provide for the constitution of a body at the National level for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The trust aims to provide total care to persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy and also manage the properties bequeathed to the Trust. The Trust strives to enable persons with disability to live independently by- (a) Promoting measures for their protection in case of death of their parents (b) Evolving procedures for appointment of their guardians and trustees (c) Facilitating equal opportunities in society.

Welfare Programmes

Accessible India Campaign	It aims for creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs. The aim of the Campaign is to make a barrier free and conducive environment for Persons
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	with Disabilities all over the country. The campaign targets three separate verticals for achieving universal accessibility (a) Built up environment; (b) Transportation ecosystem; (c) Information & Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem.
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	DDRS aims to create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities . Under DDRS, NGOs are provided with financial assistance for running their projects for the rehabilitation of persons with disability.
Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)	Its aim is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable and scientifically manufactured appliances . It is implemented by NGOs, National Institutes under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and ALIMCO (a PSU that manufactures artificial limbs). It helps promote their physical, social, and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential.
Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre	It promotes the use of sign language and also to develop human resources in the field.
National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)	It aims to work towards capacity building in the field of mental health rehabilitation . It also aims to develop community-based rehabilitation protocols for mainstreaming persons with mental illness who have been successfully cured.

What are the Challenges faced by the people suffering from disability?

1. Social Challenges- The following are the challenges faced by the people suffering from disability in India:

(a) Discrimination and Inequality: They face several types of discrimination like reluctance to hire PwDs for employment

(b) Loss of Social Status: Lack of opportunities results in lack of employment, money etc.

(c) Inhuman Treatment: People suffering from mental illness or mental retardation are subject to social exclusion

(d) Loss of Identity: The identity of PwDs becomes linked with their disability and become a subject of pity.

2. Barriers to Education- There is **lack of special schools** and **trained teachers** for children with learning disabilities. Persons with **visual impairment lack education materials** for their studies. Children with **learning disabilities** are shunned and not admitted to schools.

3. Lack of adequate Healthcare facilities- The persons with disabilities lack quality healthcare facilities which further marginalises them.

Barriers to Healthcare

According to WHO, people with disability encounter a range of barriers in accessing health care



Attitudinal Barriers

- Prejudice, stigma, discrimination by health service providers.
- Service providers lack knowledge about needs of the disabled.
- Women with disability face barriers to sexual, reproductive health services and information.



Communication Barriers

- Limited availability of written material or sign language interpreters at health services for persons with hearing impairment.
- Lack of information and prescription in accessible formats, like Braille or large print for persons with vision impairment.

Source: WHO



Physical Barriers

- Lack of appropriate infrastructure to access healthcare facilities like ramps to access passages, doorways, toilets on wheelchairs.
- Fixed-height furniture, including examination beds and chairs, can be difficult for people with disability to use.
- Lack of healthcare facilities in remote areas.



Financial Barriers

- Over half of all people with disability in low-income countries cannot afford proper health care.
- Inability to afford the costs associated with travelling to a health service and paying for medicine.

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Figure 4. Created By- Forum IAS

4. Prevalence of Unemployment-

Disabled persons have lower employment rates. Private sector is reluctant to hire PwDs due to stereotypes and stigma. It impacts their ability to be financially independent and be self-sufficient.

5. Accessibility-

Lack of appropriate disabled-friendly physical infrastructure

creates accessibility issues for persons suffering with disabilities. For ex- PwDs find it difficult to commute in public transportation, or access buildings.

What are the SC guidelines to prevent stereotyping and discrimination of Persons with Disabilities?

1. Avoiding Derogatory Language- The court has emphasized on avoiding words that cultivate institutional discrimination, such as 'cripple' and 'spastic'. These words contribute to negative self-image and perpetuate discriminatory attitudes. Also, language and words that individualize the impairment and overlook disabling social barriers, like 'afflicted', 'suffering' and 'victim', should be avoided.

2. Focus on Accurate Representation- The court has held that stereotyping of differently abled persons in visual media and films must end. Creators must focus on providing an accurate representation of disabilities rather than mocking them. Creators should practice the principle of "nothing about us, without us," and involve persons with disabilities in the creation and assessment of visual media content.

3. Creative Freedom vs Marginalizing Portrayals- The court has clarified that creative freedom of filmmakers cannot include the freedom to lampoon, stereotype, misrepresent or disparage marginalized communities. If the overall message of the content infringes with the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), then the right of creative freedom will not be protected.

4. Collaboration with Disability Advocacy Groups- The court has emphasized on collaboration with disability advocacy groups to gain insights and guidance on respectful and accurate portrayals. The training programmes for writers, directors, producers, and actors must be developed to emphasize the impact of portrayals on public perceptions and experiences of PwDs.

SC Guidelines to prevent Stereotyping of persons with disabilities

<p>Avoiding Derogatory Language</p>	<p>Words that cultivate institutional discrimination, such as "cripple" and "spastic", and words that individualizes the impairment such as "afflicted," "suffering" and "victim" should be avoided. These words contribute to negative self-image and perpetuate discriminatory attitudes.</p>
<p>Accurate Representation</p>	<p>Creators must provide an accurate representation of disabilities rather than mocking them. Creators should practice the principle of "nothing about us, without us," and involve persons with disabilities in the creation and assessment of visual media content.</p>
<p>Creative Freedom vs Marginalizing Portrayals</p>	<p>Creative freedom of filmmakers cannot include the freedom to lampoon, stereotype, misrepresent or disparage marginalized communities.</p>
<p>Collaboration with Disability Advocacy Groups</p>	<p>The film makers should collaborate with disability advocacy groups to gain insights and guidance on respectful and accurate portrayals. Training programmes for writers, directors, producers, and actors should be conducted for real portrayal of challenges of PwDs.</p>

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What Should be the Way Forward?

- 1. Accommodation and Inclusion-** There is a need to **identify opportunities** to better accommodate people with disabilities in Society- like **providing better education, equal opportunity in job, and initiating them to take active part in social and political decision**.
- 2. Greater Social Sensitisation-** The focus must be on overcoming stigma is necessary in order to facilitate better integration of Persons with Disabilities into the mainstream. People need to be **educated and be sensitized about the challenges faced by PwDs**. **For ex-** Use of the term "**Divyangjan**" to address persons with disabilities.

3. Preventive Measures for early prevention of disabilities- Scaling up **The Comprehensive Newborn Screening (CNS) programme** under the **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram** for early detection and prevention of disabilities.

4. Interventions in Public Policy- A larger portion of the budget should be allocated to the welfare of disabled people. There ought to be **budgeting for people with disabilities** in line with the **gender budget**.

Read More- [The Indian Express](#)

UPSC Syllabus- GS II, Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.