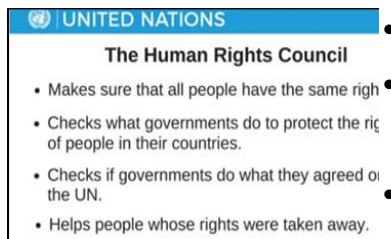


### INDIA CALLS OUT LANKA AT UNHRC ON TAMIL ISSUE

#### In News:

- India called Sri Lanka out at United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for lack of measurable progress on the latter's commitments for a political solution to the ethnic Tamil minority issue.

#### United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)



- The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body **within the United Nations system**.
- **Based in Geneva**, the council was created in 2006 by the UNGA.

- It is made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.
  - 47 Member States are elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.
  - Human Rights Council candidates are elected in geographical groups to ensure even representation.
- The members of the Council **serve for a period of three years** and they are not eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.
- The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal human rights official of the UN.
- The council meets three times a year to examine human rights violations worldwide.

#### Tamil Issue

- Communal tensions between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities had been brewing since the early 1940s.
- The nearly three-decade long armed conflict between Sri Lankan forces and the LTTE came to an end in May 2009.
- Since then, Indian govt is persuading Sri Lankan govt for greater devolution of power to Tamils.

- The need for national reconciliation through a political settlement of the ethnic issue has been reiterated by India at the highest levels.

### **13th amendment in the Constitution of Sri Lanka**

- The Sri Lankan Parliament passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the constitution in November 1987 with the objective of creating **provincial councils** based on the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of July 1987.
- The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution provides for:
  - The establishment of Provincial Councils
  - The appointment and powers of the Governor of Provinces
  - Membership and tenure of Provincial Councils
  - The legislative powers of the Provincial Councils
  - Tamil as an official language and English as a link language
- Elections to the three provinces – Northern, Central and North Western Provinces were held. However, the terms of Sri Lanka's nine provincial councils expired about three years ago, and they have remained defunct since.

### **News Summary**

- India has voiced concern over the lack of measurable progress by Sri Lanka on its commitment of a political solution to the ethnic issue through full implementation of the 13th Amendment of Constitution.
- India made this statement at the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- India highlighted that its two fundamental considerations remain:
  - support to Lankan Tamils for justice, dignity & peace;
  - Unity, stability & territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

### **Why Sri Lanka faces the heat of UNHRC?**

- Over 13 years since the end of Sri Lanka's civil war, survivors continue demanding justice and accountability for war-time crimes.

- It is claimed that during Sri Lankan civil war tens of thousands of civilians were killed and disappeared.
- In the post-war years, concerns were raised over persisting militarisation, especially in the Tamil-majority north and east; repression, and the shrinking space for dissent.
- In latest report on Sri Lanka, the U.N. Human Rights Chief said that “embedded impunity for past and present human rights abuses, economic crimes and corruption was among the underlying factors that led to the country’s devastating economic crisis”.

## RAKTDAAN AMRIT MAHOTSAV

**The Union Health Ministry is planning to launch a nationwide, mega voluntary blood donation drive, called the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, on September 17, with an aim to collect one lakh units of blood.**



### About:

- The drive hopes to create a database of donors who can be called upon at times of emergency.
- The Ministry has sent a letter to all the States and the Union Territories, stating that the drive would continue till October 1, the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (NVBDD).
- Registrations for blood donation can be done on the Aarogya Setu portal under Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav which calls people to donate blood and be a part of Prime Minister’s mission for humanity.
- A live dashboard will be operationalised on the e-RaktKosh web portal for tracking the number of blood units donated/collected in each State and Union Territory.

## SHRINGAR GAURI WORSHIP HEARING TO GO ON, GYANVAPI PLEA REJECTED

### In News:

- The court of the Varanasi district judge held as maintainable a suit filed by five Hindu women seeking the right to daily worship of Goddess Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.
- Maa Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities were being worshipped incessantly till 1993.
- After 1993, the Uttar Pradesh government restricted the worship to one day a year.

## Background:

SHRINGAR GAURI CASE TIMELINE	
<b>Aug 18, 2021</b>   5 Hindu women file a petition before civil judge (senior division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar's court, seeking daily worship of goddess Shringar Gauri and other deities in the Gyanvapi mosque premises.	civil judge with a plea that a shivling has been found inside Gyanvapi complex. He seeks sealing of the area. He also requests that not more than 20 people be allowed to offer namaz on the complex.
<b>April 8, 2022</b>   The civil judge orders court commission survey of Gyanvapi mosque	<b>May 17</b>   SC takes up AIM's plea. Says that the shivling should be protected but namazis should be allowed offer prayer.
<b>April 2022</b>   Defendants Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (AIM) challenges appointing of court commission in Allahabad HC but the plea was rejected	<b>May 19</b>   Court commission submits its report
<b>April 2022</b>   Civil judge orders a survey and videography of the Gyanvapi complex. Appoints advocate commissioner for the purpose.	<b>May 20</b>   Supreme Court transfers the civil suit to Varanasi district judge, asking to finalise the issue of maintainability of ca under Order 7, Rule 11(d) CPC on a priority
<b>May 6</b>   The survey of the Gyanvapi complex resumes. The civil judge orders the survey report to be submitted by May 17.	<b>May 24</b>   District judge Ajay Krishna Vishvesha started hearing the case as per SC directive
<b>May 16</b>   Lawyer of a petitioner approaches the	<b>May 24 to July 12</b>   AIM's advocates make their submission
	<b>July 21 to Aug 24</b>   Advocates of women plaintiffs file the counter-reply
	<b>Sept 12</b>   District court reje AIM's plea. The plaintiff's plea to be decided on meri

## News Summary

The Varanasi District Court dismissed the challenge by Masajid Committee against the civil suits that sought the right to worship Maa Shringar Gauri and other deities within the Gyanvapi mosque premises.

The district court held that it did not find any law that barred the petitioners from filing such a suit.

This means that the cases can now be heard on merits

where the parties have to present evidence to prove their claims.

- Under the Code of Civil Procedure, in the initial stage, allegations made in a suit must be prima facie accepted without going into the veracity of the claims, unless such a suit is barred by law.
- Once the suit is accepted, the onus of proving the claims would be on the plaintiffs.

## Grounds on which Mosque side opposed the suit and the ruling of the district court

- **The Places of Worship Act, 1991**
  - Mosque committee had alleged that the current suit violated Sections 3 and 4 of the Places of Worship Act, 1991.
  - These sections mandated that one cannot tinker with any place of worship which has been **existing and where worship has been performed as on August 15, 1947**.
  - e., the religious character of a place of worship existing on the 15 August, 1947 shall continue to be the same as it existed on that day.
  - The Varanasi court said in its order that the Places of Worship Act does not bar the civil suit.

- It relied on the argument that even after August 15, 1947, the religious character of the Gyanvapi mosque allowed for prayers to Hindu deities.
  - It said that the petitioners have not sought the relief for converting the place of worship from a mosque to a temple.
  - **The Wakf Act, 1995**
    - The Muslim side argued that the subject matter of the civil suit is a Wakf property.
    - According to Section 85 of the Act, only the Wakf Tribunal, Lucknow, can decide the suit.
    - But the court said that the suit is not barred by the Wakf Act.
  - The Wakf Act, according to the court, is to solve disputes within the community and not to extinguish claims from outside the community.
  - **Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983:**
    - The Muslim side also challenged the civil suits on the grounds that under this Act, the temple land was clearly demarcated, and that the Board of Trustees appointed under law did not interfere in the case.
  - The court ruled that this Act of 1983 does not specifically bar a suit claiming right to worship idols installed in the endowment within the premises of the temple, or outside.
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## BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (BDS)

**For the first time in 74 years, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) curriculum is all set for an overhaul.**



### **About:**

- The decision by the Dental Council of India, which falls under the Union Health Ministry, is aimed at bringing the undergraduate course on a par with global standards, while making it more job-oriented and up to date.
- At present the BDS is a five-year course, which comprises four-year academics and one year of internship.

- The proposed credit-based curriculum will be a five-and-a-half-year course, which consists of four-and-a-half years of academics and one year of rotational internship.
  - The exam pattern will shift from yearly to semester system where the student has the option to pick from the 50 to 60 elective subjects offered alongside.
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## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U.U. Lalit has recommended eight names for appointment to the Bombay High Court. Six of them are judicial officers and two are advocates.



### **About:**

- If the government agrees with the Collegium, the judicial strength in the Bombay High Court will rise to 68 out of a total sanctioned strength of 94 judges.
  - The Indian Judicial collegium system, where existing judges appoint judges to the nation's constitutional courts, has its genesis in, and continued basis resting on, three of its own judgments made by Supreme Court judges which are collectively known as the Three Judges Cases.
  - Following are the three cases:
    - P. Gupta v. Union of India - 1981 (also known as the Judges' Transfer case)
    - Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association vs Union of India - 1993
    - In re Special Reference 1 of 1998
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## EWS QUOTA

The Supreme Court will examine whether The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, which introduced a 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs and admissions, violates the basic structure of the Constitution.

## About:

- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit decided to examine the following three key issues to ascertain the validity of the amendment:
  - “Whether the 103rd Constitution Amendment can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria”;
  - “Whether it (the amendment) can be said to breach the basic structure...by permitting the state to make special provisions in relation to admission to private unaided institutions”;
  - “Whether the basic structure is violated by “excluding the SEBCs (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes)/ OBCs (Other Backward Classes)/ SCs (Scheduled Castes)/ STs (Scheduled Tribes) from the scope of EWS reservation”.
- The 103rd Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) in the Constitution to provide up to 10 per cent reservation to EWS other than backward classes, SCs, and STs in higher educational institutions and initial recruitment in government jobs.



## GOVT HEALTH SPEND FALLS AS PERCENTAGE OF GDP

### In News:

- Government expenditure on health after rising steadily from 2004-05 to 2017-18 as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen in this period to 1.28% in 2018-19.

### News Summary:

TRENDS IN GOVT SPENDING AS % OF GDP	
2018-19	1.28
2017-18	1.35
2016-17	1.20
2015-16	1.18
2014-15	1.13
2013-14	1.15

- The latest National Health Accounts (2018-19) released recently reveal that public health expenditure as a percentage of GDP fell from 1.35 per cent in 2017-18 to 1.28 per cent.
- The total health expenditure (THE) in 2018-19 was Rs 5.96 lakh crore in which government spending was Rs 2.42 lakh crore, which is Rs 1,815 per capita.

- Meanwhile, out-of-pocket spending on health stood at Rs 2,155 per capita.
- While the government expenditure as a share of total health expenditure in 2018-19 stood at 40.6 per cent, the corresponding share of out-of-pocket expenditure was higher at **2 per cent** — nearly half of all health spending.
- On the brighter side, these estimates show consistently declining trends in out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure – from 64.2 per cent in 2013 to 48.2 per cent in 2018.
- **Private Health Insurance –**
  - Private health insurance expenditure forms only Rs 39,201 crore — 6.57 per cent of the total health spending and has been stagnating for years.
  - Experts say that private insurance firms must relax the rigid conditions and reduce inequities to penetrate the market.

#### About National Health Accounts:

- The National Health Accounts is a process through which countries monitor the flow of money in their health sector.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has been coordinating efforts at the global level to produce those estimates for each and every country.

#### Comparing India's Government Health Expenditure with other countries'

- The average for OECD countries in 2018 was 8.8 per cent of GDP while the healthcare expenditure in the developed countries like the US was 16.9 per cent.
- China - 5 per cent, Germany - 11.2 per cent, France - 11.2 per cent and Japan - 10.9 per cent.

#### Way Ahead:

- **Increasing public spending on health:**
  - An efficient and equitable health system cannot be developed without adequate public financing.
  - The National Health Policy (2017) recommended that the **government expenditure on health should be increased to 2.5% of GDP by 2025.**
- **Improve Doctor-to-Patient ratio:**





# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- As of February 2021, India’s doctor-to-population ratio stood at **1:1404**, while the WHO recommends the doctor-to-population ratio to be **1:1000**.
  - For people in the rural India who are completely dependent on government healthcare facilities, the doctor to patient ratio is abysmally low with **1:10,926** doctors.
  - **Optimizing the use of technology:**
    - Technology-enabled community health workers, nurses and other frontline care providers can perform many functions in primary care.
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