

GENDER SOCIAL NORMS INDEX (GSNI) 2023

Recently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023.



About Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023:

- It quantifies **biases against women**, capturing people's attitudes toward women's roles.
- It tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions: **political, educational, economic and physical integrity**.

Key points of GSNI 2023

- The index, covering 85 per cent of the global population, reveals that **close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women**.
- **Nearly 90% of people** still hold at least one **bias against women** and 25 per cent of people believe it is justified for a man to beat his wife.
- Countries with **greater bias** in gender social norms also show a **lower presence of women in parliament**.
- Indigenous women, migrant women and **women with disabilities** have **meagre political representation**, demonstrating how overlapping biases can further reduce opportunities for women.
- The recent increase in **education achievements** **has not translated** into better economic outcomes and opportunities for women.

IN FULL FLOW: TOWARDS REALISING 'THE MARITIME VISION 2030'

Context

- According to recently released World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) Report 2023, India (overall ranked 38th) has moved up to **22nd rank in the global rankings on the "International Shipments"** category from the **44th position in 2014**.

- The global recognition of the operational efficiencies of Indian ports and the Indian maritime sector is an important step in India's endeavour to become a global maritime power as envisaged in the Maritime India Vision, 2030.

Maritime India Vision, 2030

- A 10-year blueprint with the aim of overhauling the Indian maritime sector, the vision was launched at the Maritime India Summit in November 2020.
- It is the latest venture of the Sagarmala Programme which outlines a series of policy initiatives and development projects.
- The development project will see an investment of Rs. 3.4 lakh crore to increase cargo volumes to the tune of 2600 million tonnes.
 - This will lead to the creation of additional jobs (direct or indirect) and create more sources of revenue of about 20,000 cores for state-owned major ports.

Current Operational Efficiency of Indian Ports

- The capacity at 12 major ports in the country has increased from 871 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2015 to 1,617 MMT in 2023.
- The total capacity of Indian ports has gone up from about 1,560 MMT in 2015 to more than 2,600 MMT.
- There has also been a nearly 150 per cent increase in the value of operationalisation of PPP projects in the major ports — from about Rs 16,000 crore in 2015 to more than Rs 40,000 crore in 2022-23.

Reason Behind Improvement in Port Operational Efficiency

- **PPP Projects**
 - The PPP projects have contributed significantly to the increased operational efficiencies while adding nearly 300 MMT extra capacity during this period.
 - They handle nearly 54 per cent of the total cargo in the major ports.

- **National Logistics Portal (Marine):** It is a single-window digital platform for all stakeholders including those engaged in cargo services, carrier services, banking and financial services, and government and regulatory agencies.
- **Sagar Setu App:** The app along with National Logistics Portal (Marine) facilitates seamless movement of goods and services in ports while substantially enhancing the ease of doing business.

Conclusion

- Over the past few years, the government has endeavoured to develop ports as hubs of economic activity.
- Improvement in World Bank ranking on ports **reflects steps taken in maritime sector.**

GENERAL CONSENT TO THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)

The Tamil Nadu government recently withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the cases in the state without prior permission from it.



About General Consent to the CBI:

- **Why is the consent of states needed?**
 - The CBI is governed by **The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act** of 1946, which requires the investigative agency to obtain the consent of state governments before it can investigate a crime in a particular state.
 - **Section 6 of The DSPE Act** (“Consent of State Government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction”) says: “Nothing contained in section 5 (titled “Extension of powers and jurisdiction of special police establishment to other areas”) shall be deemed to enable any member of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in a State, not being a Union territory or railway area, **without the consent of the Government of that State**”.
 - In other words, **without a state government’s consent, the CBI cannot exercise its power within that state's borders.**

- The CBI's position is in this respect **different from that of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, which is governed by The NIA Act, 2008, and **has jurisdiction all over the country.**
- **What is the general consent for CBI?**
- Consent given by a state government to the CBI **can come in two forms, either case-specific, or 'general'.**
- **General consent, as the name indicates, allows the CBI to operate seamlessly within states.**
- **When a state gives a general consent to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.**
- **Withdrawal of general consent also means that the CBI will not be able to register any fresh case involving central government officials or private persons in a particular state without prior permission of that state government.**
- **The CBI can continue to investigate cases in a state registered prior to the withdrawal of general consent.**
- In contrast, **if the CBI does not have the general consent of a state government, it is required to apply for consent on a case-by-case basis** and cannot act before the consent is given.
- **If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.**

[INS VIKRAMADITYA](#)

INS Vikramaditya has recently been operationalised after an exhaustive refit lasting nearly two and a half years.



About INS Vikramaditya:

- It is a **modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier** which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013.
- It has been **renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.**
- **History:**

- The carrier served with the Soviet Navy and later with the Russian Navy (as Admiral Gorshkov) before being decommissioned in 1996.
- It was later bought by India in 2004 for \$2.33bn.
- It was commissioned in 2013 after refurbishing.
- **Features:**
 - It has an overall length of about 284 meters and a maximum beam of about 60 meters.
 - The ship has a total of 22 decks. It can carry more than 1,600 personnel, including crew.
 - **Displacement: 44,500 Tonnes**
 - It has a maximum speed of more than 30 knots and can achieve a maximum range of 7,000nmi.
 - It can endure up to 45 days at sea.
 - It is powered by 08 new-generation steam boilers.
 - The ship has the ability to carry over 30 aircraft comprising an assortment of MiG 29K/Sea Harrier, Kamov 31, Kamov 28, Sea King, ALH-Dhruv and Chetak helicopters.
 - The aircraft carrier can be armed with a wide range of weapons, including anti-ship missiles, beyond visual range air-to-air missiles, guided bombs, and rockets.
 - The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art launch and recovery systems along with aids to enable smooth and efficient operation of ship-borne aircraft.

WHAT IS OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME (OMSS)?

The Central Government recently discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to State governments.



About Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS):

- Under OMSS, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) sells surplus stocks of wheat and rice at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market.
- **Objective:** To enhance the supply of food grains, especially wheat, during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market prices, specially in the deficit regions.

- The FCI conducts a **weekly auction** to conduct this scheme **in the open market using the platform of commodity exchange NCDEX** (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited).
- The **State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also allowed to participate** in the e-auction, **if they require wheat and rice outside the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).**
- The **reserve price is fixed by the government.** In the tenders floated by the FCI, the **bidders cannot quote less than the reserve price.**
- The present form of OMSS comprises **3 schemes as under:**
 - **Sale of wheat to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.**
 - **Sale of wheat to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction by dedicated movement.**
 - **Sale of Raw Rice Grade ‘A’ to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.**

Key facts about Food Corporation of India (FCI):

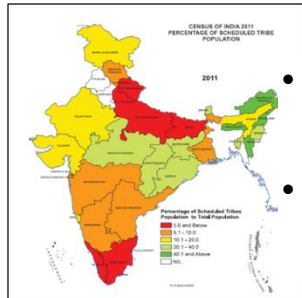
- It is a **statutory body set up in 1965** (under the **Food Corporation Act, 1964**) against the **backdrop of major shortage of grains**, especially wheat, in the country.
- It comes under the ownership of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, Government of India.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- FCI was **mandated with three basic objectives:**
 - to **provide effective price support to farmers;**
 - to **procure and supply grains to PDS** for distributing subsidized staples to economically vulnerable sections of society;
 - **keep a strategic reserve** to stabilize markets for basic foodgrains;

CENTRE LOOKING TO DESIGN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX FOR PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS

Why in News?

- The Union government is now looking to design a survey that can gauge the **Human Development Index (HDI)** specifically for about 28 lakh people of the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.

Scheduled Tribes in India:



- According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 104 million representing **8.6% of the country's population**.
- These Scheduled Tribes are spread throughout the country largely in forest and hilly regions.

What is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)?

- PVTGs are **more vulnerable among the tribal groups**.
 - Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In this context, in 1975, the Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs on the recommendation of **Dhebar commission**.
 - Currently, there are **75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes**.
- The PVTGs are spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census).
 - **Odisha has the highest number (more than 2.5 lakh) of PVTGs.**
- **Characteristics of PVTGs:**
 - Population – stagnant/declining
 - Technology – pre-agricultural
 - Literacy Level – extremely low
 - Economy – Subsistence level

Government Scheme(s) for PVTGs:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a scheme in the name of '**Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**'.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** having a provision of 100% Central assistance to 18 states and Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The scheme of Development of PVTGs aims at socio-economic development of PVTGs in a comprehensive manner, while retaining their culture and heritage.
- As a part of the scheme, State Governments undertakes projects that are tailored to cater to sectors like education, health and livelihood schemes for the PVTGs.

About Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS):

- EMRS started in **1997-98** with the aim of imparting quality education to children belonging to Scheduled Tribes (ST) in remote areas.
- The EMRS aims to enable students to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students.
- Each school has a **capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII.**
- These are being set up by grants provided under **Article 275(1) of the Constitution.**
- **Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools (EMDBS) –**
 - Wherever density of ST population is higher in identified Sub-Districts (90% or more), it is proposed to set up Eklavya Model Day Boarding School (EMDBS) on an experimental basis.
 - This is aimed at providing additional scope for ST Students seeking to avail school education without residential facility.

INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SCHEME (IIPDF)

Recently, to promote the Digital India initiative of the Government of India, the Infrastructure Finance Secretariat has launched the IIPDF Portal for submitting applications for consideration under IIPDF Scheme.



About IIPDF Scheme:

- **What it is?** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** which will **aid the development of quality PPP projects** by providing necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities, both in the **Central and State Governments**.
- **Funding:**
 - The corpus of the IIPDF shall comprise of **initial budgetary outlay of Rs. 100** Crore by the Ministry of Finance.
 - Funding under IIPDF Scheme is in addition to the already operational Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (VGF Scheme).

Composition of the IIPDF approval committee:

- **Chairperson:** Joint secretary, DEA
- Representative of NITI Aayog
- **Member Secretary:** Deputy Secretary/Private Investment Unit, DEA
- **The approval committee will**
 - Select projects for which project development costs will be funded.
 - **Set the terms and conditions** under which the funding will be provided and recovered.
 - **Set milestones for disbursing** and recovering (where appropriate) the funding.
- The **Public-Private Partnership Cell** of the DEA will provide support functions to examine the applications received for assistance under IIPDF.