
VAJIRAM & RAVI

WELFARE OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

- A marginalised population is a group of individuals or a particular cluster, who, due to various reasons, is socially, economically and educationally marginalised and thus deprived of joining the mainstream of society.
- In India, it mainly includes scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, senior citizens, differently-abled, nomadic, semi-nomadic, transgender persons and beggars.

Various Steps

- **Creation of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** - The Ministry is mainly divided into two departments: 1) **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**, and 2) **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.
- **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** – It is entrusted with the task of empowering the socially and economically backward target groups. The target groups of this Department are: Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Senior Citizens, Victims of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Transgender Persons, Beggars, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) and, Economically Backward Classes.
- **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** - The main objective of the Department is to build an inclusive society with equal opportunities and empowering through related legislation/policies/programmed/schemes.
- The Ministry offers **various types of scholarship schemes** for the educational empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. Scholarship is provided to the talented SC students of 220 institutions to meet the requirements for tuition fee, living expenses, computer/laptop and other accessories.
- **Free coaching of SC and OBC students** for employment and higher education is also provided.
- Significant amendments to the schemes were made through dedicated web portals (e-grants) and electronic transfer of grants. The quantum of assistance was increased by 100%, with **focus on education sector** namely residential schools/non-residential schools and hostels for both primary and secondary level students educationally backward blocks or service-less blocks with 40% SC population or new school projects in backward districts identified by NITI Aayog.
- **National Fellowship Scheme for OBC students** provides scholarships to students. For social empowerment of scheduled caste communities, the **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana** was launched during 2009-10 in 1000 scheduled caste majority villages. It has now been decided to implement the scheme on a pan-India basis covering almost all the 27,000 SC-dominated villages with a certain population by the year 2024-25.
- **Dr Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme** was launched in 2009 to provide medical treatment facility to the patients of economically weaker sections of the scheduled castes and tribes suffering from serious ailments.
- The main objective of **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) is to give a thrust to the development programmes for Scheduled Castes through Income Generation Scheme, Skill Development Programmes and infrastructure development.
- The **Venture Capital Funds Scheme** was launched in December 2015 with an initial capital of Rs. 200 crore to promote and provide concessional finance to Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs.
- The objective of a similar scheme for **economic development of OBCs**, launched in 2017-18, is to promote entrepreneurs of the targeted beneficiaries through concessional finance for employment generation.

- Recently, two new schemes **VISVAS** and **ASIM** have been launched to promote entrepreneurship among these sections.

Senior Citizens

- According to the 2011 census, the number of senior citizens in India is around 10.46 crore. Research shows that by 2030, 12 per cent of India's population will be over 60 years of age.
- While only one scheme namely **Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens** was being implemented during the period 2009-14, the following significant reforms have been introduced in year 2014-15:
 - a) Implementation of old age homes and electronic transfer of grant money
 - b) Greater increase in quantum of the grant amount
 - c) **Constitution of Senior Citizen Welfare Fund** for new and innovative welfare schemes for senior citizens.
 - d) Launch of **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**, which aims at providing free of cost physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to BPL category who are suffering from an age-related disability.
- The **National Action Plan for Senior Citizens** has been introduced which would operate as an umbrella scheme for senior citizens under which all possible positive actions for senior citizens can be undertaken.
- The main amendments made to the **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019** are under consideration of the Lok Sabha.

Substance Abuse

- The Ministry has conducted the **first National Survey on Drug Use** in India during the year 2018, as part of the National Action Plan to curb the demand of drugs.
- A national action scheme formulated to cut down on drug demand for the period 2018-2025 aims at prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of affected individuals.

Rehabilitation of Beggars

- The Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 3.2 crore to National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) to conduct skill development programmes for persons engaged in begging.

Welfare & Empowerment of Transgender

- For the welfare and empowerment of transgender persons, the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**, has been enacted.
- The Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities has been constituted for the De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

- The Prime Minister addressed persons with disabilities as '**Divyangjan**', thus giving a new identity to them. Government is **increasing the budget provisions** for empowerment of PwDs in a sustained manner. In 2020-21, a budget provision of Rs. 1325.39 crore has been made, which is 10 per cent more than the previous year.
- Government has passed the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**. The old PwD Act was welfare-based, whereas the **RPwD Act is a right-based Act**. It prohibits any form of discrimination on the right to disability. The **types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21**. The

reservation in jobs has been increased from 3% to 4% and reservation in higher education from 3 % to 5 %.

- According to List-II of the Constitution, **empowerment of persons with disabilities is the subject matter of the state government**. But the Government of India is supporting the efforts of the states through its schemes.

Various Schemes For PwDs:

- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)
- **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** (2015) to create accessible environment
- **Scholarship Scheme for Disabled Students** – Available for Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, Top Class, National Overseas, National Fellowship and Free Coaching.
- **Specialised Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Project** – Under which the government is creating a national database of PwDs. It will provide a unique identity to all PwDs.
- **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre** - This is a new national institute established by the government in 2015. The institute has developed a dictionary with 6000 words and expressions.
- **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation** - Government has decided to set up this institute in Sehore (Madhya Pradesh).
- **Centre for Disability Sports** - It is proposed to start a Centre for Disability Sports in each of the five regions of the country. During the current Finance Commission tenure, consent has been obtained to set up **centres in Gwalior and Shillong**.
- **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Motivational Charitable Trust of England for modern wheelchairs. ALIMCO's new production unit has been set up in Ujjain. State-of-the-art Limb Fitting Centre has been established in Faridabad.

EQUALITY IN WORKPLACE & HOME

"I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet, off our necks." - Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

- The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the risk of women who were already living in vulnerable situations before the emergence of the pandemic.
- Reports from various corners of the world have shown that violence on women has intensified during this pandemic, adding to their plight.

Challenges faced by women and Role of National Commission of Women (NCW)

- With more women entering the workforce, sexual harassment at workplace has assumed different forms. **Harassment at workplace and lack of proper grievance redressal system** creates an insecure and an apprehensive environment for women.
- During this pandemic, 'work from home' has become new norm and therefore it becomes all the more important that **cyber workplace harassment** also be taken into account while addressing sexual harassment at workplace against women.
- The Commission reviewed the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, Redressal) Act** where it observed that the direction regarding constitution of an Internal

Complaints Committee is not adhered by many. The Commission also observed that the definition of sexual harassment at workplace needs to be expanded to include gender-based cybercrimes.

- The Commission launched a **WhatsApp emergency helpline number 7217735372** for reporting cases of domestic violence.
- The Commission in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) runs a **project to empower women and to help women survivors of violence**. It aims to promote support mechanism for women victims of domestic violence and to create a systematic grievance redressal mechanism within the criminal Justice system. The project entails placement of trained social workers for providing psycho-legal services for violated women at all District Headquarters.
- There is also a **need to change the mindset of police**. The commission has been conducting **One day Gender Sensitisation Workshops across the COUNTRY for police personnel**.
- The biggest form of women empowerment is to make them aware of their legal rights. Legal awareness gives women a chance to live a dignified way of life.
- The Commission through its programme aims to **make justice accessible for the poorest of the poor**. Under the joint collaborative programme of National Legal Services Authority and NCW, women especially belonging to the lower strata of the society are given practical knowledge about the basic legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws.
- The programme makes women aware of the various machineries of the justice delivery system available for grievance redressal. It sensitises women and girls about their Rights as provided under the various laws including the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; the Prevention of Domestic Violence to Women Act, 2005 etc.
- NCW initiated a **comprehensive Gender Sensitisation and Legal Awareness Programme** in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan at Kendriya Vidyalayas, for students of Class 11 and 12 under which a booklet of 'Major Laws Relating to Women', as well as content on 'Gender Sensitisation' was made available for students.

Conclusion:

It is our collective responsibility as a society to ensure equality for women and we must not stop till every woman, no matter which background she comes from can live a free and dignified life.

FOOD FOR ALL

According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN estimates in **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2020 report**, 189.2 million people, that is 14% of the population, are undernourished in India.

Hunger, Undernutrition and Malnutrition

- **Hunger** is usually understood to refer to the distress associated with a lack of sufficient calories.
- **Undernutrition** goes beyond calories and **signifies deficiencies** in any or all of the following: energy, protein, and/or essential vitamins and minerals.
- Undernutrition is the result of inadequate intake of food in terms of either quantity or quality, poor utilisation of nutrients due to infections or other illnesses, or a combination of these factors.
- **Malnutrition** refers more broadly to both undernutrition (problems caused by deficiencies) and overnutrition (problems caused by unbalanced diets, such as consuming too many calories in relation to requirements with or without low intake of micronutrient-rich foods).

Computation of Gross Hunger Index (GHI)

- For each country, values are determined for **three dimensions** - inadequate food supply, child undernutrition and child mortality rate with indicators of undernourishment for the first dimension, wasting and stunting for the second dimension and under 5 mortality rates for the third dimension, as indicated below.
 - **Undernourishment**: the share of the population that is under-nourished
 - **Child Wasting**: the share of children under the age of five who are wasted
 - **Child Stunting**: the share of children under the age of five who are stunted
 - **Child Mortality**: the mortality rate of children under the age of five
- Values less than 10 reflect '**low hunger**', values from 10 to 19.9 indicate '**serious hunger**'; values from 20 to 34.9 are '**alarming**'; and values of 35 or more are '**extremely alarming**'.

India's Progress in GHI

- According to the **Global Hunger Index 2020 Report**, India ranked 94 with a Global Hunger Index of 27.2.
- The Government of India is strongly committed to achieving the 2030 SDGs. Ambitious targets have been set for **POSHAN Abhiyaan** to reduce stunting (2%), underweight (2%), anaemia (3%) among young children, women and adolescent girls and reduce low birth weight (2%) per annum.

SDG India Index & Dashboard 2019-20

- The **NITI Aayog has brought out SDG India Index & Dashboard 2019-20** which measure the progress achieved.
- Two of the most important SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) having a bearing on poverty, hunger and nutrition are: **SDG 1. No Poverty SDG 2. Zero Hunger**

Food and Nutrition Security

- The implementation of a revamped Public Distribution System under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** is a paradigm shift in the approach towards the issue of food security at the household level, from **welfare to a rights-based approach**.
- Under the "**Antyodaya Anna Yojana**", the poorest from amongst the BPL families are entitled to 35 kg of food grains per month at more subsidised rates. The NFSA adopts a **life cycle approach** making special provisions for ensuring food security of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children from 6 months to 14 years of age.
- **Mid-day Meal (MDM)** scheme provides nutritious cooked midday meal with the calorie range of 450-700 to over 120 million children at primary and upper primary levels.
- The **National Nutrition Mission (Poshan Abhiyaan)**, a multi-ministerial convergence mission was launched in 2018 to make a concerted attack on under-nutrition, stunting, and anaemia. It targets to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent by 2022.

Conclusion

India is likely to be the most populous country on this planet by 2030 with 1.6 billion people. Ensuring food and nutrition security will become a bigger challenge unless Govt. and State Govts., particularly of the more populous States, **pursue in right earnest population stabilising programmes**.

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

- Poverty has more dimensions than just monetary manifestations. poverty is not just about lack of any one particular thing, it has many dimensions to it with lack of food being the bottom-line indicator to gauge poverty.
- There are many **psychological** (powerlessness, dependency, etc.), **infrastructural** (lack of roads and proper transportation), **gender** (managing assets by the more assertive gender in the family), **health** (ill health as a source of destitution) and **education** (lack of education as a basis for poverty and good education being an escape from poverty) dimensions to poverty than just shortage of income.
- Work of Amartya Sen asserted that, poverty should be defined as a ***condition that deprives people of the freedom to choose and prohibits them from functioning effectively*** in society. This kind of poverty analysis shifts attention from a “means” (income) to an “ends” (freedom to pursue a fulfilling life).
- The **capability deprivation approach** considers intrinsically important deprivations (health, education) and not just low income.
- The World Bank is the pivotal source for information on global poverty estimation methods. In 1990, a person was poor if he had an income less than \$1 USD a day. It was changed to \$1.90 per day per person in 2015.

Why Poverty Calculations Shifted to MPI?

- Poverty measures have to match up to the multidimensional nature of poverty itself.
- Amartya Sen has also established that while battered human lives are diminishing in different ways, the need to have an overarching framework for accommodating diverse deprivations of poverty has never been greater.
- Moreover, he also states that while impoverished lives result frequently from negligible incomes, the resultant poor living is not just an outcome of mere inadequate incomes. The need is to **study and uplift “impoverished lives”; not just “depleted wallets.**
- The non-monetary dimensions successfully capture the essence of what it “means” to be poor, thus enhancing the very notion of poverty holistically.
- MPI can be used to successfully figure out a **more “appropriate income threshold”** and can also thus bring those poor people under its ambit who are “unable to participate in their societies due to lack of resources”.

Calculation of MPI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It has 3 dimensions – Health, Education and Living Standard• Total of 10 parameters, namely - sanitation, child mortality, drinking water, years of schooling, electricity, school attendance, housing, cooking fuel and assets.

Criticism of Earlier Approach

- Annual price adjustments to the poverty line are usually inadequate and tend to underestimate the true incidence of poverty.
- Intake of the minimum number of calories does not automatically ensure that diet is nutritionally balanced. Expenditure on essential non-food items like rent, fuel, light, clothing, health care, education and transport is also often seriously underestimated and unaccounted.
- In 1990, the concept of Human Development Index was devised by the UNDP which enabled innovative thinking about poverty reduction by introducing an alternate method to measure poverty without using income.

- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) launched in 2010 was modified and focused version HDI.

Poverty Estimation in India

- In 1993, an expert group **chaired by DT Lakdawala** established the poverty line for India. For the first time, state poverty lines were developed using a standard list of commodities and prices.
- In 2010, the **Suresh Tendulkar Committee** calculated the poverty line based on **per capita consumption expenditure per month**. For rural areas, it was Rs. 816 per month (Rs. 27 per day). For urban areas, it was Rs. 1000 per month (Rs. 33 per day). Using this methodology, the population below the poverty line was 354 million (29.6% of the population).
- The **Rangarajan Committee** established a new poverty threshold for rural areas at Rs. 972 per month or Rs. 32 per day. For urban areas, it was fixed at Rs. 1407 per month or Rs. 47 per day. Under this methodology, the population below the poverty line in 2011-2012 was 363 million (29.5% of the population).

Conclusion

- For the decade spanning from 2005-06 to 2015-16, India has **uplifted 271 million people out of multidimensional poverty**. With a drop in MPI value from 0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.123 in 2015-16, India has shown that uplifting people from the poorest regions can showcase a brilliant example for other countries to emulate.
- However, in terms of absolute numbers, India still shoulders the burden of eradicating multidimensional poverty from the lives of approximately 369 million of its citizens.

CHALLENGES OF LINGUISTIC HETEROGENEITY

- **Migration has led to linguistic diversity**, especially in terms of mother tongues spoken. However, linguistic heterogeneity of the cities is typically ignored by the respective state governments.
- Most documentation and paperwork in the Indian states are in the official language of the state or English. **Migrants not conversant with the official language** of the state, where they are working, face problems in navigating through the paperwork.
- Advances in natural language processing in Indian languages allow real time translation of forms filled in any language to a language of choice. It is possible to permit the interface of the citizen with the state in multiple languages.
- Such an inclusive policy can ensure that language is not a barrier and hence **reduce the non-monetary costs of internal migration**. It should be made mandatory to make available the paperwork and documents in every state at least in **all the scheduled languages of India**.
- While some states have taken cognisance of the language diversity, the **judiciary has limited scope in terms of accepting language diversity**. Article 348 (1) of Constitution of India, requires the proceedings of the Supreme Court and High Courts to be conducted in English.
- In recent years, the Supreme Court has recognised and acknowledged the language barriers faced by the individuals in accessing the Court judgements, which were solely documented in English. In 2019, the Supreme Court of India translated 100 important judgements into regional languages for the benefit of those who do not know English.
- **Language can be a barrier** to children of migrant workers. The medium of instruction in government schools is typically the official language of the state. An unfamiliar medium of instruction will pose a barrier for children of inter-state migrants.

- India's **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** flags these children as being at higher risk of dropout from schools. The NEP 2020 calls for **alternative and innovative education centres** for ensuring that children of migrant workers who drop out are brought back to schools.
- What is required is for **source and destination state governments to work together** by ensuring availability of textbooks in the appropriate language. Civil society organisations are active in arranging for volunteers who teach children of migrant workers in their mother tongue.
- What might be a silver lining in the story is the clear shift towards children being enrolled in English medium schools in both rural and urban India. Data from the Eighth All India School Education Survey too shows an increase in the number of schools with two or more mediums of instruction. ***Hindi and English are likely to emerge as the link languages within a multilingual India.***

ENABLING POLICIES

Social Model Vs Medical Model (Different models to describe Disability)

- Medical Model of disability can be explained as an individual tragedy approach to disability, where a person's disability and limitations to participating in social, economic political life, is seen as a **tragic but unavoidable outcome of his or her own bodily impairment**.
- Social model of disability contributed to a landmark shift in the way disability was seen and perceived not just by the society, but by persons with disabilities themselves.
- In this model, **society and barriers were seen as causing disability**, rather than an individual's body or the limitations within. This approach is to look at disability as caused externally by barriers (attitudinal or environmental or cultural) and has very little to do with physical limitations.

UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

- **UNCRPD, 2006** had been the first ever **legally binding disability specific** human rights convention, adopted by the United Nations.
- It favoured the social model of disability where disability question was placed within human rights context instead of charity or welfare approach.

Twin-Track Approach to Disability-Inclusive Policies in India

- The philosophy encompassed in twin-track approach to disability inclusion is that, in addition to disability specific, targeted policies and institutions, there needs to be disability-centric approach in all existing policies and development measures.

Track I: Targeted, Disability-Specific Policies and Measures

- It focuses on the **empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities**. RPD Act 2016 is an example of disability specific targeted legislation.
- It also focuses on **creation of Institutions** for the purpose of disability inclusion. Few examples are - Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; Rehabilitation Council of India; Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities; National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation etc.

Track 2: Mainstreaming Disability

- This approach focuses on mainstreaming **disability inclusion in policy and institutional frameworks that were structurally intended for general population**.

- One of the first sectors to build a mainstream approach had been education sector. For instance, **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched in 2001** was more pronounced as far as integrating disabled children were concerned.
- It provided for a cash grant of up to Rs. 1200 per child per year; evolving plans at the district level for students with disabilities and also involvement of resource institutions. The **SSA also had a zero-rejection policy** implying that no child with disability could be denied enrolment.
- The newly launched National Education Policy 2020 also aims to ensure children with disabilities will have equal opportunities for participation in mainstream educational system.
- **Accessible Sanitation Measures** - The government has created a set of guidelines for accessible Household Sanitation for Persons with Disabilities.
- **Accessible Banking** – In 2017, RBI released a landmark guideline outlining ‘**Banking Facility for Senior Citizens and Differently Abled Persons**’, which instructed banks to put in place inclusive mechanisms such as priority service and dedicated counters for elderly and persons with disabilities and door step banking for persons with disabilities and elderly persons unable to reach banks.

Mainstreaming Disability in Poverty Alleviation Frameworks: National Rural Livelihood Mission

- NRLM Social Inclusion Protocols outlines a priority and early inclusion of the poorest of the poor and other vulnerable sections of community including persons with disabilities in rural poor communities.
- State Rural Livelihood Missions such as KUDUMBASHREE (Kerala) and JEEViKA (Bihar) have implemented disability-inclusive measures that have created disability mainstreaming pathways within poverty alleviation programmes in India.

Way Forward

- To develop **Disability Inclusion Policy or Strategy paper for the whole organisation**, (Example- Bihar State Rural Livelihood Mission, Disability Inclusive Guideline, dated August 13, 2020)
- Disability indicators should be part of Annual Action and Review planning.
- Recruitment and HR policies to be in line with RPD Act 2016.
- Buildings, departmental websites, internal/external communication measures should incorporate accessibility standards and be in sync with RPD Act 2016.

GANDHIAN PARADIGM OF INDIAN VILLAGES

Gandhiji realised that one of the important ways of removing poverty in rural areas and improving the quality of life of people was by reconstructing villages from the grassroots level. If villages perish, India will also perish. Hence, Gandhiji emphasised the need of development of villages.

Gram Swaraj

- Gandhiji called **self-governance of villages as ‘Village Swaraj’**. The government of the village should be conducted by the panchayat of five persons annually elected by the village adults, men or women, possessing minimum prescribed qualifications.
- It is decentralisation of power, and the power is in the hands of the people of village. The village is a complete republic independent of its neighbors for its basic needs, and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is a necessity.

Ideal village

- His concept of ideal village, which consists of about 1000 persons, is organised on the basis of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Basic Education

- The education should be aimed at harmonious development of the body, mind and soul of the people. Gandhiji called his scheme of education as “basic education”.
- It is about the art of living and creation of productive labour. It is basic and craft-oriented education. Along with vocational training, rural people receive instruction in elementary history, geography, and arithmetic.
- Students should learn the principles of self-help, self-reliance, and dignity of labour along with their academic subjects.

Hygiene & Health

According to Gandhiji, attention to individual’s health and hygiene is undoubtedly the first step to rural reconstruction. He suggested to convert excreta of animals and people into organic manures. Cleanliness is not only next to godliness, it promotes health of the people.

Antyodaya to Sarvodaya

- Gandhiji’s Swaraj is the poor man’s Swaraj. Under Swaraj, all should fulfil their basic necessities. He advocated fixation of minimum wages.
- The Sarvodaya is a comprehensive concept, which includes all aspects of rural life and activity in the sphere of sustainable rural development.
- The rural development does not only involve agriculture development. It has to include all productive activities of primary sector, secondary sector, and tertiary sector. His idea for rural development is known as **Samagra Grama Seva**.
- He felt that the society should attain Sarvodaya after the attainment of Antyodaya.

Integrated Agriculture

- He emphasised the importance of irrigation systems, and organic manures for bumper crops/increased agricultural production.
- Gandhiji suggested that the farmers should give attention to producing organic manures.

Cooperation

- According to Gandhiji, cooperation is a means for achieving economic equality and the common good for all. People should live in cooperation and should work for the common good. Gandhiji advocated cooperative farming for getting full benefits of agriculture.

Khadi & Village Industries

- Gandhiji advocated Khadi and Village Industries (KVIs) for solving the problems of poverty, unemployment and rural backwardness.
- As the Khadi program progressed he felt that without the revival of village industries like beekeeping, soap-making, tanning, pottery, carpentry, blacksmithing etc., Khadi could not make further progress.

Appropriate Technology

- Gandhiji wanted technology to promote not only full employment but also economic growth and social justice. He said, machinery has its place; it has come to stay; but it must not be allowed to displace the necessary human labour.
- Any machinery which helps the individual and adds to his efficiency and which man can handle at will without being its slave has a place. The individual is one supreme consideration. The saving of labour of the individual should be the object.

Economic Equality

- Gandhiji accepted that material things are of real importance but only to some extent.
- There are three distinct economic conditions and they are - paucity, sufficiency, and surfeit.
- Gandhiji believed that the economic condition of paucity is undesirable. Surfeit is also not good. The ideal and appropriate economic condition that man could enjoy was one of sufficiency.

Sustainable Development

- Gandhiji believed that humans should live in harmony with nature. He wanted people to plant trees and add to the forest wealth of the country.

Conclusion

- Gandhian paradigm promotes the welfare of all. This includes development of integrated agriculture, KVIs, sanitation and health, village panchayat, self-reliance, basic education, social harmony, truth and non-violence, bread labour, balanced diet, naturopathy. He was very much interested in all round development of villages.
- His intention was to **establish Sarvodaya through Antyodaya**; and make villages largely self-sufficient units. In the villages, no one suffers from want of basic needs— food, clothing and housing; everybody gets sufficient work that enables them to make ends meet.

SUBSTANCE USE: CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- A joint effort by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi was undertaken to understand the pattern and extent of substance use in India.
- The research found that **alcohol (a psychoactive drug) is most used** by Indians. The report further propounds that **cannabis and opioids are second in terms of use** (2.8% of population) followed by other forms of substance use.
- The report also highlights the **major lack of resources** to tackle the situation. With over **134 crore people to look after, India has merely close to 10000 trained psychiatrists** and clinical psychologists.

Challenges

- **Trivialisation of the issue of drug use in the media** is a major issue. Efforts are being made to demystify and de-stigmatise a substance user, however, media have clouded that work with insensitive reporting and judgements.
- Other factors such as lack of de-addiction centres, lack of inpatient services and public private partnerships deepen the gap between service providers and the needy.

What need to be done?

- If caught early, it is easier to curb it rather than at later years of life. Hence, **awareness and sensitisation programmes in school** will go a long way to control the crisis.
- The **community response needs to be strengthened** against the substance use. There is need to focus on variable settings where children at risk can be targeted.
- **Allocation of resources** is to be done for inpatient services, rehabilitation services, outpatient services and research and development of information, education and communication activities.

- People with substance use disorders are also very **vulnerable because of comorbid illnesses** and this can only be reduced with an **interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation**.
- Education and sensitisation of general public, other health practitioners like AYUSH and healers will help us develop strong referral systems.
- The system needs an approach that brings together the community and strengthens its collective response towards drug use. **Use of technology** to increase the efficiency and efficacy of the programmes will expand the boundaries and — enhance communication among the legislative, policy makers and people working on the cause.

TELE-LAW: MAINSTREAMING LEGAL AID

- Tele-Law primarily aims to **address issues at the pre-litigative stage**. It digitally connects marginalised and poor people with a Panel Lawyer, to seek legal advice and consultation through the use of video conferencing and telephone service *available at the Common Services Centers situated at the Gram Panchayat level*.
- Especially designed to facilitate early detection, intervention and prevention of the legal problems, the Tele-Law service is proactively outreached to groups and communities **through a cadre of frontline volunteers** provided by NALSA and CSC-eGov.
- The programme benefits **people entitled to free legal aid** under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities, Act, 1987 that include women, children, members of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes etc. to seek legal advice free of cost. Others can avail services at Rs. 30/- per consultation.
- To ensure its seamless penetration in far-flung and remote areas, a **Tele-Law mobile application** has been developed to enable pre-registration of cases.
- Tele-Law web portal (<http://www.tele-law.in/>) providing key information about the programme is **available in 22 languages**. Tele-Law Dashboard has been developed to capture real time data on cases registered and advice enabled.
- **E-Tutorial** on use of Tele-Law mobile application has been uploaded on Tele-Law portal.

CLEANER CITIES

- With no concept of Open Defecation Free (ODF) and solid waste processing at just 18% in the urban areas, it was clear that an accelerated approach was necessary to achieve the vision of Swachh India within the time frame of five years.
- A framework was needed to bring about rigour in progress monitoring and a spirit of healthy competition amongst cities and States to improve their performance in key cleanliness parameters.
- It was this underlying thought that led to the **conceptualisation and implementation of Swachh Survekshan**, the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Approach and Methodology: Key Components

The design of Swachh Survekshan is based on three key pillars as follows:

1. **Service Level Progress** - evaluating progress of cities on ODF status, segregated waste collection, processing, disposal of solid waste and sustainable sanitation. Progress claimed is validated through citizens and on-field visits;

2. **Citizens' Voice** - comprising assessment of cities based on direct feedback, engagement with citizens and innovations helmed by citizens; and
3. **Certifications** - assessing progress of cities on their Performance under Ministry's certification protocols such as **Star Rating for Garbage Free Cities**.

Impact of Swachh Survekshan

- **Driving India on the Path of Sustainable Sanitation**
- **Quantum Jump in Solid Waste Management leading to Garbage Free Cities** - Cities were pushed to put in place effective systems for door-to-door collection, segregation and processing. Solid waste processing has gone up by over 3 times and stands at 67%.
- **Bringing Swachhata Warriors Together Through Effective Citizen Engagement** - The most critical part of the Mission is **behavioural change** among citizens and transforming the Swachhata movement into a true 'Jan Andolan'. The success in this direction is attributable to Swachh Survekshan due to its thrust on citizen engagement and feedbacks.
- **Dignity, Recognition & Social Safety Net for Sanitation Workers/Waste Pickers** - SBM-U has placed a strong emphasis on improving the socio-economic conditions of sanitation workers and waste pickers. As a result of the built-in indicators focusing on welfare of these groups, over 84,000 **informal waste pickers have been integrated into the formal workforce** while over 4 lakh contractual employees have secured employment as Swachhata Warriors with ULBs.
- **Enabling Digitisation of Mission Outcomes - Swachhata App** as a grievance redressal tool has become popular among citizens. **Swachh Manch**, a digital citizen engagement platform has been developed.
- **Capacity Building of States/Cities for Effective & Seamless Knowledge Sharing** - Building knowledge and capacity of city officials has been strengthened through Swachh Survekshan framework.
- **From Monitoring Tool to Dynamic Tool for Improving Governance** - Swachh Survekshan has been able to significantly transform the urban governance mechanism by incorporating speed, scale, and agility at its core.
- Survey coupled with **third party certifications** has lent credibility to the assessment process, data from the survey has not only resulted in better decision-making by government authorities but has helped them identify, address and solve sanitation and waste management issues in a time-bound manner.
- Survekshan has enabled '**ease of doing business**' for cities by simplifying procurement processes and incentivising cities/States to register on the Government E-Marketplace (GeM) portal. At the central level, Survekshan Framework has enabled the Mission to introduce new ideas and solutions across all ULBs with relative simplicity and speed.

Swachh Survekshan 2021: Adding a New Dimension through Prerak DAUUR Samman

- A key highlight in this edition has been the launch of the '**Prerak DAUUR Samman**'. This Samman will be given for five levels of achievement in Swachhata - **Divya** (Platinum), **Anupam** (Gold), **Ujjwal** (Silver), **Udit** (Bronze), **Aarohi** (Aspiring). These levels will be based on performance on following six selected indicators:
 - Segregation of waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard categories.
 - Processing capacity and actual utilisation of wet waste generated,
 - Processing capacity and recycling/utilisation of dry waste.

- Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing.
- Percentage of total waste going to landfills.
- Sanitation (liquid waste processing) status.

Conclusion

- Swachh Survekshan is a framework which truly has unleashed agility in urban governance towards achieving social outcomes.
- This framework, with its **roots in creating “peer pressure”**, has the potential to transform governance in various other spheres through people’s active participation, agility and competitiveness,