



Civil's IAS
Empowering Nation

MRP: ₹ 30

Weekly Current Affairs Compilations

A holistic magazine for UPSC Prelims, Mains and Interview Preparation

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- c. Weekly MCQs and ANSWER WRITING Tests
- d. 24 x 7 AC Library facilities
- e. Weekly Performance Report of students.
- f. Revision Lecture before Prelims and Mains exam
- g. Personal mentorship to students

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3. DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING (Online / Offline)

- a. Total 16 Questions and 1 Essay per Week
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- a. MCQs and Answer Writing tests based on NCERT 6 - 12th Standards

5. PRELIMS 2020 TEST SERIES (Online / Offline)

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7. MOCK INTERVIEW

- a. Interview and one to one Feedback session with experienced panels.
- b. Recorded CDs of the same will be provided to students

8. GS MAINS - MARKS ENHANCEMENT SERIES [MES]

- a. Coverage of General Studies 1,2,3,4 and ESSAY topics to boost students marks in Mains examination.

9. OPTIONAL

- a. Geography
- b. Gujarati Literature
- c. Anthropology
- d. Political Science
- e. Sociology
- f. Philosophy

INDEX

MAINS TOPICS (Handwritten Notes)

1. CIVIL SOCIETY

PRELIMS and MAINS TOPICS

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FACTS for ANSWER WRITING

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- Fact 2 ENERGY
- Fact 3 SOCIAL SECTOR
- Fact 4 ECONOMY

MODEL ANSWER

1. CIVIL SERVICE



CIVIL SOCIETY

- need of Civil Society
- Importance
- Challenges

What is Civil Society?

- NGOs → Non government
→ Non profit
- SHGs - Self Help Groups
- Donors
- Charities
- Trusts
- Pressure / Interest Groups
- Association



Need of Civil Society

⇒ Society Grievances

↳ Elite class $\xrightarrow{\text{voice}}$ reach government directly

- Money (Resources)
- population (Dominance)

↳ Middle class $\xrightarrow{\text{Media}}$ largest consumer (Consuming class)

↳ Poor $\xrightarrow{\text{Civil society}}$ if no one represent them then poor will revolt

⇒ Development

↳ Government \rightarrow lack resources
lack scale

↳ private \rightarrow profit motive

↳ Civil society \rightarrow service role



Importance

⇒ Develop Social Capital in society

↳ Attitude, Spirit and willingness of people to engage in collective Civil Activities

↳ social network

↳ It is features of social organisation including networks, norms and trust that facilitate Co-ordination & Co-operation for mutual Benefit.

Benefits of social Capital

→ Lower Crime Rates - no resentment, Dispute settlement

→ ↑ in Individual Income - micro enterprises

→ promote Co-operative Behaviours

↳ limit Self centred Behaviours ↳ Community Building
↳ facilitate pooling of resources

→ Individual Benefits

↳ well connected people are more likely to be hired, housed, healthy and happier.

↳ sense of Belonging.



⇒ facilitates people participation

- ↳ Induce innovation in policy making
- ↳ demanding public
- ↳ ↑ Responsiveness
- ↳ ↑ Accountability
- ↳ ↑ Effectiveness

⇒ give voice to marginalised sections by empowering them & articulating their needs.

- ↳ Knowledge dissemination
- ↳ Capacity Building

⇒ Act as medium / bridge to reach people

- ↳ 1st line of defence, reach where govt is unable to reach

↳ philanthropy

↳ Activists - mobilise public opinion

- expertise

- persuade govt

⇒ provide feedback from their practical experience & grass root level → govt can make course correction.



⇒ helps govt to legislate progressive laws

- ↳ planning
 - ↳ formulation
 - ↳ Implementation
 - ↳ Execution
- } with well developed grass root networks.

⇒ social Audit - Community based Auditing
Accountability

⇒ Act as watch dog for govt, protection of human Rights

- ↳ ensure Accountability
 - ↳ Transparency
- } divulge nepotism & favoritism

⇒ Disaster management



Self - Help Groups

→ It is an informal association of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions

⇒ functions

↳ to encourage & motivate its members to save

↳ persuade them to make collective plan for generation of additional income.

↳ micro-credit

↳ setting of micro-enterprises

• tailors

• grocery

• repairing shops

↳ platform to community where members can discuss and resolve important issues of mutual concern



⇒ Benefits

- improving women status in society as well as family
 - ↳ social - Economic conditions
 - ↳ Informed Citizens
- Reduce dependency on informal money-lenders
 - ↳ no exploitation
 - ↳ independence to pursue any economic adventure
- participating households spends more on education
- Reduced child mortality
 - maternal Health
 - nutrition
 - better housing
- Agriculture
 - ↳ market linkages
- Community Bonding which will break several social bonds - Community harmony
- Demand their rights.



⇒ Challenges of SHGs

- Economic gains are not adequate to bring qualitative change in their lives
- All members doesn't benefit equally
- No/ few skill upgradation
- Extension to urban areas - Informal sector
 - migrant
 - urban poor
- Livelihood projects hinge on ability of human beings to mobilise & co-operate
 - ↳ In rural areas it is difficult to co-operate due to different social norms
 - ↳ pattern of inequality
 - ↳ local politics
 - ↳ geographical variations
 - ↳ level of literacy.

PRELIMS and MAINS TOPICS

TOPIC 1. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- The opening hearing before a 9-judge Supreme Court Bench, constituted to give an authoritative pronouncement on nature of religious freedom under Constitution, has revealed conceptual confusion over reference made to it.
 - The Bench headed by Chief Justice of India has asked lawyers to “re-frame” issues, or add to them, following submissions that questions framed by a Bench of 5 judges were too broad.
 - Further, CJI has clarified that SC will not be deciding petitions seeking a review of verdict in Sabarimala temple case. Instead, it would limit itself to “larger questions” such as
 - interplay between freedom of religion and other fundamental rights; and*
 - extent to which courts can probe whether a particular practice is essential to that religion or not.*
 - “We will decide questions of law on women’s entry into mosques / temples, genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras, entry of Parsi women who marry outside the community into the fire temple. We will not decide the individual facts of each case.”
 - It would be prudent if this approach means that Bench would set out limits of freedom of religion, against which such practices can be tested and their legality determined.
 - However, it would be unwise if examination of every discriminatory practice becomes a fresh treatise on Articles 25 and 26, instead of being subjected to a simple test whether particular practice is protected by **freedom of religion**, or can be curbed on grounds of “**public order, morality and health**”.
- A signal flaw in the reference is that it did not emanate from Benches before which these matters were pending. Normally, such issues are referred to a larger Bench only if Court is faced with apparently contradictory precedents or feels that settled law requires reconsideration.
- A 5-judge Bench, while hearing Sabarimala review petitions, had referred a set of questions to a larger Bench. But two dissenting judges had pointed out that it was up to Benches before which such cases came up to decide whether they should go by existing precedent or refer matter to larger Benches for fresh consideration.
- That strength of Bench was fixed at 9 may indicate that court is leaving scope for revisiting 1954 7-judge Bench decision in Shirur Mutt case, holding that religious denominations had autonomy to decide what religious practices were essential to them.
- A reconsideration of this “**essentiality doctrine**” will be useful only if it is a means to rid court of burden of entering theological thicket. However, even without revisiting judgment courts have often given verdicts that protect individual rights and uphold equality and dignity over regressive religious practices.

Points to ponder

Seven issues were framed by the five-judge Review Bench for the larger Bench. They form the crux but may be re-framed for future hearing before the nine-judge Bench. The ‘broad’ issues are:



Not restricting itself to the Sabarimala case, the Bench will examine larger issues of law.

- What should be the interplay between freedom of religion under Articles 25 and 26 and the right to equality under Article 14?
- Right to practice religion is subject to ‘public order, morality and health’ under Article 25(1). What do these terms actually mean?
- Is constitutional morality the over-arching morality in reference to the Preamble or limited to religious beliefs or faith?
- Should and, if so, how far can a court enquire into whether a

religious practice is essential to a particular faith?

- What is the meaning of the expression ‘sections of Hindus’ appearing in Article 25(2)(b) of the Constitution?

- Whether ‘essential religious practices’ deserve constitutional protection under Article 26?

- What is the extent to which courts should entertain PILs questioning religious practices filed by a third person who is not a member of that faith?

TOPIC 2. EDUCATION

1. One of big debates in early childhood education is on children's "school readiness" and whether early childhood education provides them with requisite skills to cope with school curriculum.
2. In terms of what children learn in school, one of big debates is whether children in private schools perform better than those in government schools. In Indian context, consensus seems to be that a large proportion of differences in learning levels of children enrolled in private and government schools can be attributed to "home factors".
3. According to grade 1 curriculum, children are supposed to be able to identify and read words and simple sentences. According to Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2019, **21% children in grade one of government schools could read words compared to 46.7% in private schools** — an advantage of 122%. How is this possible? Is this a fair comparison? Are we comparing apples with apples? The answer is clearly no.
 - a. First, the age distribution in grade one of government schools is very different from that in private schools. The Right to Education and national policy mandates that children enter grade one at age six. However, **26.1% children in grade one of government schools are four or five years old compared to 15.7% in private schools**. At the other end of the spectrum, 30.4% children in grade one of government schools are seven-eight years old compared to 45.4% in private schools. Therefore, comparing learning levels in grade one between government and private schools becomes problematic. **The higher learning levels in grade one, in private schools, may be partly because grade one in those schools has a higher proportion of older children.**
 - b. Second, it is well known that children who go to private schools come from relatively affluent backgrounds. They also tend to have more educated parents. This affords them certain advantages which are not available to children who are from less advantaged families and are more likely to attend government schools. For instance, **30% of government school grade one children, in the ASER 2019 sample, had mothers who had never been to school compared to only 12% of grade one private school children**. Further, 27.3% of grade one children in private schools had private tutors compared to 19.5% in government schools.
 - c. Third, **early childhood education is supposed to prepare children for school. Children are supposed to be exposed to activities that build their cognitive abilities and early literacy and numeracy skills**. For instance, National Early Childhood Care and Education curriculum framework talks about developing skills related to sequential thinking, predicting patterns, observing, reasoning and problem solving in the pre-school stage. These cognitive and early language skills are highly correlated with child's ability to acquire further language skills. Therefore, children who enter grade one better prepared with these skills are likely to perform better. For instance, among cognitive tasks administered in ASER 2019 (seriation, pattern recognition and puzzle) only 23.8% children of grade one in government schools could do all three tasks compared to 43.1% in private schools.
 - d. Once we consider all these factors — **age distribution in grade one, home factors such as affluence, mother's education, home learning environment and some baseline abilities** that children enter grade one with, private schools still have a learning advantage.
4. **Pre-school learning**
 - a. What **private pre-schools are doing is to start children on the school-based curriculum in pre-school itself**. In other words, the private sector keeps children longer in pre-school and exposes them to school-like curricula even before they have entered school. For instance, 14% children in anganwadis could recognise letters or more compared to 52.9% in private pre-schools; and 12.9% children in these private pre-schools were already reading words (something they are supposed to learn in grade one) compared to 2.9% in anganwadis. It is not surprising, therefore, that children from private pre-schools perform better in school.
 - b. Finally, children in anganwadis do worse than private pre-school children on cognitive as well as early language tasks such as picture description. For instance, while 23.4% of private pre-school children could do all three cognitive tasks, only about half (12%) of the children in anganwadis could do them.
5. India has a huge investment in its early childhood programme, administered through 1.2 million anganwadis under the **Integrated Child Development Services Scheme**. The findings of ASER 2019 make a clear case for **strengthening these early childhood education centres** so that they implement appropriate "school-readiness"

activities. A case can also be made for streamlining the curriculum at the pre-school stage so that all pre-schools focus on activities that build cognitive and early literacy and numeracy skills. These will aid further learning.

ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT (ASER) 2019

1. ASER 2019, released by **NGO Pratham**
2. ASER surveyors visited almost 37,000 children between 4 and 8 years in 26 rural districts across 24 States. They asked each child to do a variety of tasks, testing cognitive skills as well as simple literacy and numeracy tests.
3. Only **16%** of children in Class 1 can read text at prescribed level, while almost **40%** cannot even recognize letters.
4. Only **41%** of these children could recognize two digit numbers.
5. Class 1 children who could correctly do none or only one of tasks requiring cognitive skills, about **14%** could read words, while **19%** could do single digit addition.
6. children who could correctly do all three cognitive tasks, **52%** could read words, and **63%** could solve math problem.
7. **SOLUTION:**
 - a. *not to spend longer hours teaching children the 3Rs.*
 - b. *focus on cognitive skills rather than subject learning in early years can make a big difference to basic literacy and numeracy abilities.*
8. **Underage children**
 - a. **permitting underage children into primary grades puts them at a learning disadvantage which is difficult to overcome.**
 - b. primary classroom could include students from a range of age-groups, skewing towards younger children in government schools.
 - c. More than a quarter of Class 1 students in government schools are only 4 or 5 years old, younger than the recommended age. These children struggle more than others in all skills.
 - d. Global research shows that **90% of brain growth occurs by age 5**, meaning that quality of early childhood education has a crucial impact on development and schooling of a child.
9. **FACTORS determining quality of education received at this stage,**
 - a. child's home background, especially mother's education level;
 - b. type of school, and
 - c. child's age in Class 1.
10. Based on a series of tests administered to children **"children's performance on tasks requiring cognitive skills is strongly related to their ability to do early language and numeracy tasks."**

LOCATION DECIDES THE CLASS

Findings of Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2019

PRE-SCHOOL & SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PATTERNS

- > 90% of children in the 4-8 age group are enrolled in some type of educational institution
- > This proportion increases with age, from 91.3% of all 4-year-olds to 99.5% of all 8-year-olds in sampled districts
- > Among 4- and 5-year-old children, 56.8% girls and 50.4% boys are enrolled in government pre-schools or schools, while 43.2% girls and 49.6% boys are enrolled in private pre-schools or schools
- > For 6- to 8-year-olds, 61.1% of all girls versus 52.1% of all boys in this age group are going to a government institution

CHILDREN IN THE PRE-SCHOOL AGE GROUP (AGE 4-5)

- > What a 5-year-old is doing depends largely on where she lives
- > For example, in Thrissur, Kerala, 89.9% of 5-year-olds are in a pre-primary grade and almost all the rest are in Class I
- > But in East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, just 65.8% are in pre-school, 9.8% are in Class I, and 16% are in Class II
- > Among the preprimary age group, children with mothers who had completed eight or fewer years of schooling are more likely to be attending anganwadis or government pre-primary classes
- > Whereas whose mothers studied beyond the elementary stage are more likely to be enrolled in private LKG/UKG classes

CHILDREN IN CLASS I

- > Kids in Class I in government schools are younger than those in the same grade in private schools

CHILDREN IN EARLY PRIMARY GRADES (CLASS I, II, III)

- > Children's ability to read Class I level text improves from 16.2% of children in Class I to 50.8% children in Class III
- > Half of all children in Class III are already at least two years behind where the curriculum expects them to be



Learning levels

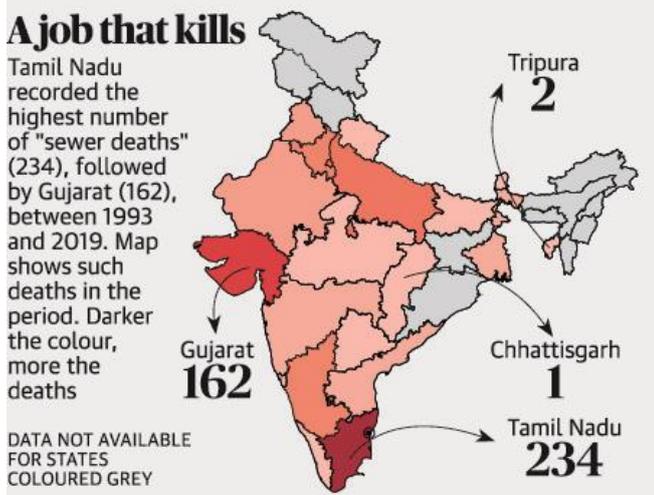
Five-year-old children in private schools fared better in learning tasks than those in govt. schools and anganwadis

% of students who completed the tasks	Govt. pre-school	Private kindergarten
COGNITIVE TASKS		
Sorting	77.5	87.2
Pattern recognition	43.4	49.9
BASIC LANGUAGE		
Picture description	63.7	76.6
Listening comprehension	23.5	40.4
BASIC MATHS		
Counting objects	36.8	57.6



TOPIC 3. SEWER DEATHS

1. Of 926 deaths inside sewers in country, from 1993 till December 31, 2019, families of 172 victims were yet to receive compensation, with Gujarat having highest number of cases where amount was not paid or payment was unconfirmed (48), while Maharashtra was yet to pay or confirm payment of compensation in any of its 32 cases, according to National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).
2. **Lagging behind**
 - a. During a meeting of Central Monitoring Committee under **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, which is meant to review implementation of law on January 8, States that were found lagging behind in rehabilitation of manual scavengers were asked to comply soon.
 - b. most of sewer death cases since 1993, when NCSK was established, compensation to families of victims had been paid.
 - c. **Tamil Nadu**, which had highest number of such deaths, had paid compensation in all but 7 of 234 cases.
 - d. **Gujarat** was yet to pay or confirm payment in 48 of 162 sewer deaths and in 31 of those cases, legal heir could not be traced.
3. **Practice continues**
 - a. According to NCSK, a total of 53,598 people, of which 29,923 were in Uttar Pradesh alone, had been identified as engaged in manual scavenging after surveys in 2013 and 2018. **One-time cash assistance** had been disbursed in 35,397 cases, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for 19,385 such people.
 - b. **Capital subsidy and skill development training** had been provided to 1,007 and 7,383 of the identified manual scavengers, respectively.
 - c. As per provisions of Act, District Vigilance Committees had been constituted in 21 States / Union Territories, State Monitoring Committees in 26, and State Commissions for Safai Karamcharis in 8.
 - d. Social Justice Minister, who chairs the monitoring committee, had issued instructions to State governments during meeting to comply with Act.



Scale of problem

- 1 death recorded every third day this year due to manual scavenging
- 31 deaths already this year
- 1,821 recorded deaths so far

The sanitation workers have sought the introduction of a 'right to live card' for free access to education, healthcare and employment

The manifesto seeks 5 rights

1 Freedom from manual scavenging

- Dedicated Parliament session on manual scavenging deaths and rehab
- White paper on steps taken so far
- Inclusion of manual scavenging in NCRB data

2 Rehabilitation in non-sanitation sector

- 1% of Budget be reserved for the sector
- Separate ministry for manual scavengers under PMO
- Provision of a ₹50-lakh grant instead of loan schemes
- Govt. job for female member of scavenger family

3 Right to live with dignity

- DM/DC be held responsible for deaths in their areas; FIR should be filed
- Parameters be fixed for declaring manual scavenging-free areas and progress monitored

4 Right to get educated

- Coaching centres be set up
- Additional marks in competitive exams due to inherent disadvantage

5 Right to healthcare

- Regular health camps in residential clusters of sanitation workers
- Provisions of anganwadi and creche for children

Scavengers' plight

The study conducted by Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan on deaths due to sewer and septic tank cleaning throws up some interesting facts

Legal proceedings

FIRs filed: **35%** of cases

Not filed: **59%**

Do not know: **6%**

Prosecution: **0%**



Compensation: Cash compensation awarded in only **31%** of the cases

Rehabilitation:

Beneficiaries under Self-Employment scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS): **0%**

Alternative jobs given: **0%**

Children benefitted under the Pre-Metric Scholarship Scheme: **0%**

Prevention: (via compliance under the Rules of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013)

Section 4 (Employers obliged to

provide protective gears and safety devices): **100% violation**

Section 5 (Local authority obliged to provide cleaning devices): **100% violation**

Section 6 (Employer and local authority obliged to provide protective measures): **100% violation**, except for clauses providing for presence of supervisor and completion of work in daylight

Section 7 (Employer and local authority obliged to provide protective measures after completion of work): **100% violation**

TOPIC 4. SUPREME COURT / HIGH COURT JUDGEMENTS

TRIPURA HIGH COURT

1. Tripura HC has ordered **police to refrain from prosecuting a man who was earlier arrested over a social media post**. Chief Justice also barred **police from making any further arrests in connection with case**.
2. Chief Justice passed order on Friday after lawyers moved court against arrest and harassment of Youth Congress activist Arindam Bhattacharjee over his post on a social media platform.
3. **Govt. staff included**
 - a. Chief Justice in his order remarked that **posting on social media was tantamount to a "fundamental right" applicable to all citizens, including government employees**.
 - b. In compliance with court's order, police have now erased Sections 120(B) and 153(A) of Indian Penal Code from First Information Report.

SUPREME COURT – RIGHT TO PROPERTY

1. **A citizen's right to own private property is a fundamental right**. The State cannot take possession of it without following due procedure and authority of law, Supreme Court held in a judgment on January 8.
 - a. **The State cannot trespass into the private property of a citizen and then claim ownership of the land in the name of 'adverse possession', the court said, adding that grabbing private land and then claiming it as its own makes the State an encroacher.**
2. **In a welfare state, right to property is a human right**, said a Bench of Indu Malhotra and Ajay Rastogi.
 - a. **"A welfare state cannot be permitted to take the plea of adverse possession, which allows a trespasser i.e. a person guilty of a tort, or even a crime, to gain legal title over such property for over 12 years. The State cannot be permitted to perfect its title over land by invoking doctrine of adverse possession to grab the property of its own citizens,"**
3. SC was hearing a plea filed by Vidya Devi, a widow, whose four acres of land was taken over by Himachal Pradesh government in 1967. "The appellant [Ms. Devi] being an illiterate widow, coming from a rural background, was wholly unaware of her rights and entitlement in law, and did not file any proceedings for compensation...". When Ms. Devi, 80, learnt about her rights in 2010 from her neighbors, who had also lost their property, she approached HP HC. However, when HC asked her to file a civil suit in lower court, she moved SC.
4. **Authority of law**
 - a. Ordering the State to pay her ₹1 crore in compensation, **Supreme Court noted that in 1967, 'right to private property was still a fundamental right' under Article 31 of the Constitution**.
 - b. Property ceased to be a fundamental right with the 44th Constitution Amendment in 1978.
 - c. Nevertheless, **Article 300A required State to follow due procedure and authority of law to deprive a person of his or her private property**, Supreme Court reminded government.

SUPREME COURT – SEC 144

1. The orders of restriction issued under **Section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) could not be used as a tool to suppress legitimate expression, opinion and grievances in a democracy**, SC ruled.
2. Referring to submissions by petitioners that police were still restricting movement of people during day in Jammu and Kashmir, court said it was neither proper nor correct on part of State to resort to such acts. **"If a government thinks there is a threat to law and order, it must follow due procedure, taking into consideration rights of citizens and pass only appropriate and need-based restrictive orders"**.
3. The court noted that orders issued under Section 144 in Jammu and Kashmir did not explain that restrictions were imposed in anticipation of a threat to law and order or to prevent loss of life and property. This was even though government had argued that restrictions were imposed because of erstwhile State's history of cross-border terrorism and infiltration and other security issues. **Divergent views and disapproval of government action could not lead to imposition of Section 144.**
4. **The power was meant to be used only in case of public emergency or in interest of public safety.**
5. **Magistrates could not apply a straitjacket formula without assessing objective and material facts. Restrictions could not be excessive in nature or duration.**
6. On contention whether Section 144 could be invoked against public in general or against specific groups or persons, court referred to Madhu Limaye judgment that a general order could be passed if the number of persons was so large that a distinction could not be made without risk.

SUPREME COURT – “ACCESS TO INTERNET” IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT.

1. In its 130-page judgment directing the government to “forthwith” review its orders suspending Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, the court merely confined itself **to declaring that the freedoms of speech, expression and conducting business on the Internet are fundamental rights integral to Article 19 of the Constitution and subject to reasonable restrictions.**
2. “None of counsels have argued for declaring right to access the Internet as a fundamental right and therefore we are not expressing any view on same,” Justice Ramana, who authored the verdict, wrote.
3. **The court clarified that right to free speech and expression includes right to disseminate information.**
4. **State cannot restrict or deny free speech on Internet because medium can circulate information widely.**

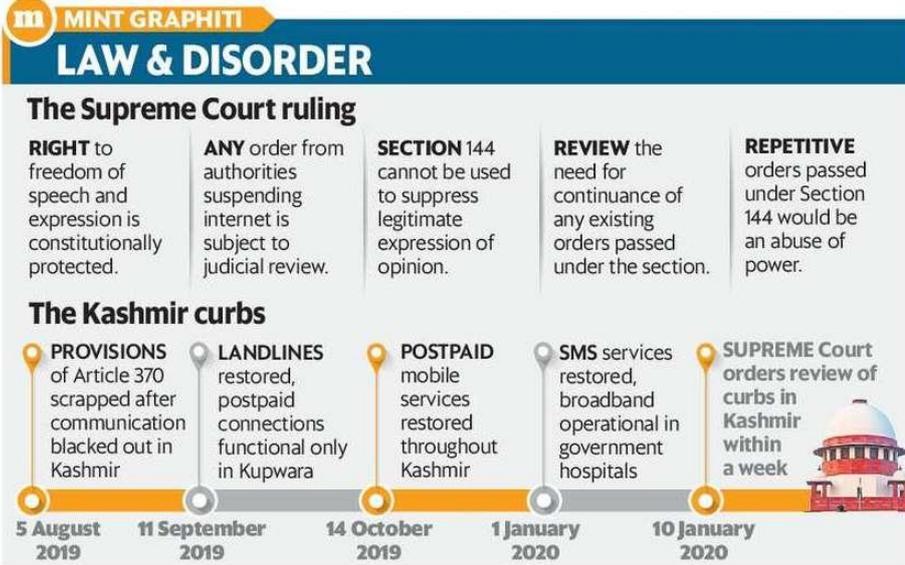


Chart 1
Most cited Supreme Court judgements*



*Only in the apex court

Source: Indian Kanoon, Mint research

Chart 2
Most cited SC judgements in all the courts



Source: Indian Kanoon, Mint research

Number as on 17 September 2018

**Rau wasn't officially part of the committee, but served as a constitutional advisor.

Most cited architects of our Constitution



B.R. Ambedkar is cited nearly four times more than any other member of the drafting committee of the Constitution

Source: Indian Kanoon, Mint research

TOPIC 5. INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C)

- The I4C is a seven-pronged system, which includes a
 - National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit,
 - National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal,
 - National Cyber Crime Training Centre,
 - Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit,
 - National Cyber Crime Research and Innovation Centre,
 - National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem and
 - Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Team
- At the initiative of **Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA)**, 15 States and UTs have given their consent to set up Regional Cyber Crime Coordination Centers at respective States/UTs.
- Special focus**
 - On August 30, MHA had unveiled its **NATIONAL CYBER CRIME REPORTING PORTAL**.
 - “citizens can report any kind of cybercrime irrespective of the place where it has occurred” through website.
 - The portal enables filing of all cybercrimes with specific focus on
 - crimes against women, children, particularly child pornography,
 - child sex abuse material,
 - online content pertaining to rapes / gang rapes.
 - So far, more than 700 police districts and more than 3,900 police stations have been connected with this portal.
 - In future, this portal will provide for chatbot for automated interactive assistance system to public for guidance on cybercrime prevention and how to report incidents on portal.

MORE VULNERABLE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyber attack incidents reported by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) rose from 53,081 in 2017 to 208,456 in 2018, an increase of about 292% Network scanning, probing, and vulnerable services accounted for over 61% of these incidents The cyber security products market in India is expected to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grow at a CAGR of 17% by 2022 The BFSI sector accounts for 26% of the total expenditure in the cyber security market The sector is expected to increase its expenditure to \$810 million from the existing \$518 million by 2022, a CAGR of 16%
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BIG TARGET

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of cyberattacks from IoT deployments registered 22% growth compared to the previous quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical infrastructure projects are at high risk of malware attacks India among the most-attacked nations in the world for the second consecutive quarter A strong 'geopolitical influence' noted in some of the attacks on critical infrastructure Mumbai, Delhi NCR and Bengaluru among the most attacked cities Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia are top countries of origin for cyberattacks on India
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WHO'S ATTACKING YOU?

The popular notion of a hacker is that of a geek typing away in a dark room to make a quick buck. The reality is quite different.

Hacker (Experimental/vandal)	Cyber-criminal	Hactivist (Hacker-activist)	State sponsored	Malicious insiders	Non-malicious insiders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tries out new things or defaces a site to gain fame. Eg. Syrian Electronic Army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes financial gains directly (transferring money from a bank account) or indirectly (stealing passwords and selling them) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes a political or social agenda. Eg. Anonymous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States engage in cyber warfare by attacking entities with the intention of stealing information or creating damage. Eg. North Korean hackers breaching Sony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eg. In 2011, Jason Cornish, an IT staffer, hacked his employer Shionogi (a drug company), causing \$800,000 damages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An employee carelessly gives a malicious attacker access to the company's network
40%	46%	20%	17%	29%	41%

Source: State of Cybersecurity Report 2015, ISACA ● % of companies attacked in 2014 ● Type of Attacker ● Motive

TOPIC 6. UNDER-5 GIRLS MORTALITY

- India is among few countries in world where in 2018 **mortality for girls under 5 years of age exceeded that of boys** according to 'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality' report by United Nations (UN) inter-agency group for child mortality.
 - fewer countries showed gender disparities in child mortality and across world, boys are expected to have a higher probability of dying before reaching age 5 than girls. But this trend was not reflected in India.
 - "In some countries, the risk of dying before age 5 for girls is significantly higher than what would be expected based on global patterns. These countries are primarily located in Southern Asia and Western Asia,"**
- According to India's 2017 Sample Registration System, States with highest burden of neonatal mortality are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, with 32, 33 and 30 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births respectively. **India's neonatal mortality rate is 23 per 1,000 live births.**
- Further, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttarakhand showed **largest gender gaps in under-5 mortality.**
- "The burden of child mortality is determined both by the mortality rate (proportion of children who die) and by estimated population of any given State (total number of annual births). In this sense, Uttar Pradesh is State with highest number of estimated newborn deaths in India, both because of high neonatal mortality rate and because of large cohort of births that occur every year in State,"** noted information released by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).
- Half of all under-5 deaths in 2018 occurred in five countries: **India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.** India and Nigeria alone account for about a third.
- The major causes of neonatal mortality are **pre-term birth, intrapartum related events, and neonatal infection.**
- despite advancements made over past 2 decades, child or young adolescent died every 5 seconds in 2018.
- "Current trends predict that close to 10 million 5- to 14-year-olds, and 52 million children under 5 years of age, will die between 2019 and 2030,"**

Wide gap

Among bigger States in India, the gender gap in the under-five mortality rate was most pronounced in Jharkhand (girls: 38 and boys: 30). Madhya Pradesh had the highest overall under-five mortality (55) while Kerala had the least (12)

State	Under-five mortality rate (girls)	Under-five mortality rate (boys)	Gap	Under-five mortality rate
Jharkhand	38	30	8	34
Assam	51	45	6	48
Haryana	38	32	6	35
Uttar Pradesh	48	43	5	46
Rajasthan	45	41	4	43
Bihar	43	39	4	41

■ Among the **5.3 million** under-five deaths in 2018, **2.9 million** were of boys and **2.4 million** of girls

■ On average, **15,000** children died before age 5 every day in 2018 compared to **34,000** in 1990 and **27,000** in 2000



Under-five mortality of girls in Kerala was 11

TOPIC 7. OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI)

1. In reply to RTI application on number of OCI cards issued from January 1, 2000, to November 26, 2019, Ministry said: "As per data available, 34,21,337 OCI registration/OCI card have been issued."
2. To subsequent questions seeking year-wise data on number of OCI cards issued or cancelled, Ministry said: "**Information related to year-wise issuance of OCI registration or year-wise cancellation of grant of registration as OCI cardholder is not available in a consolidated form. It may please be noted that the contents of these paras remain outside the mandate and scope of the RTI Act, 2005.**"
3. While responding to another question on major reasons for cancelling the OCI cards, the Ministry replied, "Information sought is not available," however, it "could be cancelled on grounds mentioned in Section 7(D) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which is available in the public domain."
4. **Section 7(D) says the OCI registration may be cancelled**
 - a. if it was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or concealment of any material fact;
 - b. if the overseas citizen of India has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India, or unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy (in case of a war) or has been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years within five years after registration as an OCI, or if it is necessary to do so in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India.
5. **BENEFITS:** OCI scheme provides facilities such as
 - a. lifelong visa, exemption from registration with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office and parity with non-resident Indians (NRIs) in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural properties.
 - b. No parity is allowed in the sphere of political and public employment rights.

Drawing diaspora closer

Overseas Citizenship of India offers eligible persons of Indian origin multiple entry, life-long visa to India

- OCI card holders have parity with NRIs in financial, economic and educational fields except in acquiring agricultural property. Citizens of Pakistan and Bangladesh are not eligible to apply

Some of the recent relaxations given to OCI holders:

- Children and spouse of foreign military/police personnel either in service or retired have been made eligible for being considered for registration

- Similar relaxation has been extended to foreign nationals working in private security agencies, Home



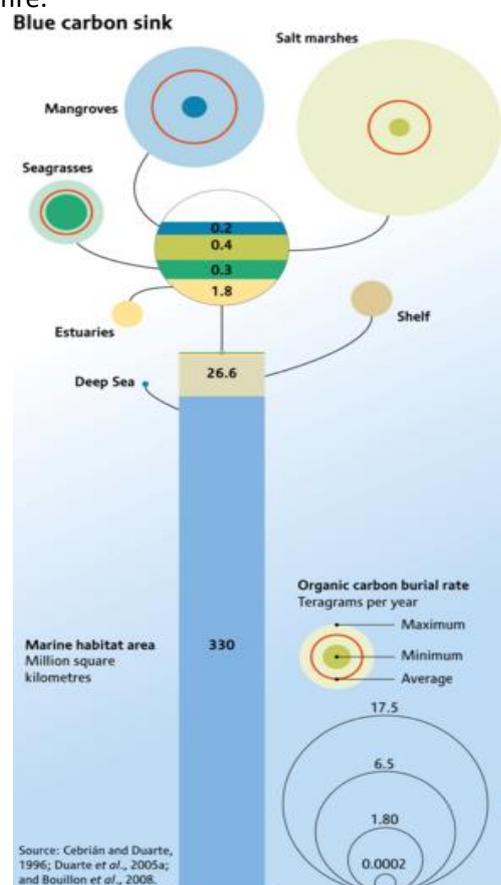
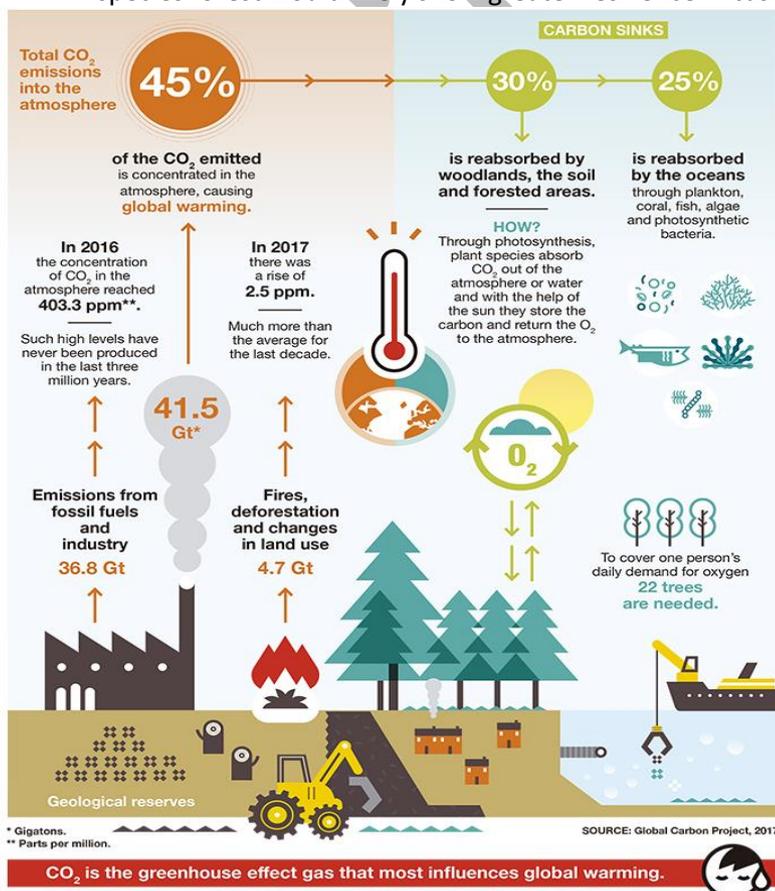
Offices, prisons, National Probation Service and companies or organisations associated with Home Office or military institutions i.e. those who are not directly employed in military or police

- Foreigner Regional Registration Offices and Indian Missions have been empowered to decide on the OCI application cases of minor children born out of wedlock, IVF/surrogacy cases and adoption cases. These cases were earlier being referred to the MHA.

Source: Annual report of Ministry of Home Affairs 2018 - 2019

TOPIC 8. CARBON SINK

1. 6 months surveys in **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** and using satellite data from multiple locations in **Western Ghats**.
 - a. **carbon storage was highest in species-rich evergreen forest.**
 - b. **rate of carbon capture was more stable across years in forests than in plantations and carbon capture by forests was more resilient to drought.**
2. **Varied terrain**
 - a. **eucalyptus plantations had comparatively lower carbon storage, while teak plantations stored nearly as much carbon as deciduous forests.**
 - b. Team identified trees, measured their girth and height in 250 sq plots inside **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** and used measurements to estimate carbon storage in different forests and plantation types. They then used satellite data from **Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Tiger Reserve, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and Bhadra Tiger Reserve** to assess rate of carbon capture and how they varied across years (2000-2018). Annual rainfall and stressors like drought were all taken into consideration.
 - c. **species-rich evergreen forests stored carbon at approximately 300 tons per hectare.** storage in teak and eucalyptus plantations was 43% and 55% less, respectively. The researchers also found that the rates of carbon capture remained nearly the same year after year in natural forests compared with plantations.
 - d. "This study can help transform reforestation policies. Currently, **over half of compensatory afforestation plantations use 5 species or less, which is way lower than in natural forests and totally inadequate. This is not good for biodiversity and it is not great for stability of carbon capture too,**"
 - e. Grasslands help in carbon capture themselves and planting trees there can cause more harm than good.
3. **Long-term effects**
 - a. protecting and regenerating natural forests comprising a diverse mix of native tree species is more reliable than raising monoculture or species-poor plantations as a strategy for mitigating climate change.
 - b. Species rich forests are beneficial for biodiversity as they also provide habitat to many other components — insects, birds, etc. species-rich forests are also resistant to diseases.
 - c. if species-rich forests have better resistance to fire, different trees have varying degrees of fire resistance depending on thickness of bark. Also, ability to regenerate seeds differ across species and so a multi-species forest would likely show greater resilience in case of a fire.



TOPIC 9. CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2018

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) published

- a. ANNUAL CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2018 and
- b. ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND SUICIDES IN INDIA 2018 REPORT

ANNUAL CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2018

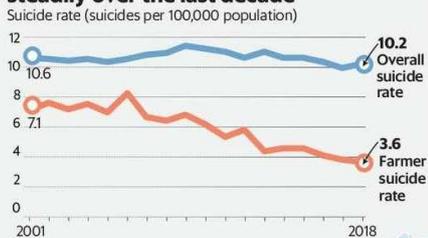
1. It was published with provisional data, as five States — West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim — did not send clarifications sought by the NCRB despite repeated reminders.
2. The 2017 annual crime report was published on October 21 last year, after a delay of two years.
3. According to the report, 3,78,277 cases of **crime against women** were reported, up from 3,59,849 in 2017. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 59,445 cases, followed by Maharashtra (35,497) and West Bengal (30,394).
 - a. The conviction rate in rape-related cases stood at **27.2%** even though the rate of filing chargesheets was 85.3% in such cases.
 - b. Cruelty by husband or his relatives (31.9%) followed by assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (27.6%) constituted the major share of crimes against women.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND SUICIDES IN INDIA 2018 REPORT

1. 10,349 people working in the farm sector ended their lives in 2018, accounting for 7.7 % of the total number of suicides in the country. The total number of people who committed suicide in 2018 was 1,34,516, an **increase of 3.6%** from 2017 when 1,29,887 cases were reported.
2. The highest number of **suicide victims were daily wagers** — 26,589, comprising 22.4% of such deaths.
3. The majority of the suicides were reported in Maharashtra (17,972) followed by Tamil Nadu (13,896), West Bengal (13,255), Madhya Pradesh (11,775) and Karnataka (11,561).
4. “West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Goa, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry reported zero suicides by farmers / cultivators as well as agricultural labourers,”
5. The incidents registered under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes related Acts saw a decline from 6729 incidents reported in 2017 to 4816 in 2018. A total of 29,017 cases of murder were registered in 2018, showing an increase of 1.3% over 2017 (28,653 cases).

MINT GRAPHITI

Chart 1
Farmer suicide rates have decreased steadily over the last decade



Farmer suicide rate is calculated as a percentage of total number of workers engaged in agriculture (estimated using census projections). Until 2014, farmer suicides were reported as part of the self-employed category in NCRB data. But since then, NCRB has reported farmer suicide data separately under the heads of cultivator suicides and agricultural labour suicides. In this analysis, we've assumed that the aggregate number of farmer suicides in each year is comparable before and after 2014.

Chart 4
Suicides by daily wage earners have increased the most in recent years

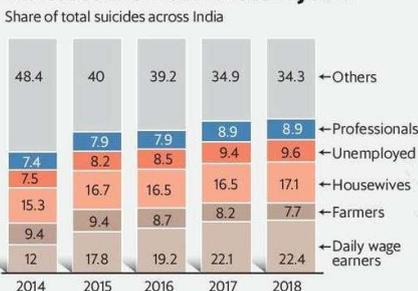
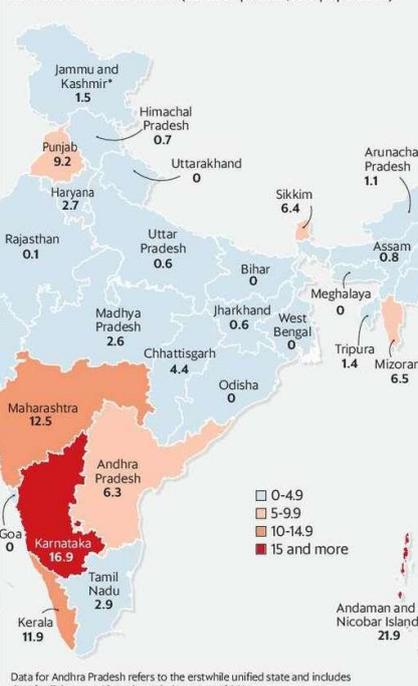


Chart 2
The problem seems to be bigger in Maharashtra, Punjab and the South

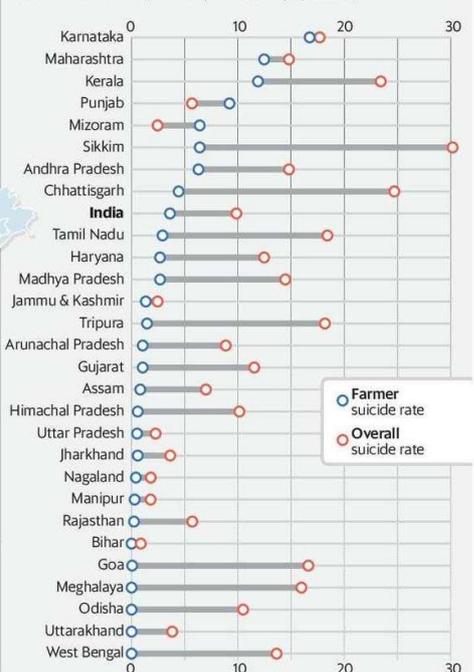
Farmer suicide rate in 2018 (suicides per 100,000 population)



Data for Andhra Pradesh refers to the erstwhile unified state and includes data for Telangana. *State boundaries are as of 2014

Chart 3
There are significant gaps between overall suicide rates and farmer suicide rates

Suicide rates in 2018 (suicides per 100,000 population)

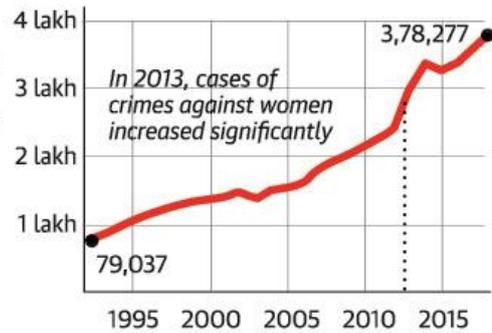


Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Census of India, Mint research

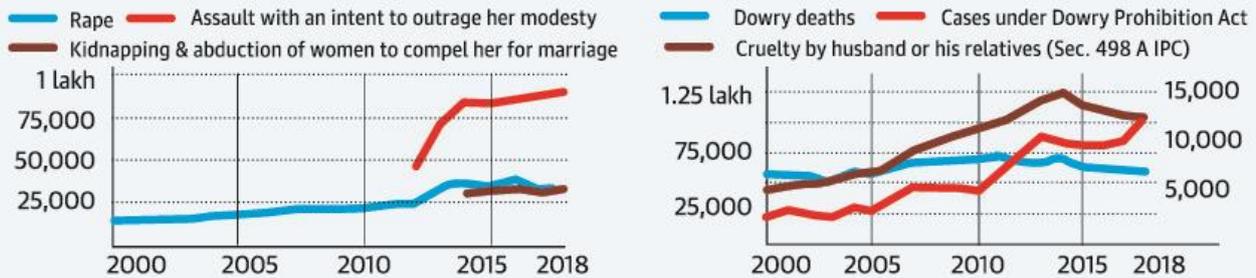
Crime & punishment

Close to 3.78 lakh cases of crimes against women were recorded in 2018, the highest since gender-wise classifications were initiated in 1992 by the NCRB. While such cases increased over the years, the case disposal rate of the police remained poor and that of courts worsened in recent years. By **Sravya C, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Sumant Sen**

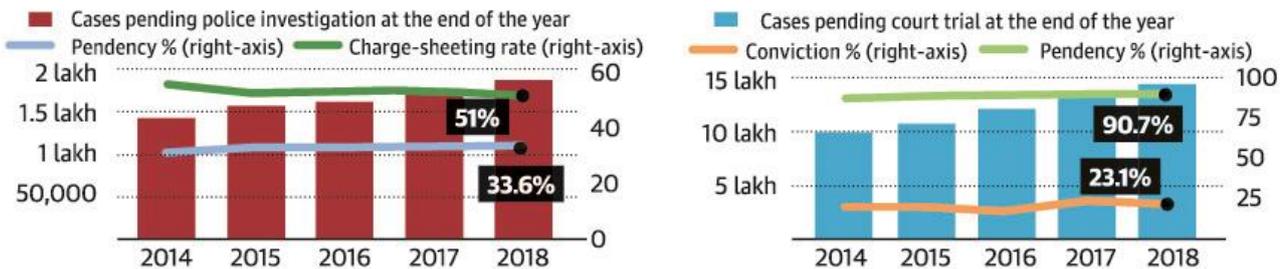
A record high Crimes against women increased every year, reaching a peak in 2018. The graph includes cases filed under both the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws



Types of crime | Under most major crime heads, the number of cases filed in 2018 remained high. However, the number of cases filed under the "cruelty by husband and relatives" section, which has seen a decline in recent years, came down further. Graphs show cases filed each year under major crime heads



Effectiveness of police & courts | The **charge-sheeting rate** (chargesheets filed / fresh cases filed in that year and carried-over from previous years) and **pendency rate** (cases pending police investigation at the end of the year/total cases) of the police continued to remain poor in 2018. The **conviction rate** (cases convicted/fresh cases completed trial in that year and carried-over) and **pendency rate** (cases pending court trial at the end of the year/total cases) of courts continued to be dismal. At the end of 2018, 33.6% cases were pending police investigation and 90.7% of cases were pending trial in courts

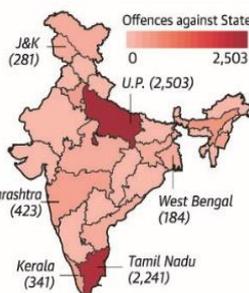


Enemy of the state

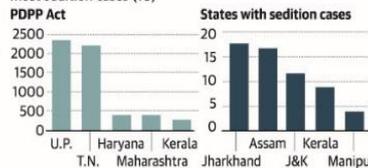
India registered 8,536 crimes under the 'offences against the state' category in the National Crime Records Bureau's 2018 report, a 5% decrease from 2017. Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number of crimes under the category, while Sikkim reported the least. Crimes committed by "anti-national elements" also increased in 2018 from 2017. By **The Hindu Data Team**

1. State-wise split

U.P. registered 2,503 cases under the category, the highest in the country, followed by Tamil Nadu, which reported 2,241 cases. Among the States with the least cases, Sikkim recorded three. Undivided J&K reported 281 cases



3. Affected States



2. Cases by crime head

Crime head	2017 cases	2018 cases
Sedition (Sec 124A)	51	70
Others (Sec 121-123)	109	79
Imputation, Assertions Prejudicial to National Integration (Section 153B)	24	38
The Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act	7,910	7,127
The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act	901	1,182
The Official Secrets Act	18	40

4. "Anti-national" activities

Crimes by "anti-national elements" (introduced in 2017) include those committed by Northeast insurgents, naxalites and terrorists. The tables show the two most affected States in each category

Northeast insurgents		
State	Cases	% of total cases
Manipur	289	78
Jammu & Kashmir	66	18

Naxalites		
State	Cases	% of total cases
Chhattisgarh	492	55
Assam	188	21

Terrorists		
State	Cases	% of total cases
Jammu & Kashmir	243	93
Assam	7	3

Source: NCRB data 2018

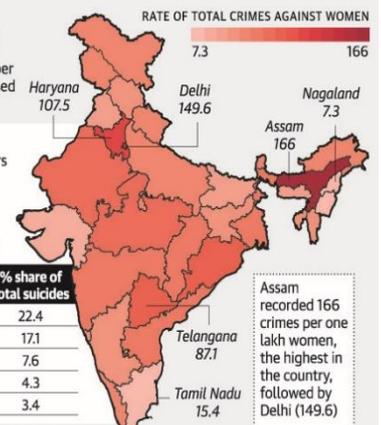
Unsafe spaces

The rate of crimes against women per one lakh of their population increased to 58.8 in 2018 from 57.9 in 2017.

Suicides in 2018

As many as 30,127 daily wage earners committed suicide in 2018, the highest among all professions. The number of suicides among persons engaged in agriculture came down by 2.9% in 2018, compared to 2017

Profession	Total suicides	% share of total suicides
Daily wage earner	30,127	22.4
Housewife	22,937	17.1
Student	10,159	7.6
Farmer / cultivator	5,763	4.3
Agricultural labourer	4,586	3.4



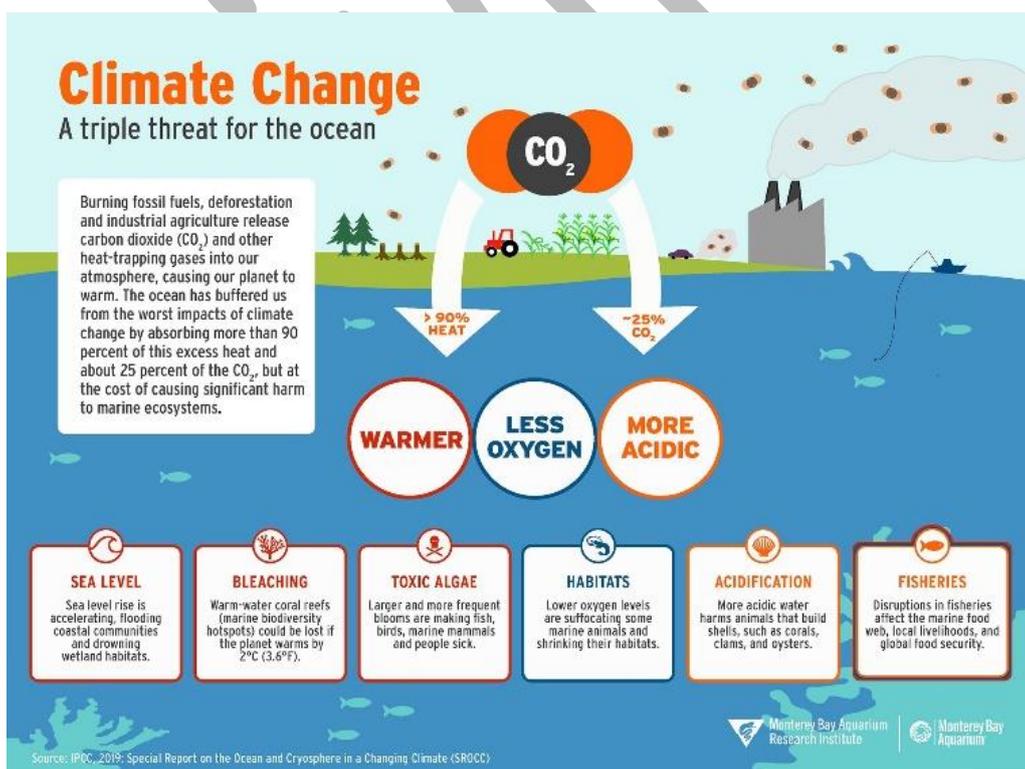
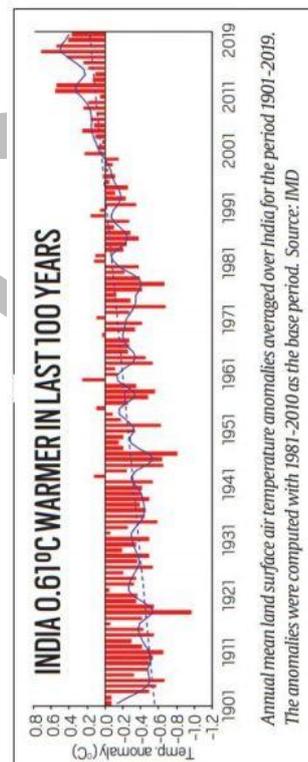
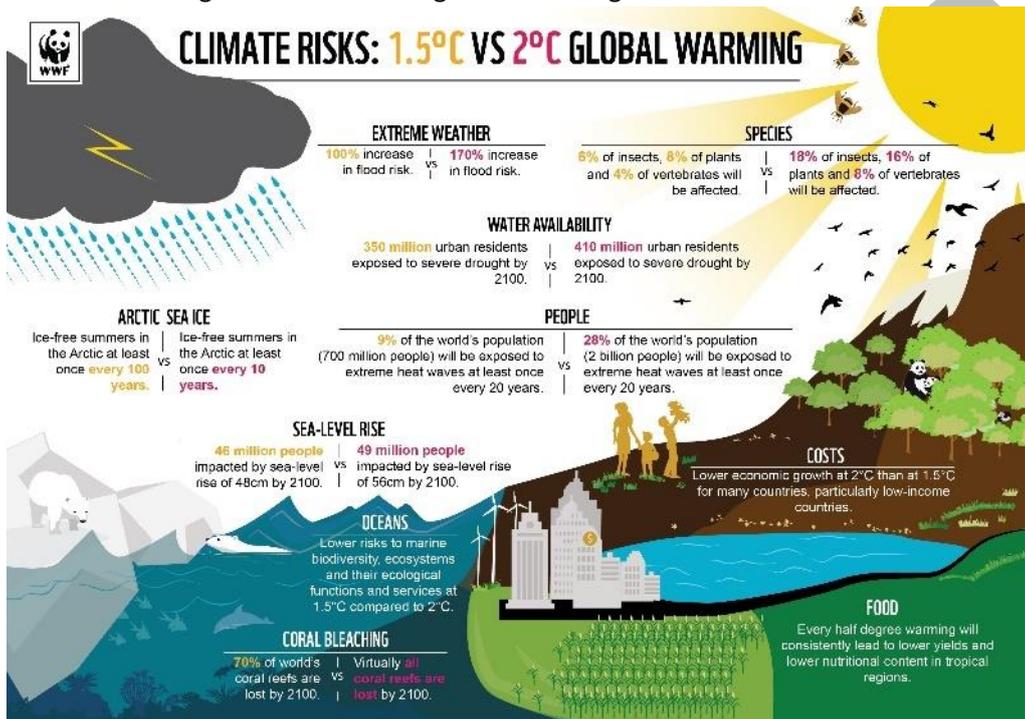
Assam recorded 166 crimes per one lakh women, the highest in the country, followed by Delhi (149.6)

Source: National Crime Records Bureau's report for 2018

TOPIC 10. CLIMATE IN 2019

1. 2019 was declared as 2nd warmest year ever by European weather agency's **Copernicus climate change Programme**. Only 2016 has been measured to be warmer.
2. India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said 2019 was 7th warmest year on record for India. With Australia witnessing worst spate of forest fires in its history, attributable to global warming.
3. **How warm was 2019 globally?**
 - a. **Copernicus Programme**, run by **European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting**, said average annual global surface temperature in 2019 was 0.59°C higher than average of 30-year period 1981-2010, which is taken to be normal in current assessments.
 - b. Compared to pre-industrial times, a reference to 1850-1900 period, which is considered baseline in climate change debates, 2019 was 1.2°C warmer.
 - c. Within 2019, December clocked its own record.
 - d. With temperatures 0.74°C above average, 2019 had the warmest December ever, alongside 2015 December which was similarly warm.
 - e. Only 2016 has recorded marginally higher annual temperatures.
 - f. That year was 0.63°C warmer than 1981-2010 average. 2017 has been 3rd warmest year till now, with a temperature of 0.54°C above average.
 - g. The extent of sea ice both in Arctic and Antarctic is often taken as an important indicator of impact that global warming was causing.
 - h. Antarctic sea ice extent was 3rd lowest ever in December 2019 since start of satellite observations in 1979.
 - i. Antarctic sea ice extent was 9.3 million square km on an average, which was about 15% lower than 1981-2010 average for month.
 - j. In Arctic, sea ice was 11.8 million square km, about 8% below average. The lowest December sea ice near Arctic was recorded in 2010 when it was 11% below average.
4. **What are findings of climate report on India?**
 - a. IMD in its climate report for 2019, said India had warmed by 0.61°C in last 100 years. IMD maintains weather records since 1901. During 2019, annual mean surface air temperature averaged over country was 0.36°C higher than 1981-2010 average. For India, 2016 has been warmest ever with temperatures 0.71°C above average. followed by 2009 (+0.541°C), 2017 (+0.539°C), 2010 (+0.54°C) and 2015 (+0.42°C).
 - b. Annual temperatures have remained high despite winters being one of coldest in recent decades. winter season extending from November 2018 to February 2019 was colder than average, globally. Meteorologists attributed it to be effect of a phenomenon called Arctic vortex. Generally, cold winds blow from west to east around North Pole. But due to global warming over Poles happens at a faster rate than other regions on globe. As a result, these cold westerly winds which otherwise remain restricted to North Pole were disturbed and started blowing to southern latitudes of northern hemisphere.
 - c. During last winter season, these winds even reached India in form of cold blasts. All of north India recorded severe cold that triggered snow avalanche in higher reaches. snow avalanches are common in years when there is very severe snowfall leading to huge amounts of snow accumulation.
 - d. Despite cold winter, annual average temperatures were way higher than normal, indicating rest of year was unusually warm. And it was indeed so. April 2019 was 7th warmest April since 1901, with a mean monthly deviation of +0.77°C from 1981-2010 average, June 2019 was 4th warmest (+1.02°C), July 2019 was warmest ever (+0.68°C) and November 2019 was 3rd warmest (+0.72°).
5. **Why was India warmer in 2019?**
 - a. Temperatures in India were in line with global trends in 2019. And though there could have been a variety of other local and regional reasons that contributed to warming over India, scientists point out at least two that would have been responsible.
 - b. One of these was El Niño that prevailed for a particularly long time. other factor was timing of monsoon.
 - c. **EL NIÑO**: El Nino, abnormal warming of equatorial Pacific Ocean, was a low-intensity one in 2019, but its prevalence till July could have contributed to warming. Temperatures recorded during El Niño years and their subsequent years have usually been higher than normal. This has been noticed all along El Niño years during 1951-2019. These are 1951, 1953, 1957, 1963, 1965, 1969, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2009 and 2015.

- d. "El Niño years are warmer usually, as they interfere with monsoon, make both summer and winter warmer than normal. There is excess clouding experienced that pushes temperatures. Last year, some effects of El Niño lasted till July,".
- e. In fact, year could have been warmer had it not been for two extreme cold months recorded in January and December of 2019.
- f. **DELAYED MONSOON:** A week-long delay in onset of southwest monsoon in June 2019 contributed to season being warmest ever. "The rainfall gained momentum only from August and continued to linger on till mid-October,".
- g. This delay, coupled with less rainfall recorded during June and July, led to a further increase in season's average temperature. June to September monsoon season saw a record warming in 119 years. Average seasonal temperature was +0.58°C higher than normal. This, despite season producing excess rainfall, ending with 109 % of Long Period Average.



TOPIC 11. **ARTICLE 131**

1. Kerala became first state to challenge Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) before Supreme Court. However, legal route adopted by state is different from 60 petitions already pending before court.
2. Kerala government has moved apex court under Article 131 of Constitution, provision under which **Supreme Court has ORIGINAL JURISDICTION to deal with any dispute between**
 - a. Centre and a state;
 - b. Centre and a state on the one side and another state on other side; and
 - c. two or more states.
3. Chhattisgarh government filed a suit in SC under Article 131, challenging National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act on ground that it encroaches upon state's powers to maintain law and order.
4. **SUPREME COURT POWERS?**
 - a. The Supreme Court has three kinds of jurisdictions: **ORIGINAL, APPELLATE and ADVISORY.**
 - b. Under its **ADVISORY JURISDICTION**, President has the power to seek an opinion from the apex court under **Article 143** of the Constitution.
 - c. Under its **APPELLATE JURISDICTION**, Supreme Court hears appeals from lower courts.
 - d. In its extraordinary **ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**, Supreme Court has exclusive power to adjudicate upon disputes involving
 - i. elections of President and Vice President,
 - ii. those that involve states and Centre, and
 - iii. violation of fundamental rights.
 - e. For a dispute to qualify as a dispute under Article 131, ***it must necessarily be between states and Centre and must involve a question of law or fact on which existence of a legal right of state or Centre depends.***
 - f. In a 1978 judgment State of Karnataka v Union of India Justice P N Bhagwati had said that for Supreme Court to accept a suit under Article 131, **state need not show that its legal right is violated, but only that dispute involves a legal question.**
 - g. Article 131 cannot be used to settle political differences between state and central governments headed by different parties.
5. **So how is a suit under Article 131 different from other petitions challenging CAA?**
 - a. The other petitions challenging CAA have been filed under **Article 32** of Constitution, which gives court power to issue writs when fundamental rights are violated.
 - b. A state government cannot move court under this provision because only people and citizens can claim fundamental rights.
 - c. Under Article 131 challenge is made when rights and power of a state or Centre are in question.
 - d. However, relief that state (under Article 131) and petitioners under Article 32 have sought in challenge to CAA is same — declaration of law as being unconstitutional.
6. **But can Supreme Court declare legislation unconstitutional under Article 131?**
 - a. A 2012 dispute between Bihar and Jharkhand that is currently pending for consideration by a larger Bench of court will answer this question. The case deals with issue of liability of Bihar to pay pension to employees of Jharkhand for period of their employment in former, undivided Bihar state.
 - b. Although earlier judgments had held that constitutionality of a law can be examined under Article 131, a 2011 judgment in case of State of Madhya Pradesh v. Union of India ruled otherwise. Since the 2011 case was also by a two-judge Bench and was later in time, the court could not overrule the case. However, the judges did not agree with the ruling.
 - c. ***"We regret our inability to agree with conclusion recorded in case of State of Madhya Pradesh v. Union of India and Anr. (supra), that in an original suit under Article 131, constitutionality of an enactment cannot be examined. Since above decision is rendered by a coordinate Bench of two judges, judicial discipline demands that we should not only refer matter for***

examination of said question by a larger Bench of this Court, but are also obliged to record broadly reasons which compel us to disagree with above-mentioned decision,” court ruled in 2015, referring case to a larger Bench.

- d. Incidentally, two judges who made the 2015 reference were Justice J Chelameswar (retd) and current Chief Justice of India SA Bobde. The case is set to be heard in two weeks by a three-judge Bench comprising Justices N V Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari.
- e. The decision of the larger Bench in State of Bihar v. Jharkhand would have a bearing on Kerala’s challenge to the CAA.

7. Can Centre sue a state under Article 131?

- a. The Centre has other powers to ensure that its laws are implemented.
- b. The Centre can issue directions to a state to implement the laws made by Parliament.
- c. If states do not comply with the directions, the Centre can move the court seeking a permanent injunction against the states to force them to comply with the law.
- d. Non-compliance of court orders can result in contempt of court, and the court usually hauls up the chief secretaries of the states responsible for implementing laws.

8. Is it unusual for states to challenge laws made by Parliament?

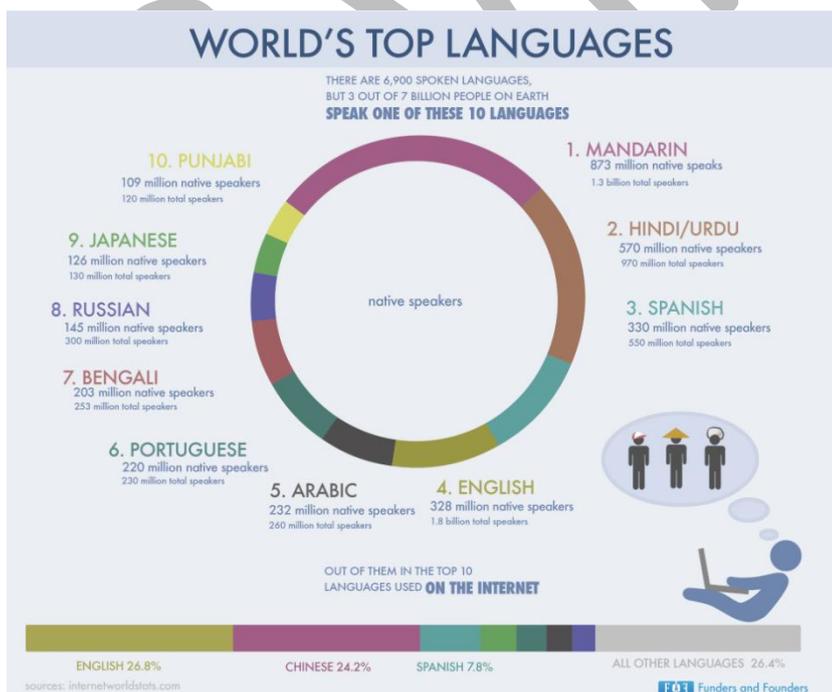
- a. Under the Constitution, laws made by Parliament are presumed to be constitutional until a court holds otherwise. However, in India’s quasi-federal constitutional structure, inter-governmental disputes are not uncommon.
- b. The framers of the Constitution expected such differences and added the exclusive original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for their resolution. The quasi-federal structure envisaged in 1950 has consolidated into defined powers of the states.
- c. Under a powerful Centre with a clear majority in Parliament, faultlines in India’s federal structure are frequently exposed. Since 2014, when Narendra Modi government came to power, debates around 15th Finance Commission, Goods and Services Tax, linguistic divide on National Education Policy, land acquisition, and proposed All India Judicial Services have all emerged as flashpoints between the strong Centre and states ruled by the Opposition.

'LAW ARBITRARY & UNCONSTITUTIONAL'

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Article 131 gives SC exclusive jurisdiction to decide suits relating to Centre-state and state-state disputes	<p>Hazaras of Afghanistan, Christians of Bhutan and Sri Lanka and Buddhists from Nepal for citizenship</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In its plea, Kerala govt says CAA overlooks issues of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Muslims in Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Asks why CAA does not cover ethnic Indians in Malaysia and Fiji
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Also does not consider Tamils in Sri Lanka, Hindu Madhesis in Terai of Nepal,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Plea says CAA is manifestly arbitrary and unconstitutional as it violates secularism and right to equality

TOPIC 12. CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

1. At recently concluded 93rd edition of Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, a resolution was passed demanding declaration of **Marathi as a 'Classical' language**
2. **What are 'Classical' languages in India, and how are they classified?**
 - a. Currently, six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status:
 - i. **TAMIL** (declared in 2004),
 - ii. **SANSKRIT** (2005),
 - iii. **KANNADA** (2008),
 - iv. **TELOGU** (2008),
 - v. **MALAYALAM** (2013)
 - vi. **ODIA** (2014).
3. According to information provided by Ministry of Culture in Rajya Sabha in February 2014, **guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:**
 - a. High antiquity of its early texts / recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
 - b. A body of ancient literature / texts which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
 - c. The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
 - d. The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
4. **How are Classical languages promoted?**
 - a. BENEFITS it provides once a language is notified as a Classical language:
 - i. Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages
 - ii. A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages is set up
 - iii. University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages.
5. Ministry of Culture listed institutions that have been dedicated to Classical languages.
 - a. **SANSKRIT:**
 - i. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi;
 - ii. Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain;
 - iii. Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati; and
 - iv. Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi
 - b. **TELOGU and KANNADA:**
 - i. Centres of Excellence for Studies in respective languages at Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) established by HRD Ministry in 2011.
 - c. **TAMIL:**
 - i. Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai



TOPIC 13. POLICE COMMISSIONERATE SYSTEM

- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved **Commissionerate system of policing for Lucknow and Noida**.
 - The system gives more responsibilities, including magisterial powers to IPS officers of Inspector General of Police (IG) rank posted as commissioners.
 - Depending on its success here, it may gradually be implemented in other districts as well.
 - At metropolitan level, many states have replaced dual system with Commissionerate system, as it is **supposed to allow for faster decision-making to solve complex urban-centric issues**.
 - In Commissionerate system, Commissioner of Police (CP) is head of a unified police command structure, is responsible for force in city and is accountable to state government.
 - office also has magisterial powers including those related to regulation, control, and licensing.**
 - The CP is drawn from Deputy Inspector General rank or above and is assisted by Special / Joint / Additional / Deputy Commissioners.
- Under 7th Schedule of Constitution, **'Police' is under State list**, meaning individual states legislate and exercise control over this subject. In arrangement in force at district level, a **'dual system' of control exists**, in which Superintendent of Police (SP) has to work with District Magistrate (DM) for supervising police administration.
- UP CM has said that as per Police Act, system is to be implemented in cities with more than **10 lakh population**, **"But because of lack of political will it could not be implemented. For years, there was a demand in Uttar Pradesh, but it was neglected."**
- How many states have it?**
 - All states barring **Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, UT of J&K, and some NE states** have a Commissionerate system.
 - British brought system first in Kolkata and followed it in Mumbai and Chennai presidencies.
 - Delhi turned into a Commissionerate during Morarji Desai regime.
 - In 1978, an initiative to introduce system in UP, beginning with Kanpur, never materialized.
 - Bureaucracy in India has resisted it tooth and nail. Even in 1978, it was resisted by Delhi bureaucracy.**
 - Commissionerate system only gives police an enabling environment to delivering policing in a complex region. Ultimately, officer in charge and culture he ushers will matter. What will matter most is how government deals with him.**
- What is different under system?**
 - Policing is based on **Police Act of 1861**. Under colonial system, overall in-charge of a district or region was district collector; SP reported to him. Powers of executive magistrate, such as issuing orders for preventive arrests or imposition of Section 144 CrPC, were vested in district collector. This was called dual system of police administration.
 - "The primary objective of British was revenue collection in rural India. They needed a force that could support this objective and unleash tyranny and oppression when needed to suit objective. The worst of officers from British police were sent to India. So, there was need to put them under District Collector. That system continued post-Independence,".
 - Under Commissionerate system, commissioner does not report to DM. In Mumbai and Delhi he reports directly to govt. **"It gives an integrated command structure. It helps fix responsibility with Commissioner and eliminates blame game between civil administration and police when something goes wrong,".**

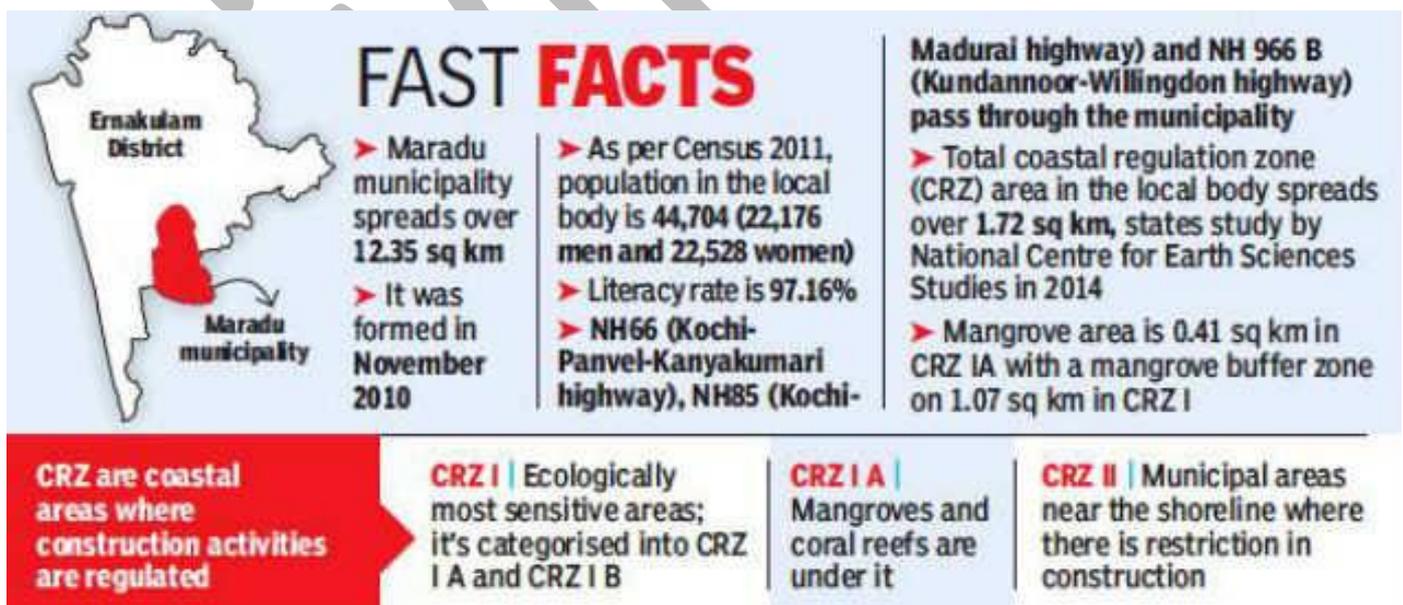
SEVEN DIRECTIVES OF SUPREME COURT

- 1** **Constitute a State Security Commission**
- 2** **Fixed two-year tenure for DGP**
- 3** **Two-year term for SPs & SHOs**
- 4** **Separate Investigation and L&O functions**
- 5** **Set up Police Establishment Board**
- 6** **Set up Police Complaints Authorities at State & Dist levels**
- 7** **Set up National Security Commission at Centre level**



TOPIC 14. COASTAL REGULATION ZONE (CRZ)

1. On Sunday, last of four illegal apartment complexes in Maradu, Kerala, was razed by controlled implosion, marking completion of demolition drive of waterfront high rises.
2. The razing of 4 luxury apartments was ordered by Supreme Court in May 2019, for breaching Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. SC had called illegal constructions a “colossal loss” to environment.
3. **What are CRZ norms, and where do they apply?**
 - a. **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules govern human and industrial activity close to coastline, in order to protect fragile ecosystems near sea.**
 - b. **They restrict certain kinds of activities — like large constructions, setting up of new industries, storage or disposal of hazardous material, mining, reclamation and bunding — within a certain distance from the coastline.**
 - c. After the passing of **Environment Protection Act in 1986**, CRZ Rules were first framed in 1991.
 - i. After these were found to be restrictive, Centre notified new Rules in 2011, which also included exemptions for construction of Navi Mumbai airport and for projects of Department of Atomic Energy.
 - ii. In 2018, fresh Rules were issued, which aimed to remove certain restrictions on building, streamlined clearance process, and aimed to encourage tourism in coastal areas.
 - d. In all Rules, **regulation zone has been defined as area up to 500 m from high-tide line.**
 - e. The restrictions depend on criteria such as the
 - i. population of the area,
 - ii. ecological sensitivity,
 - iii. distance from shore, and
 - iv. whether area had been designated as a natural park or wildlife zone.
 - f. The latest Rules have a **no-development zone of 20 m for all islands close to mainland coast, and for all backwater islands in mainland.**
 - g. For so-called CRZ-III (Rural) areas, two separate categories have been stipulated.
 - i. In **densely populated rural areas (CRZ-IIIA)** with a population density of 2,161 per sq km as per 2011 Census, no-development zone is 50 m from high-tide level, as against 200 m stipulated earlier.
 - ii. **CRZ-IIIB category** (rural areas with population density below 2,161 per sq km) areas continue to have a no-development zone extending up to 200 m from high-tide line.
 - h. While CRZ Rules are made by Union environment ministry, implementation is to be ensured by state governments through their Coastal Zone Management Authorities.
 - i. In current case, Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) identified CRZ violations.

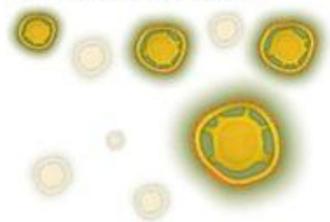


TOPIC 15. CORONAVIRUS

1. A preliminary investigation into viral pneumonia illnesses sickening dozens of people in and around China has identified possible cause as a new type of coronavirus
2. **Coronaviruses are a specific family of viruses, with some of them causing less-severe damage, such as common cold, and others causing respiratory and intestinal diseases.**
3. **A coronavirus has many “regularly arranged” protrusions on its surface, because of which entire virus particle looks like an emperor’s crown, hence name “coronavirus”.**
4. Apart from human beings, **coronaviruses can affect mammals including pigs, cattle, cats, dogs, martens, camels, hedgehogs and some birds.**
5. So far there are four known disease-causing coronaviruses, among which the best known are **SARS corona virus and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus**, both of which can cause severe respiratory diseases.
6. WHO said in a statement that further investigations are required to determine source, modes of transmission and extent of infection caused by new virus.



The MERS virus



MERS-CoV

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus:

Family of common viruses that affect humans and animals, including the SARS virus which killed nearly 800 worldwide in 2003

First detected: April 2012

Not seen in humans before

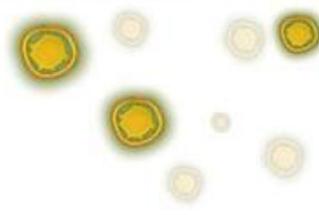


Source : WHO

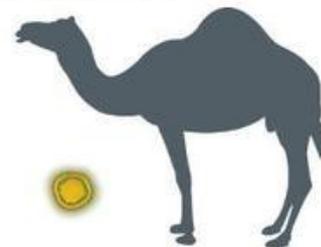
Main symptoms

Acute, serious respiratory illness

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties pneumonia, gastrointestinal symptoms, kidney failure
- Clusters of human-to-human transmission have been found, but no sustained community transmission so far observed



Camel connection



- ▶ Studies have found evidence of the virus jumping directly from a camel to a human
- ▶ An analysis published in Feb 2014 of blood samples from dromedary camels 1992 - 2010 found evidence of MERS going back two decades

AFP

TOPIC 16. PRISON

1. Since 2016, **Indian prisons have increased their capacity but this has not kept pace with growth in number of prisoners**, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data show.
2. The capacity of prisons has increased from 3,80,876 in 2016 to 3,96,223 in 2018 (as of December 31), or by **4.03%** during 2016-2018, according to newly released report **NCRB Prison Statistics India 2018**.
3. Over same period number of prisoners lodged in these jails has increased by **7.64%**.
 - a. As a result, occupancy rate in prisons has grown from **113.7% to 117.6%**. Uttar Pradesh has reported highest occupancy rate (176.5%) followed by Sikkim (157.3%) and Delhi (154.3%).
 - b. While capacity of prisons has increased, number of prisons has decreased by 5%, from 1,412 in 2016 to 1,339 in 2018. The 2018 count includes 628 sub-jails, 404 district jails, 144 central jails, 77 open jails, 41 special jails, 24 women jails, and 19 borstal schools. The remaining two jails are in category "other than above".
4. Nearly **2,000 children were living in jails in India along with their imprisoned mothers**, as of December 31, 2018. Out of 1,999 children (1,732 women prisoners), Uttar Pradesh accounted for one-fourth (509 children) while 4 more states accounted for another 1/3rd. Together jails in these 5 states UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh had 1,201 children or 60% of total 1,999.
5. While 1,732 women prisoners had children with them, total number of women prisoners in India was 19,242. Among them, 3,243 were in 24 women jails and 15,999 were in other jails. In women jails, number of prisoners was below capacity (58% of a capacity of 5,593). In other jails, which have a combined capacity of 21,668 women inmates, 15,999 inmates represented an occupancy rate of 73.8%.

Prisoner categories

Of 4,66,084 prisoners as of December 31, 2018,

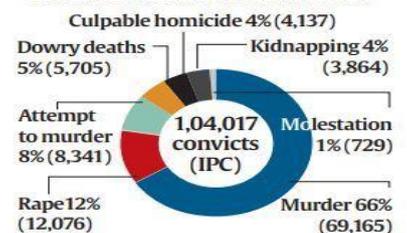
- i. 1,39,488 (**30%**) were **convicts**
- ii. over **69%** (3,23,537) were **undertrials**.
- iii. Less than **1%** comprised **detenues and other inmates**.

Offences

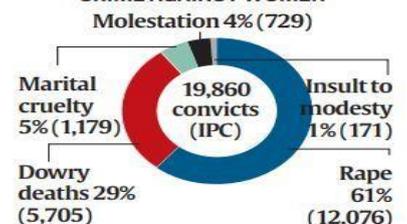
Among convicts were 1,22,441 who were serving terms for IPC offences.

- i. 1,04,017 (**85%**) had committed various **offences affecting the human body**
 1. MURDER (66%, 69,165)
 2. RAPE (12%, 12,076)
 3. ATTEMPT TO MURDER (8%, 8,341).
- ii. 12,939 (**10%**) had committed **offences against property**.

OFFENCES AGAINST HUMAN BODY



CRIME AGAINST WOMEN



CHILDREN WITH JAILED MOTHERS

State	Women with children	Children
All India	1,732	1,999
Uttar Pradesh	451	509
Bihar	158	196
West Bengal	147	192
Jharkhand	125	156
Madhya Pradesh	124	148
Maharashtra	97	117
Chhattisgarh	90	114



17.6% OVER CAPACITY

Year	Prisons	Capacity	Prisoners	Occupancy rate
2016	1,412	3,80,876	4,33,003	113.7%
2017	1,361	3,91,574	4,50,696	115.1%
2018	1,339	3,96,223	4,66,084	117.6%

TOPIC 17. 21st CENTURY'S BIG CHALLENGES

Events in West Asia have raised spectre of 21st century's 1st World War. Preventing US-Iran conflict from escalating might be world's immediate challenge in 2020 but taking long view, several more critical challenges remain unresolved. For all progress made so far addressing these challenges will define our future.

1. CLIMATE CRISIS

- a. From fires to floods, the world has been ravaged by disasters in recent years. Though they are natural calamities, the cause is man-made. Emissions from human activity have driven rising temperatures across the world.
- b. This, in turn, is disrupting weather patterns and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events.
- c. If left unchecked, emissions could cause global average temperatures to increase by over 4 degrees Celsius (°C) above pre-industrial levels by 2100, according to Climate Action Tracker, an independent scientific group tracking climate change.
- d. Even in the best-case scenario, with an active response towards reducing emissions, it would limit the increase to just 2.8°C and still inflict a heavy toll on the environment and humanity.
- e. Achieving 1.5°C, as established in the Paris Agreement, will require much more global commitment and coordination (Chart 1).

2. AIR QUALITY

- a. The same emissions that clog up atmosphere also clog up our lungs. And while much of rich world has cleaned up its air, in India and other poor countries, breathing itself has become fatal.
- b. The death rate from pollution is steadily increasing in India and other low-income countries, according to Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), a global population health research Centre.
- c. Though a daunting task, tackling air pollution is not impossible. China, for instance, used to have highest rates of pollution-related deaths in world but this has steadily improved over last decade (Chart 2).

3. SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- a. Both the climate crisis and pollution have been driven by a relentless quest for growth. Yet, it is this growth that has generated unprecedented prosperity and improved the lives of millions.
- b. Now governments will have to balance growth with the environment. And this task will only get harder as growth dries up across the world.
- c. According to one projection, average growth rates for almost all the major economies are expected to steadily decline in the coming decades (Chart 3).

4. PRODUCTIVITY STAGNATION

- a. Growth is slowing because its key engine is fizzling out. Whether it's the conveyor belt or the computer, long-term growth is ultimately driven by innovations and processes that use labour and capital more effectively.
- b. But these innovations and processes, known as total factor productivity (TFP), are drying up. Globally, TFP growth rates have fallen in recent years, apart from India.
- c. High productivity growth in India, however, reflects issues with the way output is measured in the country rather than productivity improvements (Chart 4).

5. INCOME INEQUALITY

- a. One immediate effect of stagnating productivity is on wages.

- b. In many parts of the world, workers' wages have not increased much over time, especially when compared with the top earners, and inequality has risen significantly.
- c. One estimate suggests that 44% of the world's wealth is owned by just 1% of its population.
- d. How this inequality is tackled will define politics in the 21st century (Chart 5).

6. AUTOMATION-LED DISRUPTION

- a. Another risk for workers is automation. A 2013 study estimated that nearly half of all jobs in the US could be automated in the coming decade.
- b. Building on this model, the World Bank estimated that 43% of India's employment is vulnerable to rising automation.
- c. An International Monetary Fund study found that women could be hurt more than men.
- d. Even if these estimates are exaggerated, the risks of automation eating up jobs remain.
- e. Whether it's through basic income or retraining, governments will need to find ways to manage this transition (Chart 6).

7. THE GLOBALIZATION BACKLASHES

- a. After years of increasing globalization, the tide seems to be turning.
- b. Trade wars are escalating, borders are getting tighter and nationalist governments are growing in popularity.
- c. All this will have important implications for global value chains that underpin the world economy.
- d. But, more ominously, rising nationalism could affect both domestic and international security by fuelling internal and external conflict (Chart 7).

8. BIG TECH DOMINANCE

- a. Over the last decade, a handful of technology firms—Google, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft—have grown in both size and clout.
- b. From communication channels to entertainment, their services now underpin much of human activity.
- c. But their universal pervasiveness also raises big questions—especially on privacy infringements, market power and political influence (Chart 8).

9. AGEING POPULATIONS

- a. By 2100, the United Nations estimates that there will be 11.2 billion humans on the planet.
- b. And more than half will be aged 42 or above. In India, the median age will be even higher at 47.
- c. As fertility rates fall and healthcare improves, the world will get much older.
- d. Ageing populations bring a host of challenges for economies and societies.
- e. Labour forces shrink, while public finances and healthcare systems get strained (Chart 9).

10. LIFESTYLE DISEASES

- a. Prosperity and shifting demographics will also change nature of public health threats.
- b. In 20th century lack of food was defining nutrition issue; in 21st century there may be too much of it.
- c. According to IHME, obesity is already one of the biggest risk factors to public health and this will only increase as societies get richer (Chart 10).
- d. More generally, as the diseases associated with poverty are eliminated, those associated with prosperity, such as blood pressure and high sugar, are likely to grow.

MINT GRAPHITI

Chart 1

Under current policies, temperatures are expected to rise by 3 degrees Celsius by 2100

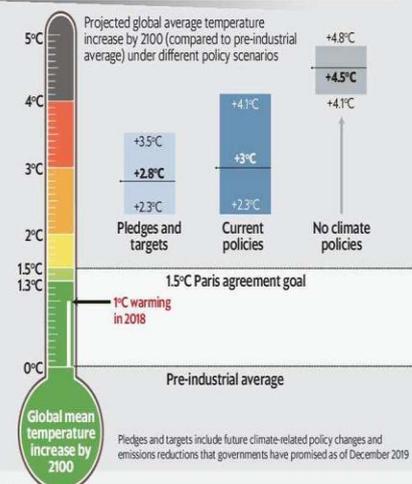


Chart 2

Air pollution is becoming increasingly fatal in India

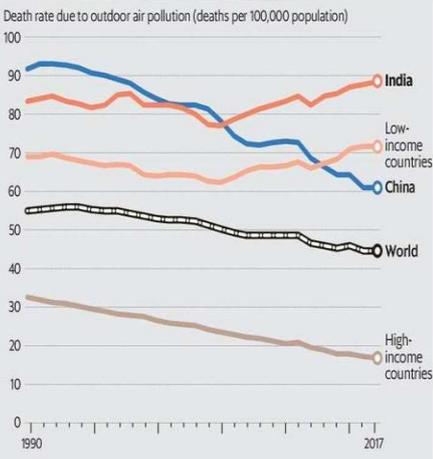


Chart 3

Growth is projected to dry up across most of the world in the 21st century

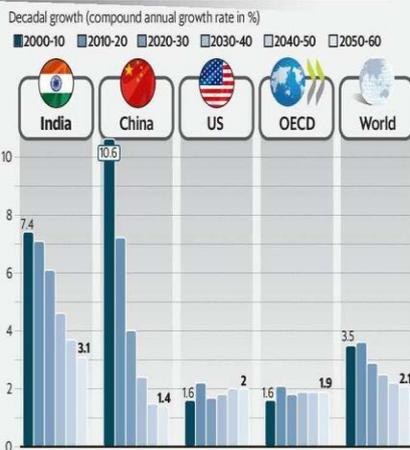


Chart 4

Productivity growth has stagnated in most of the world

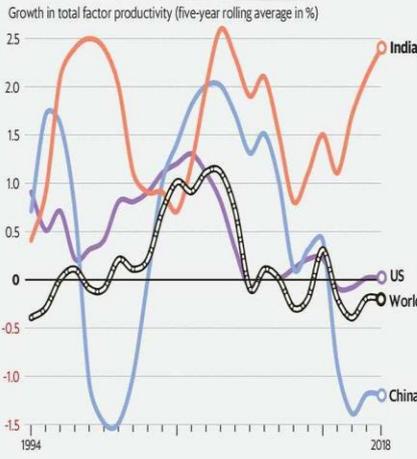


Chart 5

More than half the world owns less than 2% of its wealth

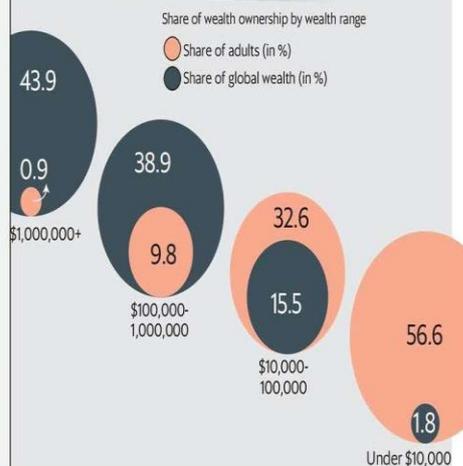


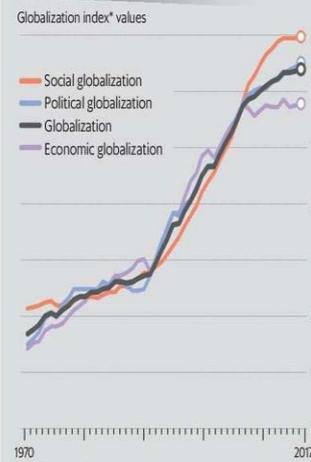
Chart 6

Across the world, automation will make jobs vulnerable



Chart 7

Globalization, especially economic, has plateaued in recent years



*The KOF Globalization Index, compiled by the KOF Swiss Economic Institute, is a composite index of the economic, social and political dimensions of globalization. Economic globalization comprises different measures of trade and financial globalization. Social globalization comprises measures of migration, tourism and remittances. Political globalization comprises measures of international coordination through treaties, international organizations and international NGOs.

Source: Climate Action Tracker; Global Burden of Disease, 2017; ourworldindata.org; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Real GDP long-term forecast, 2020; Total Economy Database; The Conference Board; Global Wealth Report 2019; Credit Suisse; World Development Report 2016; The KOF Globalization Index; KOF Swiss Economic Institute; Bloomberg; World Population Prospects 2019; United Nations Population Division

Chart 8

Big tech companies are growing in size and clout

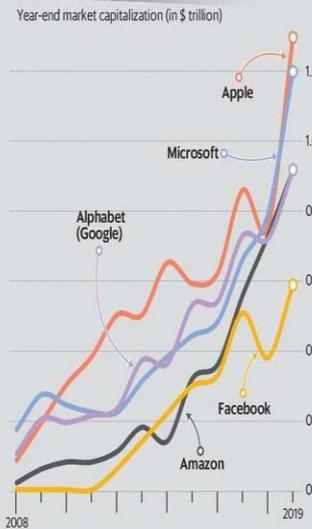


Chart 9

The world, including India, will get significantly older

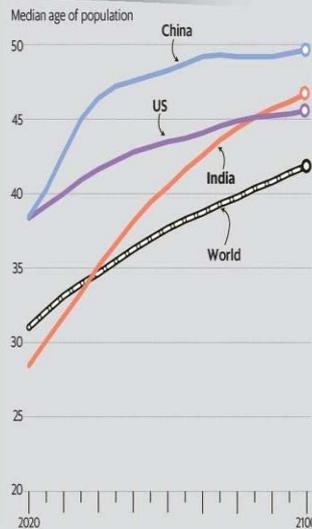
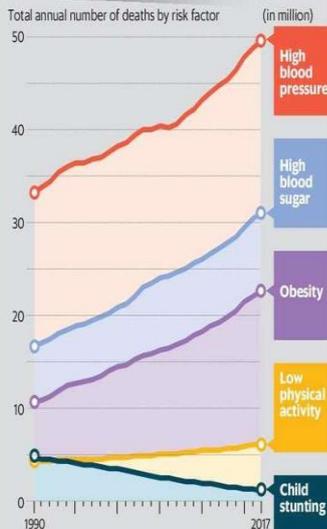


Chart 10

Risks from lifestyle diseases have increased



TOPIC 18. SAKSHAM

1. **'Saksham', an annual one-month long, people-centric fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is going to be launched on 16th January by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas.**
2. PCRA and Oil & Gas companies shall carry out various interactive programs during this month-long campaign.
 - a. Activities like 'Saksham' Cycle Day, Cyclothons,
 - b. Workshops for drivers of commercial vehicles,
 - c. Seminars for housewives/cooks on adopting simple fuel saving measure,
 - d. Nationwide campaign through Radio, TV, Digital Cinemas, Outdoor etc. are planned with an aim to reach nook and corner of country with message of fuel conservation, Greener Environment and better Health.
 - e. PCRA also plans to make use of social media platforms for various customized campaigns on fuel conservation through Facebook, twitter, MyGov.
3. **Petroleum Conservation and Research Association (PCRA) in association with Institute of Petroleum-Dehradun has developed high energy efficient PNG burner/Gas stove for household where piped gas is supplied which will save gas as compared to modified LPG stove for PNG.**
4. **'Saksham' is strengthening its foot print as a flagship Fuel Conservation mega campaign program of country.**

TOPIC 19. PURVODAYA

1. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel launched PURVODAYA: **Accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal.**
2. Purvodaya in steel sector is aimed at driving accelerated development of Eastern India through establishment of integrated steel hub.
 - a. Eastern states of India (**Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal**) and Northern part of **Andhra Pradesh** collectively hold
 - i. 80% of the country's iron ore,
 - ii. 100% of coking coal and significant portion of chromite, bauxite and dolomite reserves.
 - iii. There is presence of major ports such as Paradip, Haldia, Vizag, Kolkata etc., with >30% of India's major port capacity.
 - iv. This Eastern belt has potential to add more than 75% of country's incremental steel capacity envisioned by National Steel Policy. It is expected that out of 300 MT capacity by 2030-31, over 200 MT can come from this region alone, driven by Industry 4.0.
3. The proposed Integrated Steel Hub, encompassing **Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh**, would serve as a torchbearer for socio-economic growth of Eastern India.
 - a. **OBJECTIVE**
 - i. enable swift capacity addition and
 - ii. improve overall competitiveness of steel producers both in terms of cost and quality.
 - b. The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on **3 key elements**:
 - i. Capacity addition through easing the setup of Greenfield steel plants
 - ii. Development of steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centers.
 - iii. Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the East
4. **BENEFITS:**
 - a. Growth of steel industry through such a hub would lead to significant employment opportunities across the entire value chain and
 - b. will play a significant role in overall socio-economic growth of Eastern India, thus reducing disparity between East and other regions of country.

TOPIC 20. ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDEX 2019

1. Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship released 'State Energy Efficiency Index 2019', which **tracks progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in 36 states and union territories based on 97 significant indicators.**
2. The index is developed by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** in association with **Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).**
3. It will help states contribute towards national goals on **energy security and climate action** by
 - a. helping drive EE policies and program implementation at state and local level,
 - b. tracking progress in managing states' and India's energy footprint and
 - c. institutionalizing the data capture and monitoring of EE activities by states.
4. 1st such Index, "State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index 2018", was launched **on August 1, 2018.**
5. Taking forward State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index 2018, State Energy Efficiency Index 2019 incorporates qualitative, quantitative and outcome-based indicators to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct sectors – **buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture, and DISCOMs.**
6. New indicators for this year include adoption of Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017, energy efficiency in MSME clusters, etc.
7. The required data was collected from the concerned state departments such as DISCOMs, Urban Development departments and other departments with the help of State Designated Agencies (SDAs).
8. This year, a total of 36 states and union territories have been assessed based on their efforts and achievements in policy and regulation, financing mechanisms, institutional capacity, adoption of energy efficiency measures and energy savings achieved.
9. For rational comparison, States/UTs are grouped into four groups based on aggregated Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) required to meet state's actual energy demand (electricity, coal, oil, gas, etc.) across sectors.
10. TPES grouping shall help states compare performance and share best practices within their peer group.
11. Under 4 categories based on TPES, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Puducherry and Chandigarh have been evaluated as progressive states/UTs in State Energy Efficiency Index 2019.

12. Key Takeaways for States

- a. State EE Index 2019 shows that majority of initiatives taken by states are related to Policies and Regulations. Most of the first-generation energy efficiency policies prepared by BEE under programmes on Standards & Labelling (S&L), ECBC, Perform Achieve & Trade (PAT), etc. are understood by states and as next steps they should focus on ensuring greater compliance to achieve savings. Based on analysis of responses submitted by states this year, a 3-point agenda is suggested for consideration by state agencies:
 - i. Proactive role by states in policy formulation and implementation to shift focus from "policies in place" to "policies successfully implemented".
 - ii. **Strengthening mechanism for data capture, management and public availability of data:** For this year's Index, SDAs proactively contacted various state departments to gather data. However, SDAs should further enhance their engagement with state departments and private sector to enable a robust mechanism for Energy Data Management System.
 - iii. **Enhancing the credibility of EE schemes:** Ensuring integrity of programs that have direct or indirect linkages with common consumers is significant to energy efficiency market transformation. States must demonstrate an approach which includes enforcement and compliance checks as well as independent monitoring and verification of savings, which is integral to all EE policies and programs.

INFLATION

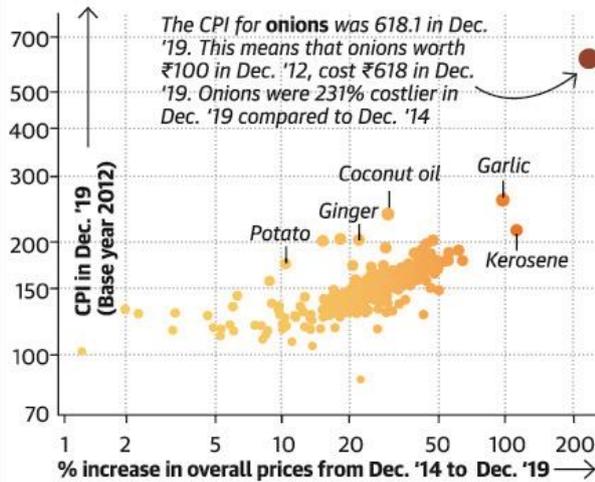
Prices in a pickle

Retail inflation soared to a five-and-a-half-year high in December 2019. The rise in prices was led by a steep hike in the cost of vegetables. A comparison with December 2014 shows that onions saw the biggest rise in retail prices. Among the States, the cost of living increased the most in Manipur, which saw a five month-long economic blockade in 2016 and 2017. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

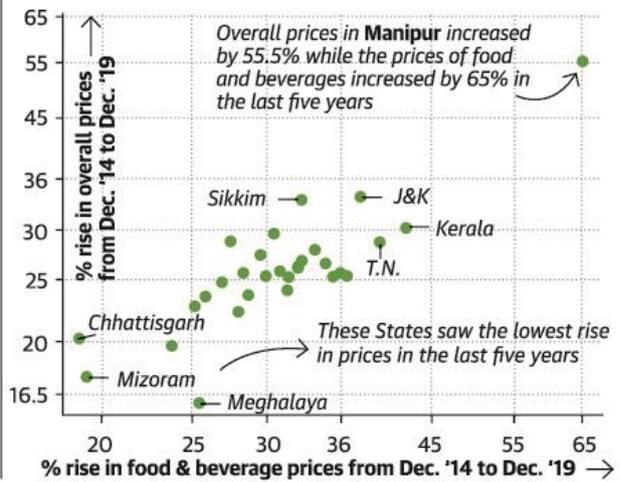
Costliest component Between Dec.'14 and Dec. '19, prices of vegetables soared by 54.5%, the highest among 28 broad commodity groups tracked. The graph shows % rise in prices of 28 commodities in the last five years

Vegetables 54.5%	Health cost 30.7	Food 30.67					Spices 24.8
Intoxicants 37	Education 30.3	Fuel & light 24.2					
Meat & Fish 33.85	Personal care 28	Household goods 24					
Housing 31.16	Overall 26	Clothing 22.5	Pulses 17.6				
		Egg 22.7					

Costliest commodity | The rise in onion prices in the last five years is unmatched by any other commodity. The graph plots the Consumer Price Index (base year 2012 = 100) for 294 commodities as of Dec. '19 against the % increase in prices since Dec. '14.



State-wise cost of living | Manipur saw the highest overall retail prices due to disruption of supplies following an economic blockade. The graph plots the increase in 'overall prices' and 'food and beverage' prices of all States between Dec.'14 and Dec. '19.



All the graphs follow the log scale | Source: MOSPI

ENERGY

'India's oil demand growth to overtake China by mid-2020s'

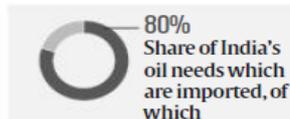
India's oil demand growth will overtake China by mid-2020s, the 'India 2020 Energy Policy Review' by International Energy Agency (IEA) said Friday, asking India to raise the capacity of strategic oil storages

10 DAYS OF IMPORTS: India's current strategic oil storage capacity, which IEA executive director Fatih Birol said is not enough to protect it in "rainy days"

6 MILLION BPD: India's projected oil demand by 2024, from 4.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2017

5.33 MILLION TONNES: Capacity of crude oil that can be stored in underground storages build at at Padur and Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka

6.5 MILLION TONNES: Planned capacity of similar



90 DAYS: Current strategic stockpile maintained by IEA member countries

underground storages, which are planned at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka

8 MILLION BPD: India's expected oil refining capacity



by 2025, rising from about 5 million bpd at present

TALKS ON INDIA BECOMING FULL-TIME IEA MEMBER: Birol said IEA was in discussion with the Indian

INDIA'S OIL CONSUMPTION TO SURPASS THAT OF CHINA IN MID-2020s, AS IT IS:

- Third-largest consumer of oil, behind US and China
- Fourth-largest oil refiner
- Net exporter of refined (petroleum) products

government on how to improve the current stock capacity so that India can become a full-time member of IEA. India is currently an associate member

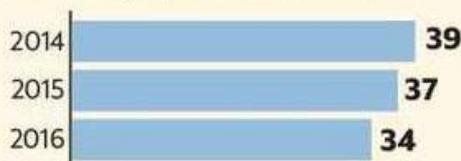
Source: IEA/PTI

SOCIAL SECTOR

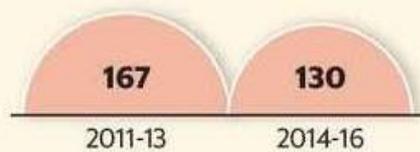
Prioritizing social sector reforms

Higher public investment in the social sector, including education and health, is critical for a country that is struggling to improve its human development index. With nearly two-thirds of the population below the age of 35, India's higher social spending and better policies set the path for garnering benefits from its demographic bulge. Experts and social scientists demand that notwithstanding the economic tightrope, budget 2020 should give adequate focus to the sector.

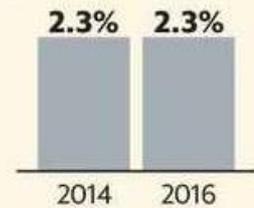
Infant mortality rate (IMR) in India (Per 1,000 live births)



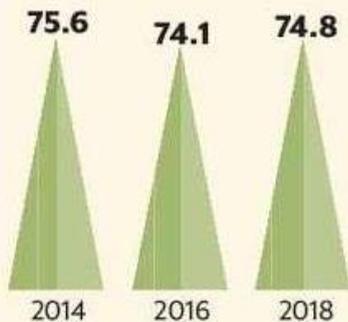
Maternal mortality ratio (MMR per 100,000 live births)



Total fertility rate



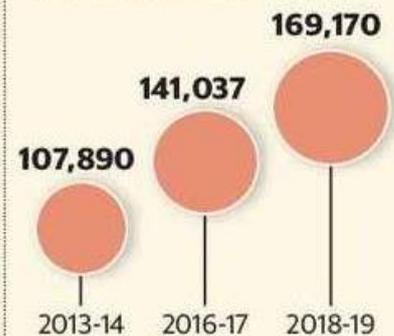
Drinking water available in schools (in %)



School dropout rates in upper primary schools in 2017-18 (in %)



Number of students who enrolled for PhDs



All data refers to the latest government surveys, except ASER report which is a private study.

Source: NFHS, HRD ministry, NITI Aayog, ASER report

MINT GRAPHITI

Chart 1
Gross savings in India have declined sharply since 2010-11

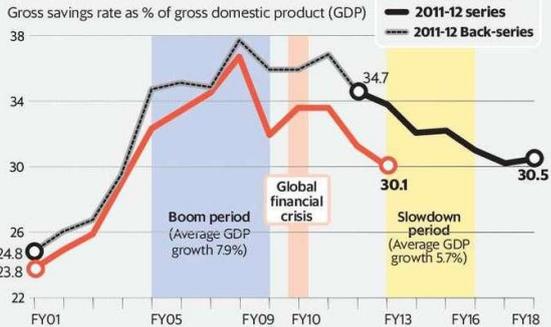


Chart 2
The decline in savings has been led by the household sector

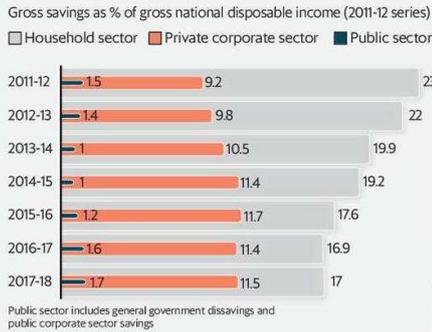


Chart 3
A decline in savings in physical rather than financial assets has dragged overall household savings

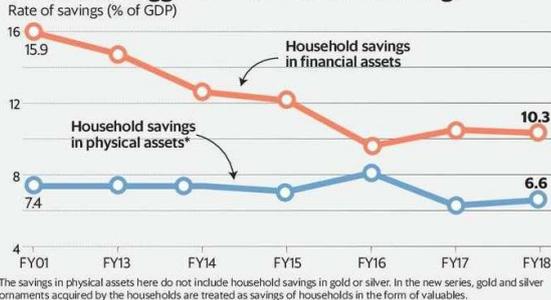
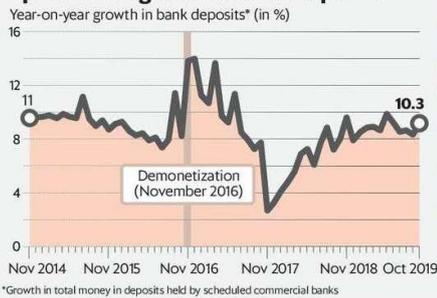


Chart 4
Over the last year, there has been an uptick in the growth in bank deposits



Source: MOSPI, CMIE Economic Outlook

Financial burden

The economic slowdown has affected the financial health of both the Centre and states. Given borrowing caps, states facing GST revenue loss are urging the Modi government to find fresh resources to avoid delays in payment. This can add to Centre's financial burden. Budget 2020 will have to find resources for social spending and economic growth package while sharing tax revenue with states under a new formula.

Centre's transfer of funds to states, UTs



GST collections (in ₹ tn)



*Budget estimate

GST revenue trend (Apr-Aug FY20)

GAINERS

State	Exceeded target by (%)
Arunachal Pradesh	71.8
Mizoram	59.3
Manipur	36.4
Nagaland	33.5
Sikkim	25.1

LOSERS

State	Shortfall (%)
Puducherry	56.7
Punjab	43.5
Himachal Pradesh	39.9
Goa	36.7
J&K	35.7

Source: Union budget, GST Council

MODEL ANSWER

Q 1. "Traditional **bureaucratic** structure and culture have hampered the process of **socio-economic development** in India." **Comment.** [12.5 Marks, 200 words]

a. UNDERSTANDING KEYWORDS

- Bureaucracy

b. WAY OF WRITING (STRUCTURE)

- Comment
 - Be neutral and give viewpoint
 - ASSUMPTION

ANSWER

Introduction

- Bureaucracy is group of personal and institution governed by set of rules and regulations to achieve some specific purposes.

Body

Sr No	Traditional Bureaucratic Structure and Culture	How it hampered Social Economic Development of India?
1	Hierarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too much time taking decisions• Shifting of roles and responsibilities
2	Elitism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil servant became master rather than serving people
3	Rule bound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules was framed so that it serves as means to achieve some ends but unfortunately bureaucrats are working just to uphold law ignoring greater ends.
4	Self-Serving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bureaucrats put their personal interests above interest of organization.
5	Status quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bureaucrats are resistant to according to change in Social, Economic, Technological, Political etc. sphere
6	Dominant behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizens are reluctant to approach them• Poor perception among public

Conclusion

- Bureaucracy should change according to social economic realities of India, otherwise it will become obsolete and irrelevant.