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Coverage of

# Committees, Judgements, Reports & Policies

for **Civil Services**

Prelim & Main Exam

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**KUNAL RASTOGI**  
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This sample book is prepared from the book "Comprehensive Coverage of Committees, Judgments, Reports & Policies for Civil Services Prelim & Main Exam | Improve your General Studies & Optional Answer Writing | UPSC & State PSC".



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## SECTION

# 1

### General Studies – I

## Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

**I. Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.**

### A. Committees

#### 1. Heritage Conservation Committee

**Year:** 1983

**Chairman:** Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Affairs

**Recommendations:**

The committee offers 3 grades as follows:

#### Grade-I

Heritage buildings under this grade must have historical importance or incorporate excellent architectural design, style, aesthetic, material usage and technology. HCC does not permit any intervention either on the exterior or interior of that building. It will only allow such construction in case of essential improvement and strengthening such sites.

#### Grade-II

This category includes buildings possessing historical significance or architectural merit of local or regional importance. It also may comprise local landmarks, contributing to that region's identity and impression. Primarily, HCC permits internal changes and adaptive reprocess.

#### Grade-III

It comprises buildings having sociological or architectural interest. It may induce architectural aesthetics or help determine the locality's characteristics. Similar to Grade II, the committee allows for both external and internal changes in such buildings.

#### 2. Gandhian Heritage Committee

**Year:** 2013

**Key points**

The Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission will function through Committees which will supervise, guide and assist in conservation initiative, maintenance, or preservation

initiative and the creation of a database of tangible, literary and visual Gandhi Heritage. Committees as recommended by the Panel have been constituted which are as follows

- Conservation Committee
- Archival Committee
- Gandhi Heritage Sites Database Committee
- Museum Committee

A Finance Committee has also been constituted which will be headed by Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Culture.

### 3. Shyam Benegal Committee

**Year:** 2016

**Chairman:** Shyam Benegal

#### **Recommendations:**

CBFC should only be a film certification body whose scope should be restricted to categorizing the suitability of the film to audience groups on the basis of age and maturity except in the following instances to refuse certification –

- 1. When a film contains anything that contravenes the provisions of Section 5B (1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- 2. When content in a film crosses the ceiling laid down in the highest category of certification.
- 3. The applicant must specify the category of certification being sought and the target audience.
- 4. Regarding the categorisation of films, the Committee recommends that it should be more specific and apart from U category, the UA Category can be broken up into further sub-categories – UA12+ & UA15+. The A category should also be sub-divided into A and AC (Adult with Caution) categories.

### 4. India National Scientific Committees (NSCs)

**Chairman:** Dr. B. Venugopal

#### **Recommendations:**

1. **Establish NSCs:** Set up National Scientific Committees with at least 8 members to ensure effective heritage management.
2. **Multi-disciplinary Approach:** Foster a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage management to incorporate diverse professional interests.

- 3 **Member Participation:** Allow all members of COMOS-India to join any two NSCs, encouraging broad participation and engagement.
- 4 **International Collaboration:** Connect each NSC to the corresponding International Committee of ICOMOS for global knowledge sharing.
- 5 **Legal Accountability:** Ensure NSCs operate according to COMOS Statutes and are legally and financially accountable to the Executive Committee of COMOS-India.
- 6 **Counsellor Oversight:** Appoint a National Scientific Counsellor to monitor activities and provide necessary guidance to the NSCs.

## B. Policy

### 1. National Policy for Heritage Conservation and Management, 2014

**Objective:** The Policy focuses on aspects of preservation, conservation, planning, tourism, etc. in respect of monuments of national importance.

**Key Features:**

- Preparation of short-term (up to two years), mid-term (two to five years) and long-term (five years and above) monitoring and maintenance plans;
- Regular inspection by the archaeological officers, at least once a year;
- Preparation of Site Management Plans (SMPs)
- Peer review of conservation work undertaken;
- Documentation of entire conservation process through maps, drawings, photographs, digital records, field notes;
- Identification of craftsmen for conservation works
- Trainings to Monument in-Charge for disaster management.

## II. Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country

### A. Committees

#### 1. Dhar Commission (Linguistic Provinces Commission)

**Chairman:** S.K. Dhar

**Year:** 1948

**Recommendations:**

- Advocated for state reorganization based on administrative convenience rather than linguistic considerations.
- Recommended the reorganization of states based on geographical contiguity to ensure administrative efficiency.
- Emphasized financial self-reliance as a crucial factor for the viability of newly reorganized states.
- Stressed the importance of administrative viability to facilitate effective governance.
- Highlighted the potential for development as a key criterion for reorganization to promote balanced regional growth.



## 2. JVP Committee

**Members:** Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Pattabhi Sitaramayya

**Year:** 1948-1949

### **Recommendations:**

1

Rejected the linguistic factor for the reorganization of states, emphasizing other criteria over language.

2

Reaffirmed the Dhar Commission's position, maintaining its stance on state reorganization principles.

3

Recommended reorganization of states based on security, unity, and economic prosperity of the nation.

4

Suggested delaying the creation of new provinces for a few years to focus on more pressing national issues.

## 3. Fazl Ali Commission (States Reorganization Commission)

**Chairman:** Fazl Ali

**Year:** 1953

•

Widely accepted language as the basis for state reorganization, submitted in September 1955.

•

Identified four major factors for state reorganization: unity and security, linguistic and cultural homogeneity, financial/economic/administrative considerations, and welfare of the people.

•

Suggested the abolition of the four-fold classification of states and territories under the original Constitution, creating 16 states and 3 centrally administered territories.

•

Recommended the abolition of the institution of Rajapramukh and special agreements with former princely states.

•

Recommended the abolition of the institution of Rajapramukh and special agreements with former princely states.

### III. Role of women and women's organization

#### A. Committee

##### 1. Justice Verma Committee

**Year:** 2012

**Chairman:** Jagdish Sharan Verma

##### **Recommendations:**

- 1 The Committee recommended that the gradation of sexual offences should be retained in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC).
- 2 The Committee recommended that non-penetrative forms of sexual contact should be regarded as sexual assault.
- 3 The Committee has suggested that use of words, acts or gestures that create an unwelcome threat of a sexual nature should be termed as sexual assault and be punishable for 1 year imprisonment or fine or both.
- 4 Domestic workers should be included within the purview of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2012.
- 5 It has recommended that sexuality education should be imparted to children.
- 6 It recommended life imprisonment for rape.

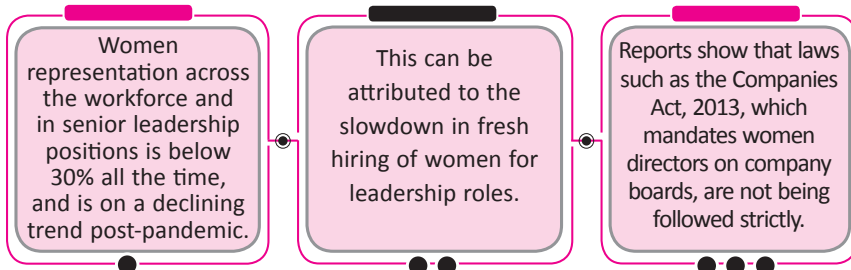
#### B. Reports

##### 1. Women in Leadership in Corporate India

**Published by:** The Quantum Hub (TQH)

**Objective:** To highlight Recommendations for stakeholders to help Indian women in the workforce and achieve gender parity in leadership.

##### **Key Findings**



## 2. World Bank's report on 'Women, Business and the Law 2024'

**Published by:** World Bank

**Objective:** In-depth analysis of the **challenges obstructing women's entry into the global workforce.**

### Key Findings

- Notably, no country, including the most affluent economies, ensures equal opportunities for women.
- India's rank has marginally improved.
- Indian women have just 60 per cent of the legal rights compared to men, slightly below the global average of 64.2 per cent.
- **India's Low Score on Women's Pay Legislation:** India scores poorly on the indicator assessing laws that affect women's wages.
- **Recommendations: for Improvement:** To address this, the World Bank suggests several measures - enforcing equal pay for equal work, allowing women to work night shifts like men, and ensuring women have equal opportunities in industrial jobs.
- **Objective of Recommendations:** Implementing these changes would enhance gender equality in the workplace, fostering a more inclusive and fair environment for women.

## IV. Population and associated issues & poverty and developmental issues

### A. Report

#### 1. World Poverty Clock

**Published by:** World Data Lab, a Vienna-based NGO

**Objective:** The World Poverty Clock monitors progress against ending extreme poverty.

### Key Findings

1

India has made significant progress in reducing extreme poverty. Less than 3% of India's population now lives below the poverty line. This accomplishment is in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1.1 of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030.

2

The clock uses a daily income limit of \$2.15 to present its findings.

3

Accordingly, the number of people in India living in extreme poverty decreased to about 3.44 crore in 2024 from 4.69 crore in 2022, making up 2.4% of the total population.



**Note:** The \$2.15 per day poverty line, also called the extreme poverty line, represents national poverty lines in numerous poorest countries. It measures progress towards the World Bank's goal of reducing extreme poverty to fewer than 3% by 2030.

## 2. World Bank Brookings Institute Report

**Published by:** American think-tank, The Brookings Institution

**Objective:** It examines the prospects for ending poverty.

### Key Findings:



India has eliminated extreme poverty, as commonly defined in international comparisons. This is an encouraging development with positive implications for global poverty headcount rates.



This also means that time has come for India to graduate to a higher poverty line much like other countries.



The transition to a higher poverty line provides an opportunity to redefine existing social protection programs particularly with the objective of better identification of intended beneficiaries and providing greater support to the genuine poor.

## 3. PM-EAC Report on Share of Religious Minorities

**Published by:** EAC-PM

**Objective:** It analyses shifts in religious demographics in India.

### Key Findings (2024)



The percentage of Hindus in India has decreased by 7.82% between 1950 and 2015, while the percentages of Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs have increased.



In India, minorities experience equal benefits and live a comfortable life, while global demographic shifts remain a cause for concern.



The report implies that demographic shifts in India signal a favourable environment for diversity.



India's inclusive policies have fostered diversity, evident in the growing number of minority populations without pinpointing specific causes.



It underscores the significance of defining and safeguarding minority rights, citing India's relative success compared to neighboring countries.

#### 4. Migration in India Report

**Published by:** Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation

**Objective:** It is based on first-time collection of additional data during the annual round of Periodic Labour Force Survey for July 2020-June 2021.

##### Key Findings (2020-21)

- The total migration rate in India was 28.9% and in rural was 26.5%.
- Out of the total migrant persons, around 10.8% persons migrated due to employment related reasons.
- 0.7% of the country’s population was recorded as a ‘temporary visitor’ during the July 2020-June 2021 period.
- Temporary visitors were defined as those who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months.

#### 5. Global Report on Internal Displacement

**Published by:** Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

**Objective:** It records internal displacements due to conflict, violence and disasters.

##### Key Findings (2023)

- 1 Report says 7.7 million were displaced by disasters (one-fourth of it was caused by earthquakes) and 68.3 million by conflict and violence.
- 2 Entrenched conflict, disasters and displacement aggravated Global Food Security in 2022, which was already a concern as a result of the slow and uneven recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3 Low-income countries, many of which are dealing with internal displacement, were most affected, in part given their reliance on food and fertilizer imports and international humanitarian aid.

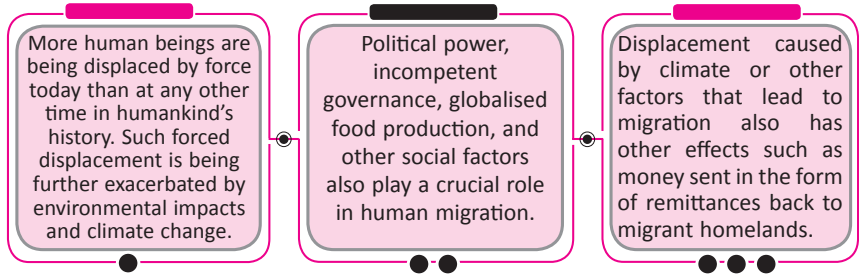
#### 6. World Migration Report

**Published by:** International Maritime Organization

**Objective:** It reveals significant shifts in global migration patterns.

**Note:** World Migration Report is IOM’s flagship report released biennially.

##### Key Findings (2024)



## 7. World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants

**Published by:** World Health Organisation

**Objective:** It outlines current and future opportunities and challenges and provides several strategies to improve the health and well-being of refugees and migrants.

**Note:** The *World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants* is the first of its kind that brings together key evidences about the multitude of health challenges faced by refugees and migrants along their journeys.

### Key Findings



Displacement and migration are key determinants of health for refugees and migrants, and they also affect the populations of countries along the migratory pathway.



Refugees and migrants face additional determinants such as precarious legal status; discrimination; social, cultural, linguistic, administrative and financial barriers; lack of information about health entitlements; low health literacy; and fear of detention and deportation.



A significant number of the **169 million migrant workers** globally are engaged in dirty, dangerous, and demanding jobs and are at greater risk of occupational accidents, injuries, and work-related health problems.

## 8. State of World Population Report

**Published by:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Objective:** It aims to highlight the importance of empowering women and girls to create a more just, resilient, and sustainable world.

### Key Findings:



India leads globally with a population estimate of 1.4417 billion, surpassing China's 1.425 billion. This projection suggests that India's population could potentially double in 77 years, indicating the urgent need for comprehensive demographic management strategies.



Despite some progress in sexual and reproductive health over the past three decades, the report highlights persistent inequalities, particularly among marginalized communities.



The report acknowledges India's achievements in improving access to maternal health services and addressing gender disparities in health outcomes.

## 9. World Happiness Report

**Published by:** United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

**Objective:** It reviews the state of happiness in the world today and shows how the science of happiness explains personal and national variations in happiness.

### Key Findings (2024)

- India ranked 126th out of 143 nations in the World Happiness Report (WHR).
- Finland emerged as the happiest country in the world.
- The annual report evaluates happiness levels across more than 140 nations, considering factors such as social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and the absence of corruption.
- Older Indian women tend to report higher life satisfaction despite facing more stressors and health challenges.
- Marital status, social engagement, physical health, and satisfaction with living arrangements influence life satisfaction among older Indians.

## V. Social Empowerment and Secularism

### A. Committee

#### 1. Dr. Mohini Giri Report

**Year:** 2010

**Chairman:** Dr. Mohini Giri

#### Recommendations:

1

Mainstream the concerns of senior citizens, especially older women, and bring them into the national development debate.

2

Promote income security, homeware services, old age pension, healthcare insurance schemes, housing and other programmes/ services.

3

Promote care of senior citizens within the family and to consider institutional care as a last resort.

4

Work towards an inclusive, barrier-free and age-friendly society.

5

Recognize senior citizens as a valuable resource for the country protect their rights and ensure their full participation in society.

6

Promote long term savings instruments and credit activities in both rural and urban areas.

7

Encourage employment in income generating activities after superannuation. Support organizations that provide counseling, career guidance and training services, etc.

## B. Judgements

Case Name	Issues Involved	Verdict
1. Vishakha and others v. State of Rajasthan (1997)	The case addressed the absence of specific legislation to prevent sexual harassment at workplaces in India. It questioned whether workplace sexual harassment violated constitutional rights, including gender equality, right to life, and liberty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledged the lack of legislation addressing sexual harassment at workplaces.</li> <li>• Referred to <b>Sections 354 and 354A</b> of the Indian Penal Code but found them inadequate for addressing workplace sexual harassment.</li> <li>• Invoked international conventions, including the Beijing Statement of Principles and the <b>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</b>.</li> <li>• Formulated the <b>Vishaka Guidelines</b> to prevent sexual harassment at workplaces, treating them as enforceable <b>under Article 141</b> of the Indian Constitution.</li> <li>• Mandated employers to establish mechanisms for <b>prevention, prohibition, and redressal</b> of sexual harassment.</li> <li>• Directed that the <b>Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)</b> must be established, with specific composition requirements including majority women members and a woman as the presiding officer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Aspirants are advised that this judgement can be further utilized in GS-II and GS-IV under Ethics and Women Empowerment sections, respectively.</p>

<p>2. National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (2014)</p>	<p>Key issues included recognition of transgender rights, gender identity, and discrimination faced by the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of transgender individuals as the ‘third gender’ for legal purposes.</li> <li>• Emphasis on psychological gender identity over biological sex for gender recognition.</li> <li>• Affirmation that transgender persons are entitled to all fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution, including equality (Article 14), non-discrimination (Article 15), and personal liberty (Article 21).</li> <li>• Directive to the government to ensure inclusion of transgender people in welfare schemes and public facilities.</li> <li>• Recognition of the right to self-determination of gender identity and personal integrity protected under Articles 19 and 21, respectively.</li> <li>• Mandate for legal recognition of gender identity without mandatory surgical procedures, respecting individual autonomy and privacy.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="483 852 994 991" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Note:</i> Aspirants are advised that this judgement can be further utilized in GS-II and GS-IV under Ethics and Women Empowerment sections respectively</p> </div>
<p>3. Shayara Bano v. Union of India and others (2016)</p>	<p>The case addressed the constitutionality of talaq-e-biddat (instantaneous triple talaq) under Muslim personal law, questioning whether it was an essential practice protected under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution and whether it violated fundamental rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme Court, in a 3:2 majority decision, declared the practice of Triple Talaq unconstitutional.</li> <li>• The Court directed the legislature to take measures against the practice to prevent abuse against women.</li> <li>• It emphasized that while Triple Talaq is predominantly followed by the Hanafi School, it lacks sanction from the Quran and was not endorsed by the Prophet.</li> <li>• It held that Triple Talaq violates fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Indian Constitution.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="483 1407 994 1546" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Note:</i> Aspirants are advised that this judgement can be further utilized in GS-II and GS-IV under Ethics and Women Empowerment sections respectively</p> </div>

4. Navtej Singh Johar and others v. Union of India (2018)	The constitutionality of Section 377 IPC was questioned, focusing on its violation of Articles 14, 15, 19(1) (a), and 21 by discriminating against sexual orientation, penalizing consensual acts, and criminalizing gender expression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to privacy, including individual autonomy and sexual orientation, is upheld under Article 21, rendering Section 377 violative.</li> <li>• Section 377 is redundant and discriminatory, violating Article 14, as it unfairly targets consensual acts of the LGBTQIA+ community.</li> <li>• The right to choose a sexual partner is a personal choice, and restrictions by Section 377 are irrational and arbitrary.</li> <li>• Section 377 is unconstitutional as it disproportionately restricts fundamental expression rights under Article 19(1) (a) without valid grounds of public order, decency, or morality.</li> <li>• The Supreme Court declared Section 377 unconstitutional for violating Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21, except for non-consensual acts, acts against minors, and bestiality.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: This committee can be utilized in GS IV - Ethics and Human Interface Ethics and Human Interface section.</b></p>
5. Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018)	Section 497 of IPC and Section 198(2) of Cr.P.C were challenged as arbitrary and discriminatory, violating Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 497 IPC struck down as unconstitutional.</b></li> <li>• <b>Violated Articles 14, 15, and 21.</b></li> <li>• <b>Recognized equality and autonomy of women. Adultery remains a civil wrong.</b></li> <li>• <b>Overtaken prior judgments criminalizing adultery.</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This committee can be utilized in GS IV- Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration section.</i></p>

## C. Policies

### 1. National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2016)

**Objective:** The policy aims to create sustainable socio-economic, political empowerment of women to claim their rights and entitlements control over resources and formulation of strategic choices in realisation of the principles of gender equality and justice.

**Key Features:**

- Focus on recognizing women's reproductive rights, shifting of family planning focus also to males, addressing health issues in a life cycle continuum such as

psychological and general well-being, health care challenges related to nutrition/hygiene of adolescents, geriatric health care, expansion of health insurance schemes and addressing the intergenerational cycle of under-nutrition

- Improve access to pre-primary education, enrolment and retention of adolescent girls; implement innovative transportation models for better schooling outcomes, advocate gender champions and address disparities with regard to ICTs.
- Increasing women's participation in the political arena, administration, civil services and corporate boardrooms.
- Addressing gender concerns during distress migration and displacement in times of natural calamities due to climate change and environmental degradation.

## D. Reports

### 1. The State of the World's Children Report

**Published by:** UNICEF

**Objective:** It seeks to deepen knowledge and raise awareness of key issues affecting children, and advocates for solutions that improve children's lives.

#### Key Findings

- Over a third of the 55 countries studied for **vaccine confidence showed a decline**.
- A total of **67 million children missed out on vaccinations** between 2019 and 2021. In 2022, the number of measles cases was more than double the total in the previous year.
- Unvaccinated children often live in **hard-to-reach communities** such as rural areas or urban slums.
- There is a growing threat of vaccine hesitancy due to factors such as **access to misleading information and declining trust in vaccine efficacy**.
- Between 2020 and 2021, the number of zero-dose children in India decreased from 3 million to 2.7 million. However, India was among the top 20 countries with the largest number of zero-dose children.
- 98% of the population in India currently perceive vaccines as important for children.

### 2. World Social Protection Report

**Published by:** International Labour Organisation (ILO)

**Objective:** It aims to examine how social protection can help address income inequality, improve access to basic services, and promote economic stability.

#### Key Findings

- Almost 53% of the population in the world has no social protection (56% in the Asia-Pacific and in India over 76% [Bangladesh has a higher % of people under social protection] have no social protection)



- Spending on social protection: World average is 12.9%, while that in India is just 8.6% (Economic Survey 2021-22).
- India's social security spending: Lower than 5% of GDP per capita.

### 3. Social Progress Index

**Published by:** Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative

**Objective:** It is a comprehensive tool that can serve as a holistic measure of a country's social progress at the national and sub-national levels.

#### Key Findings

- 1 SPI assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of social progress — basic human needs, foundations of well-being, and opportunity.
- 2 Pondicherry has the highest SPI score of 65.99 in the country, attributable to its remarkable performance across components like Personal Freedom and Choice, Shelter, and Water and Sanitation.
- 3 Jharkhand and Bihar scored the lowest, 43.95 and 44.47, respectively.
- 4 **Basic Human Needs:** Goa, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh are the top four states with the best performance in water, sanitation and shelter.
- 5 **Foundations of Wellbeing:** Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Goa have emerged as the best-performing states for the Foundations of Wellbeing.
- 6 For Environmental Quality, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Meghalaya are the top three states.

### 4. India Social Development Report

**Published by:** Oxford University Press on behalf of the Council for Social Development (CSD)

**Objective:** It provides a picture of the country's social conditions at the time of publication.

#### Key Findings

- This report highlights that gender inequalities and women's subordination in India are caused by two formidable macro-structures: patriarchy and the exclusion of unpaid work from the macro-economy.
- Patriarchy imposes subordination on women and forces a disproportionately higher share of unpaid domestic services and unpaid care onto them.
- Other structures like race, religion, and caste cut across these main structures.
- The report suggests that integrating unpaid work into the macro-economy is the only way to address these inequalities and promote gender equality.

### 5. Longitudinal Ageing Study in India

**Published by:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

**Objective:** It examines the social, economic, and health factors that contribute to population ageing in India.

#### Key Findings



In the 2011 census, the 60+ population accounted for 8.6% of India's population, accounting for 103 million elderly people. Growing at around 3% annually, the number of elderly people will rise to 319 million in 2050.



75% of the elderly people suffer from one or the other chronic disease. 40% of the elderly people have one or the other disability and 20% have issues related to mental health.



The self-reported prevalence of diagnosed cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) is 28% among older adults aged 45 and above.



The prevalence of multi-morbidity conditions among the elderly age 60 and above is much higher in the states/UTs of Kerala (52%), Chandigarh (41%), Lakshadweep (40%), Goa (39%) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (38%)

### 6. Senior Care Reforms in India: Reimagining the Senior Care Paradigm

**Published by:** NITI Aayog

**Objective:** The report calls for action on what needs to be done to bring a greater focus on senior care.

#### Key Findings

- India is witnessing exponential growth in the number and proportion of elderly people, coupled with a decreasing fertility rate (less than 2.0) and increasing life expectancy (more than 70 years).
- The transition from high to low mortality rates has shifted a substantial burden of diseases to the older population.
- The phenomenon of population ageing impacts all aspects of society, including changes in labour and financial markets.
- Medical expenses are more than double for this population segment as older people are likely to consume more healthcare services.
- There is a lack of a comprehensive, integrated policy for senior care and support, leading to gaps in infrastructure, capacities, and knowledge repositories for geriatric illness management.
- The absence of a structured policy framework results in lack of monitoring mechanisms and emergency response systems.

## 7. Ease of Living Index

**Published by:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

**Objective:** To evaluate the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development in the city.

### Key Findings



Bengaluru emerged as the top city on the Ease of Living Index released by the Housing and Urban Affairs minister. Pune ranked second while Ahmedabad bagged the third position out of the 111 cities under the Smart Cities Program.



For the million + category, the list included the following cities in their respective positions: Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai, respectively.



Shimla topped the list for less than a million categories, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

## 8. Global Liveability Index

**Published by:** Economist Intelligence Unit

**Objective:** The Index ranks 173 cities across the world with the aim of showing how comfortable these cities are to live in.

### Key Findings (2024)



Western Europe continues to be the world's most liveable region, excelling in four key categories, with North America following closely behind, ranking second overall, and leading in the education category.



Asia-Pacific, the third-placed region, has seen only a slight improvement in its liveability scores. At the same time, Eastern Europe, on the other hand, has experienced the biggest jump, largely due to advancements in healthcare and education.



Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Sub-Saharan Africa also recorded higher scores in healthcare and education; however, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the least liveable region globally.



Notably, five Indian cities were featured in the report, with Delhi and Mumbai tied at 141st rank with a score of 60.2 out of 100, followed by Chennai (59.9), Ahmedabad (58.9), and Bangalore (58.7), in the 2023 index.

## 9. World Social Report

**Published by:** UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Objective:** It aims to help policymakers address major social development issues.

### Key Findings

- The elderly population will reach **1.6 billion in 2050**, accounting for more than **16% of the global population**.
- **North Africa, West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa** are expected to experience the fastest growth in the number of older people over the next three decades.
- Also, **Europe and North America** combined now have the **highest share of older persons**.
- This demographic shift brings into **question current arrangements of** old-age support in young and old countries.
- Gender inequality also persists into old age. Economically, women's lower levels of formal labour market participation, shorter working lives and lower wages during working years lead to more economic insecurity in later life.
- In India, by the year 2050, it is expected that the number of elderly in the country would reach 324 million. According to the National Commission on Population, share of the elderly (persons aged 60 years and above) in India's population is growing fast and may reach 18% by 2036.

## 10. Social Protection for Children

**Published by:** International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF

**Objective:** It aims to explain why universal social protection is important for children and how to achieve it.

### Key Findings (2023)



Child and family social protection coverage rates fell or stagnated in every region in the world between 2016 and 2020, leaving no country on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of achieving substantial social protection coverage by 2030.



Multiple crises are likely to **push more children into** poverty, necessitating an immediate increase in social protection measures.



The impacts of lack of social protection for children are **both immediate and lifelong**; heightening **rights violations such as child labour and child marriage**, and diminishing children's aspirations and opportunities.



And this unrealized human potential **has inevitable adverse and long-term implications for communities**, societies and economies more broadly.

### 11. Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children

**Published by:** World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UNESCO, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the End Violence Partnership

**Objective:** It is a first of its kind report charting progress in 155 countries against the “INSPIRE” framework.

**Note:** **INSPIRE Framework** is a set of seven strategies for preventing and responding to violence against children.

#### Key Findings

- Globally, an estimated one out of two children aged 2–17 years old suffers some form of violence each year.
- Over their lifetime, children exposed to violence are at increased risk of mental and physical health problems, and negative educational outcomes.
- The economic costs of these consequences are enormous.

### 12. Global Slavery Index

**Published by:** Walk Free Foundation

**Objective:** It aims to shed light on the extent of modern slavery and the vulnerability of countries to it.

#### Key Findings:

50 million people were living in conditions of modern slavery on any given day in 2021.

The practice has become more prevalent over the last five years (a 25%/10 million rise), due to climate change, armed conflict, weak governance and COVID-19.

G20 nations account for more than half of all people living in modern slavery because their trade operations and global supply chains allow for human rights abuses.

### 13. Global report on trafficking in persons

**Published by:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Objective:** It aims to highlight human trafficking as a shared problem and inspire action against it.

**Key Findings**

The **most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation**. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls.



The **second most common form of human trafficking is forced labour (18%)**



Worldwide, almost **20% of all trafficking victims are children**. However, in some parts of Africa and the Mekong region, children are the majority (up to 100% in parts of West Africa).

**14. Global Gender Parity Report**

**Published by:** World Economic Forum

**Objective:** To serve as a compass to track progress on relative gaps between women and men on health, education, economy and politics.

**Key Findings (2024)**

Women's workforce representation lags behind men's across nearly every industry and economy at 42% overall and only 31.7% in senior leadership roles.



The "leadership pipeline" shows a 21.5% point drop from entry-level to managerial level for women globally.



Women's hiring into leadership roles deteriorated in 2023-24 due to worsening economic conditions.



India dropped to 129th place in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2024, while Iceland retained the top spot. The "slight regression," according to the report, is mainly due to "small declines" in the spheres of education and political empowerment.

**15. Global Inequality Crisis Report**

**Published by:** Oxfam International

**Objective:** The report focuses on the alleviation of global poverty.

**Key Findings**

In 2019, the world's billionaires, only 2,153 people, had more wealth than 4.6 billion people. This great divide is based on a flawed and sexist economic system that values the wealth of the privileged few, mostly men, more than the billions of hours of the most essential work – the unpaid and underpaid care work done primarily by women and girls around the world.



The heavy and unequal responsibility of care work perpetuates gender and economic inequalities.



Globally, extreme poverty rates are 4% higher for women than men and this gap rises to 22% during women's peak productive and reproductive ages.



India's richest 1% holds more than four-times the wealth held by the bottom 70% of the country's population.

## 16. Global Social Mobility Index

**Published by:** World Economic Forum

**Objective:** The report measures social mobility across 82 countries.

### Key Findings



The Nordic economies such as Denmark and Finland top the social mobility rankings while countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and South Africa languish at the bottom.



The notion of relative social mobility is more closely related to the social and economic status of an individual relative to their parents.



The report also makes a powerful case for stakeholder capitalism. By comparison, economies that are organized more on "shareholder value maximization", or "state capitalism", tend to perform less well.



India's overall ranking is a poor 76 out of the 82 countries considered. Thus it should not come as any surprise that India ranks lowly in individual parameters as well.

## V. Distribution of Key Natural Resources

### A. Policies

#### 1. National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP)

**Objective:** It aims to implement resource efficiency across all resources including both biotic.

National Resource Efficiency Policy is guided by the **principles** of:

- 1 Reduction in primary resource consumption to 'sustainable' levels, in keeping with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and staying within the planetary boundaries
- 2 Creation of higher value with less material through resource efficient and circular approaches, Waste minimization
- 4 Material security, and creation of employment opportunities and business models beneficial to the cause of environment protection and restoration

## VI. Geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.






### A. Judgements

#### 1. Narmada Bachao Andolan vs Union of India and Others on 18 October, 2000

##### Issues Involved

The case involved challenges to the environmental clearance and construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River, focusing on environmental impact assessments and rehabilitation of displaced populations.

##### Verdict:

-  The Supreme Court reaffirmed the separation of powers and applied the precautionary principle from Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India, shifting the burden of proof to project proponents regarding environmental harm.
-  Authorized construction up to 90 meters, contingent on existing environmental clearances, with further height increases subject to additional approvals from the environmental subgroup.
-  Mandated faithful implementation of tribunal awards for rehabilitation, ensuring adequate compensation and support for affected populations.
-  Established ongoing monitoring by the environmental subgroup to assess impacts and enforce sustainable practices throughout the project's phases.
-  Emphasized inclusion of marginalized communities in project benefits like access to essential services, reinforcing social justice and equitable resource distribution.



## B. Policies

### 1. National Water Policy 2012

**Objective:** The objective of the National Water Policy, 2012 is to assess the existing situation and to propose a framework for a plan of action with a unified national perspective.

**Key Features:**



It laid emphasis on the need for a national water framework law, comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys.



Water, after meeting the pre-emptive needs requires to be treated as economic good so as to promote its conservation and efficient use. Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority has been recommended.



Removal of large disparity in stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas has been recommended.



Adequate grants to the States to update technology, design practices, planning and management practices, preparation of annual water balances and accounts for the site and basin, preparation of hydrologic balances for water systems, and benchmarking and performance evaluation etc.

## C. Reports

### 1. Global Forest Watch (GFW)

**Published by:** World Resources Institute (WRI)

**Objective:** It is an open-source web application to monitor global forests in near real-time using satellite data and other sources.

**Key Findings**



India lost 4.1% of humid primary forest from 2002 to 2023, making up 18% of its total tree cover loss in the same period.



The data showed that 95% of the tree cover loss in India from 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests.



The maximum tree cover loss occurred in 2017.



5 states accounted for 60% of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023 – Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur.



According to FAO, the rate of deforestation in India was 668,000 hectares per year between 2015 and 2020, the 2nd highest worldwide



The data showed India lost 35,900 hectares of tree cover due to forest fires.

## 2. Water, Ice, Society, and Ecosystems (WISE) report

**Published by:** International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

**Objective:** It aims to inform people, decision makers, and the global community about the rapidly changing cryosphere in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region and its impacts on water, biodiversity, and society:

### Key Findings (2023)



Many areas around the world have passed “peak water” and communities are dealing with less glacier meltwater.



For the HKH, the peak point has not been reached yet, but it is coming soon.



As Himalayan glaciers melt due to climate change, water availability in the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra is set to increase (through 2050) in the short term and decrease in the long term (~80% by 2100).



The Eastern/ lesser Himalayas have fewer glaciers compared to their western counterparts. Hence, rivers in the region get less contribution from glaciers and are less likely to be affected overall.



Climate change is severely affecting biodiversity in HKH. For example, the habitat of Himalayan ibex is likely to reduce by 33 to 64%.

**Note:** The report, also known as HI-WISE, is as follow-up to the first assessment of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region released by ICIMOD in 2019.

### 3. UNESCO State of Ocean Report

**Published by:** UNESCO

**Objective:** It offers insights on ocean-related scientific activities and analyses describing the current and future state of the ocean.

#### **Key Findings (2024)**



The rate of ocean warming has doubled in 20 years.



The Ocean lost 2% oxygen since the 1960s.



Sea levels are rising with ocean heat absorption contributing 40%.

