

Current Affairs (2023): Social Issues & Development At a Glance

- * **Food Labels to Have QR Code to Help the Visually Disabled**– The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the inclusion of QR code on food products for accessibility by Visually Impaired Individuals.
- * **Mera Yuva Bharat**– Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of an autonomous body called Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) to provide Equitable Access to The Youth. This will serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth led development.
- * **Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children**– The Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) recently launched the protocol to provide detailed 10-step guidelines for the **Identification and Management of Children** suffering from **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** at the Anganwadi level, including decision-making for referral, nutritional management and follow-up care.
- * **Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2023**– On August 2nd, **The National Medical Commission** had published the Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2023 aimed at reshaping prescription practices. It mandated that registered medical practitioners prescribe medications using **“Generic”, “Non-Proprietary”, or “Pharmacological” names.**
- * The Indian district of **Kollam** has become the **Country’s First Constitution Literate District.** The campaign aimed to provide constitutional literacy to 23 Lakh citizens belonging to 7 Lakh families in the district.
- * According to the **UN’s World Population Prospects 2022 (WPP2022) Report**, the global fertility rate, which stood at 2.3 overall in 2021, will hit the demographic tipping point of **2.1 by 2050.** This is owing to a globally synchronized decline in birth rates, including in Africa and Latin America.
- * Recently, the Government of the State of Bihar released findings of the **Caste Survey, 2023** which revealed that **Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs)** together **Constitute 63 % of the state’s total population.**
- * The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment’s flagship program, **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)**, aims to raise awareness about substance abuse among youth in India.
- * An investigation has revealed that as many as **Out Of 30 National Sports Federations in India** don’t comply with the **Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act**, which mandates an **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** to create a safe workplace environment for women.
- * Recently, the **Supreme Court Committee on Prison Reforms** found **Suicide** to be the leading cause of ‘unnatural’ deaths (other than ageing or illnesses) among **Indian prisoners.**
- * More than 57,000 migrant workers have registered for the special one nation **One Anganwadi Program on Poshan** Tracker App.
- * Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the construction of the **‘Balidan Stambh’** in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, on June 24. The ‘Sacrifice Pillar’ is a monument that is being built as part of the Srinagar Smart City project.
- * The Supreme Court of India has granted couples the **Right to Divorce** on the grounds of **“Irretrievable Breakdown Of Marriage”** under Article 142 of the Constitution. This ruling applies to cases where both parties seek a mutual consent divorce or where one partner seeks a divorce despite opposition from the other.
- * The **HISTORIC YOGA SESSION** led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the United Nations Headquarters marked a significant celebration of the 9th International Day of Yoga. The event showcased India’s commitment to nurturing traditions that unite and embrace diversity, with a call to eliminate contradictions and obstacles through the practice of yoga.
- * The **7th Deepotsav in Ayodhya** set a new world record by emerging as the largest event of lighting lamps together at one location, with over 22 Lakh ‘diyas’ illuminated along the Saryu River.
- * In an inter-ministerial meeting, which saw participation of 9 line ministries, DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission), Ministry of Rural Development announced its plans for the second year of its National Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence – **‘Nayi Chetna – 2.0’.**



- * The Jharkhand Government extended the scope of its **Universal Pension Scheme** to encompass transgender individuals. Under the newly implemented **Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha** Pension Yojana, eligible transgender beneficiaries are entitled to a monthly financial aid.
 - * The **Aswasanidhi project**, initiated by the Women and Child Development Department, has provided interim financial relief totaling 10.17 Crore to nearly 1,400 victims of sex crimes and severe gender-based violence since its inception in 2018.
 - * According to **UNHCR’s Statistics** on forced **displacement**, the number of people who were forced to flee their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order reached a record **108.4 million by the end of 2022, and 30% of them were children.**
 - * Recently, The Supreme Court has delivered its long-awaited **verdict rejecting petitions to legalize same-sex marriage** and delved deeper on the provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to examine the issue thoroughly, which have convergence and interrelationship with homosexuality.
 - * Despite having the largest youth population globally, **India’s workforce is ageing rapidly** according to an analysis of India’s workforce using data from **CIE’s (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) Economic Outlook**, which is a concerning trend.
 - * Governor Brian Kemp of the **U.S. State** of Georgia has officially declared the month of October to be celebrated as **‘Hindu Heritage Month’** within the state.
 - * The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** has recently unveiled its annual report titled **“Crime in India for 2022,”** providing a comprehensive overview of crime trends across the nation. A total of over **58,00,000 cognizable crimes were registered**, comprising both the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes.
- | Category | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMES | 73,851 | 82,875 |
| CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN | 2,556 | 2,121 |
| Murders | 723 | 763 |
| Attempt to murder | 906 | 979 |
| Rape | 1,661 | 1,012 |
| Acid attack | 504 | 504 |
- * In the **Global Hunger Index 2023**, India ranked **111th** out of 125 countries, indicating a serious level of hunger. Neighboring countries, such as Pakistan (102nd), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th), and Sri Lanka (60th), scored better than India.
 - * **PM- Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan**– Government has launched PM JANMAN (PM- Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) which is aimed at comprehensive development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in 18 states and 1 UT who continue to lag behind in Socio-Economic Indicators of educational, health and livelihood with a total outlay of Rs.24,104 Crore.
 - * **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**– Government launched Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra which focuses on reaching out to people, creating awareness and providing benefits of **Welfare Schemes** like sanitation facilities, essential financial services, electricity connections, access to LPG cylinders, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutrition, reliable healthcare, clean drinking water, etc.
 - * **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**–
 - * PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched on 17th September, 2023 by the Prime Minister to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools.
 - * Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Credit Support up to Rs.1 Lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 Lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
 - * The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.
 - * **Rise of Child Marriages in West Bengal**– Lancet study on child marriage in India highlighted an overall decrease in child marriage across the country.
 - * Study emphasized that certain states, specifically Bihar (16.7%), West Bengal (15.2%), Uttar Pradesh (12.5%), and Maharashtra (8.2%), collectively contributed to over half of the total headcount burden of child marriages in girls.
 - * **8th Swachya Sarvekshan 2023**– **Indore** won the 1st prize for the 7th time, sharing the 1st spot with Surat, followed by New Mumbai for 3rd spot. Swachh Bharat Mission Anthem launched titled “Naya Sankalp hai, Naya Prkalpa hai” – sung by Kailash Kher.