

“Let the improvement of yourself keep you so busy that you have no time to criticize others.”

Roy T. Bennett

INTERNATIONAL**WHO'S AND UNICEF'S DIRECTIVE ON BREASTFEEDING**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has issued a new 10-step guidance to increase support for breastfeeding in health facilities that provide maternity and newborn services, which provide the immediate health system platform to help mothers initiate breastfeeding within the first hour and breastfeed exclusively for six months.

Breastfeeding all babies for the first 2 years would save the lives of more than 8, 20,000 children under age 5 annually, noted a release issued by the WHO.

The guidelines describe how hospitals should have a written breastfeeding policy in place, required staff competencies, and antenatal and post-birth care, including breastfeeding support for mothers.

It also recommends limited use of breast milk substitutes, rooming-in, responsive feeding and educating parents on the use of bottles and pacifiers, and support when mothers and babies are discharged from hospital.

Breastfeeding saves lives. Its benefits help keep babies healthy in their first days and last well into adulthood.

NATIONAL**ECONOMIC FREEDOM REPORT 2017**

The Heritage Foundation has released its Index of Economic Freedom report 2017. The Heritage Foundation is an American conservative public policy think-tank based in Washington.

Economic freedom is measured based on 12 quantitative and qualitative factors, grouped into four broad categories, or pillars, of economic freedom.

1. Rule of Law (property rights, government integrity, judicial effectiveness).

3. Government Size (government spending, tax burden, fiscal health).
4. Regulatory Efficiency (business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom).
5. Open Markets (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom).

Each of the ten economic freedoms within these categories is graded on a scale of 0 to 100. A country's overall score is derived by averaging these ten economic freedoms, with equal weight being given to each.

India's economic freedom score is 54.5, making its economy the 130th freest in the 2018 Index. In 2017, India with a score of 52.6 points was ranked at 143 among 180 countries.

China is ranked 111 and Pakistan is now at 131 positions.

India is developing into an open-market economy. However, traces of its past autocratic policies still remain. Economic liberalization measures, including industrial deregulation, privatization of state-owned enterprises and reduced controls on foreign trade and investment that began in the early 1990s, accelerated growth.

More recently, the government reformed one of its more opaque operational practices to make the auctioning of rights to exploit state-owned resources more transparent.

Corruption, underdeveloped infrastructure, a restrictive and burdensome regulatory environment, and poor financial and budget management continue to undermine overall development.

The judiciary is independent, but the Indian courts are understaffed and lack the technology necessary to clear an enormous backlog. Although officials are often caught accepting bribes, a great deal of corruption goes unnoticed and unpunished.

In an economically free society, individuals are free to work, produce, consume, and invest in any way they please.

In economically free societies, governments allow labour, capital, and goods to move

freely, and refrain from coercion or constraint of liberty beyond the extent necessary to protect and maintain liberty itself.

Economic freedom brings greater prosperity. The Index of Economic Freedom documents the positive relationship between economic freedom and a variety of positive social and economic goals. The ideals of economic freedom are strongly associated with healthier societies, cleaner environments, greater per capita wealth, human development, democracy, and poverty elimination.

NCERT TO PUBLISH INFORMATION REGARDING POCSO E-BOX IN BOOKS

To equip the children with the information regarding the possible modes of protection/complaints, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has published the information regarding Childline 24x7 Helpline for children and POCSO e-box on the back side of the front cover of all course books from Class 6 to Class 12.

POCSO e-Box:

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), e-Box, is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.

Sexual offences against children are rampant but only a small percentage gets reported. According to a study, about 53% of children surveyed, reported having faced one or the other form of sexual abuse in their lifetime. In most cases, the offender is a family member/near relative or an acquaintance.

A child who is sexually abused has to face very serious consequences such as cognitive impairment, violent and risk behavior including depression and anxiety. Feeling shame and guilt with poor interpersonal relationship & self esteem are other consequences of sexually abused children.

POCSO Act:

Government enacted POCSO Act, 2012 to protect them from offences of sexual assault,

sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process.

Any human being up to the age of 18 years is recognized as a child under the POCSO Act.

INDIA MOVES TO AUCTION ITS FIRST OFFSHORE WIND POWER PROJECT

The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) (an autonomous body under the ministry of new and renewable energy) has called for 'Expression of Interest' (EoI) for the first offshore wind energy project of India.

The project will be set up in the Gulf of Khambat, off the coast of Gujarat.

As per official estimates, the Gujarat coastline has the potential to generate around 106,000MW of offshore wind energy and Tamil Nadu about 60,000MW.

India plans to leverage scale to bring down offshore energy tariffs by harnessing the enormous wind power potential along its 7,600km coastline.

The development assumes significance given the 1,000 megawatts (MW) size of the project, with the government's plan to set up at least 5 gig watts (GW) of offshore wind capacity by 2022.

Offshore wind energy projects are more efficient. Indian industry can also participate along with suitable tie up with global players.

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)

It has been established in Chennai in the year 1998, as an autonomous R&D institution by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.

It is a knowledge-based institution of high quality and dedication, offers services and seeks to find complete solutions for the kinds of difficulties and improvements in the entire spectrum of the wind energy sector by carrying out further research.

It has a Wind Turbine Test Station (WTTS) at Kayathar with the technical & partial financial support by DANIDA, Govt. of Denmark.
