

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES [GS-II]****India's neighbours at swearing-in: shared stakes in stable ties**

The article highlights the significance of the presence of South Asian and Indian Ocean leaders at Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony for his third term as Prime Minister.

**What is the geopolitical significance of the event?**

**First** India is facing increasing hostility in its neighbourhood. Similarly, India has seen many ups and downs in the relations with its smaller neighbours. Therefore, presence of leaders of these countries underlines the significance of interdependence on each other.

**Second**, it is the testament of India's neighborhood first policy.

**Third**, Intensifying conflicts among major powers and the restructuring of the global economic order are posing major challenges around the world. India will need all goodwill and support, it can gather.

**Fourth**, In the recent years, western countries have raised their concern about so-called democratic backsliding in India. But, the recent resurgence of opposition has tackled this issue.

**Significance of diplomatic resolution of India US trade dispute**

Recently, a decade old trade dispute between India and the U.S. was resolved at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This dispute originated in 2012 when the U.S. challenged India's import restrictions on poultry products, imposed due to concerns over avian influenza.

**What was the issue?**

In this dispute, US alleged that India deviated from internationally recognized standards, by not providing scientific justification for restrictions.

Both the WTO panel and the Appellate Body ruled in favor of the U.S., stating that India's measures were inconsistent with WTO rules.

It required India to modify its measures. However, compliance issues prolonged the dispute until a recent diplomatic breakthrough led to its resolution.

The dispute was resolved diplomatically, leading to withdrawal of claims by both countries, from WTO.

As part of the settlement, India agreed to reduce tariffs on certain U.S. products like cranberries, blueberries, frozen turkey, and premium frozen duck meat.

**What is the significance of this diplomatic resolution between India and US?**

It showcases the effectiveness of bilateral negotiations in resolving trade disputes. The resolution of this dispute represents a major diplomatic achievement, particularly given its long duration and complexity.

WTO rules encourage countries to resolve disputes amicably, with litigation only to be pursued as a last resort.

The significance of diplomatic solutions increases, especially in the absence of a functional WTO Appellate Body.

By this agreement, India is able to avoid a \$450 million annual claim from the U.S., awarded by WTO to it.

It showcases the ability of major trading partners to navigate complex domestic compulsions and find common ground, even on the most sensitive trade matters.

This milestone reinforces the growing significance of the India-U.S. partnership, particularly in the context of the recently launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

**INDIAN POLITY – ELECTORAL REFORMS [GS-II]****First Past the Post (FPTP) Vs Proportional Representation Vs MMP System: Which one is best?**

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a majority by winning 293 seats with 43.3% of the national vote share. However, the opposition INDIA bloc, despite garnering 41.6% of votes, could win only 234 seats. In this context, the article discusses the potential benefits and challenges of adopting a Proportional Representation (PR) system in India's electoral democracy.

**What is FPTP system and what are the issues associated with it?**

At present, India is following First Past the Post (FPTP) system. It has few basic flaws, like, it often results in a significant mismatch between the percentage of votes received by political parties and their representation in legislative bodies. For example, Congress historically winning 75% of seats with 45-47% vote share, and NDA securing 64 out of 66 seats in three states with around 55% vote share.

However, it also has many advantages like, this system is simple and feasible in a large country like India. It also provides greater stability to the executive by ensuring a majority for the ruling party/coalition.

**What is Proportional Representation (PR) System?**

In the Proportional Representation (PR) system, a party is allocated legislative seats based on their overall vote share, nationally. One such system is 'party list PR', in this system, voters vote for the party and not individual candidates.

**Advantages of PR System:** Every party, getting a percentage of vote from the voters, will get representation in the Parliament.

**Issues associated with PR System:** PR systems can potentially lead to fragmented legislatures and unstable governments, as no single party or alliance may secure an outright majority.

It also has a potential for formations of political parties based on the religion, caste, language, region, leading to division within the country.

**What is Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMPR) system?**

This system addresses the flaws of PR and FPTP systems. It uses the mix of both these systems. For example, Germany, follows the MMPR system. In their Bundestag (like India’s Lok Sabha), there are 598 seats. They fill 299 seats (50%) from constituencies under the FPTP system and rest of the seats are allocated as per the PR system. Similar system is followed by South Africa, the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain.

**Significance of the MMPR system**

- 1) **Stability:** By adopting MMPR, India can achieve a balance between the stability offered by the FPTP system and the fair representation ensured by proportional representation.
- 2) **Representation to smaller states:** This system can potentially mitigate feelings of disenchantment among smaller states and regions that may lose out under a purely population-based seat allocation.
- 3) **Law commission recommendation:** in its 170th report, ‘Reform of the electoral laws’ (1999), recommended the introduction of the MMPR system on an experimental basis.

**INFRASTRUCTURE- ENERGY [GS-III]**

**Solutions for better energy management**

The article discusses the problem of too many separate departments in the Indian government handling energy policies, which leads to inefficient and conflicting actions. It suggests merging departments, creating a single Ministry of Energy, and establishing groups to better coordinate efforts on climate transition.

**What is the current problem with government departments in India?**

1. **Multiple Departments with Conflicting Goals:** India’s energy sector is fragmented across multiple departments with conflicting objectives. For instance, the Ministry of Coal promotes coal usage, whereas the Ministry of Renewable Energy advocates for reduced coal dependence. This misalignment affects coherent policy formulation.
2. **Policy Incoherence:** The lack of a unified approach causes policy incoherence, complicating both domestic governance and international relations concerning energy transition and environmental commitments.

**What are the proposed solutions for better energy management?**

1. **Rethink Departments:** Merge similar departments like the Ministry of Coal and the Department of Atomic Energy into two departments—one for carbon-based fuels and one for carbon-free fuels. This can streamline operations and reduce redundancy.
2. **Unified Ministry of Energy:** Create a single Ministry of Energy that includes all energy-related departments. This ministry would have multiple departments headed by secretary-rank officers, led by one minister and one energy secretary. Although it simplifies the structure, some departmental issues may persist.
3. **Group of Ministers for Climate Transition:** Form a Group of Ministers (GoM) to coordinate climate policies. This group should be chaired by the Finance Minister, supported by a technical secretariat composed of research organizations, to ensure informed decision-making.
4. **Rethink Regulators:** Reevaluate the structure and role of regulators, who currently wield significant power by combining executive, legislative, and judicial functions. This is crucial for effective energy transition management.
5. **Unified Parliamentary Standing Committee:** Establish a single Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy Transition to consolidate the efforts of multiple committees. This committee should be supported by a group of research organizations to enhance its effectiveness and coherence.

**How do other countries manage their energy policies?**

- Germany:** The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) oversees energy transition policies.
- France:** The Ministry for the Ecological Transition focuses on climate change and energy policies.
- Spain:** The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge handles energy transition.
- Uruguay:** Energy transition falls within the Ministry of Industry, Energy, and Mining.
- Indonesia:** The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources manages energy transition.
- United States:** John Podesta serves as the “climate czar,” coordinating energy and climate policies.

**INDIAN POLITY AND GOVERNANCE [GS-II]**

**Cabinet Committees**

The Ruling party in Lok Sabha will retain control of the key portfolios of Home, Defence, Finance, and External Affairs to maintain its influence over the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

**About Cabinet Committees**

- **Constitutional Provisions:** Under Article 77 of the Constitution, the President possesses the authority to establish rules for the smooth conduct of Union Government business and the distribution of work among ministers. Accordingly, the President has issued two sets of rules:
  - **Allocation of Business Rules:** These rules govern the distribution of subjects among various ministries and departments.
  - **Transaction of Business Rules:** These rules dictate the handling of ministries, inter-departmental consultations, Cabinet committees, consultations with the Prime Minister and President, etc.
  - As per the Transaction of Business Rules, the Prime Minister has the power to form or dissolve Standing Committees of the Cabinet and allocate their functions.

### Features of Cabinet Committees

- **Extra Constitutional Body:** Cabinet committees are extra-constitutional bodies, meaning they are not specified in the Constitution.
- **Established by the Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister establishes Cabinet Committees based on the current needs and demands of the situation, leading to variations in their number, names, and composition over time.
- **Constitutional Status:** Cabinet Committees emerge outside the constitutional framework, not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. Their establishment, however, is provided for in the Rules of Business.
- **Organizational Purpose:** Cabinet Committees function as organizational tools to alleviate the extensive workload of the Cabinet.
  - They enable in-depth examination of policy matters and promote effective coordination, aligning with the principles of division of labor and efficient delegation.
- **Types of Committees:** Cabinet Committees fall into two categories: standing and ad hoc. Standing committees are permanent, while ad hoc committees are temporary and form as needed, disbanding upon completing specific tasks.
- **Membership Composition:** Membership typically ranges from three to eight members, primarily comprising Cabinet Ministers. Non-Cabinet Ministers are not excluded from participation.
- **Inclusive Representation:** Cabinet Committees include not only Ministers responsible for relevant subjects but also other senior Ministers.
- **Leadership Dynamics:** While predominantly chaired by the Prime Minister, other Cabinet Ministers, such as the Home Minister or Finance Minister, may act as Chairman. If the Prime Minister is a member, he presides over the committee.
- **Decision-Making Authority:** Cabinet Committees not only address issues and propose considerations to the Cabinet but also possess decision-making authority. However, the Cabinet retains the power to review their decisions.

### Functions of various Cabinet Committees

- **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (headed by PM):** Addresses issues related to Centre-state relations. Examines political matters requiring a broader perspective but lacking internal or external security implications.
- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (headed by PM):** Reviews economic trends and problems, shaping a consistent and integrated economic policy. Coordinates activities requiring high-level policy decisions.
  - Deals with pricing of agricultural produce, essential commodities, investment proposals exceeding Rs 1,000 crore, industrial licensing policies, rural development, and the Public Distribution System.
- **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (headed by PM):** Makes appointments to top military positions, chiefs of Air and Army Commands, and key defence-related positions. Decides on important empanelments and shifts of officers on Central deputation.
- **Cabinet Committee on Security:** Addresses law and order, internal security, and policy matters in foreign affairs with security implication. Considers capital defense expenditure exceeding Rs 1,000 crore.
  - Reviews issues related to the Department of Defence Production, Department of Defence Research and Development, and procurement of security-related equipment.
- **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs:** Formulates Parliament session schedules. Monitors government business progress, scrutinizes non-government business, and decides on official Bills and resolutions.
- **Cabinet Committee on Accommodation:** Determines guidelines for government accommodation allotment.
  - Decides on allotment to non-eligible persons, rent charges, and allocation from the General Pool to Members of Parliament. Considers proposals for relocating Central Government Offices.
- **Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth:** Identifies key projects for time-bound implementation involving investments of Rs. 1,000 crore or more. Prescribes time limits for approvals and clearances, monitoring project progress.
- **Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development:** Directs policies, programs, and initiatives for skill development to enhance workforce employability.
  - Works towards closing gaps between skill availability and sector requirements. Sets targets for speedy implementation and periodically reviews progress.

### PRELIM FACT

#### 1. Hydrogen Line

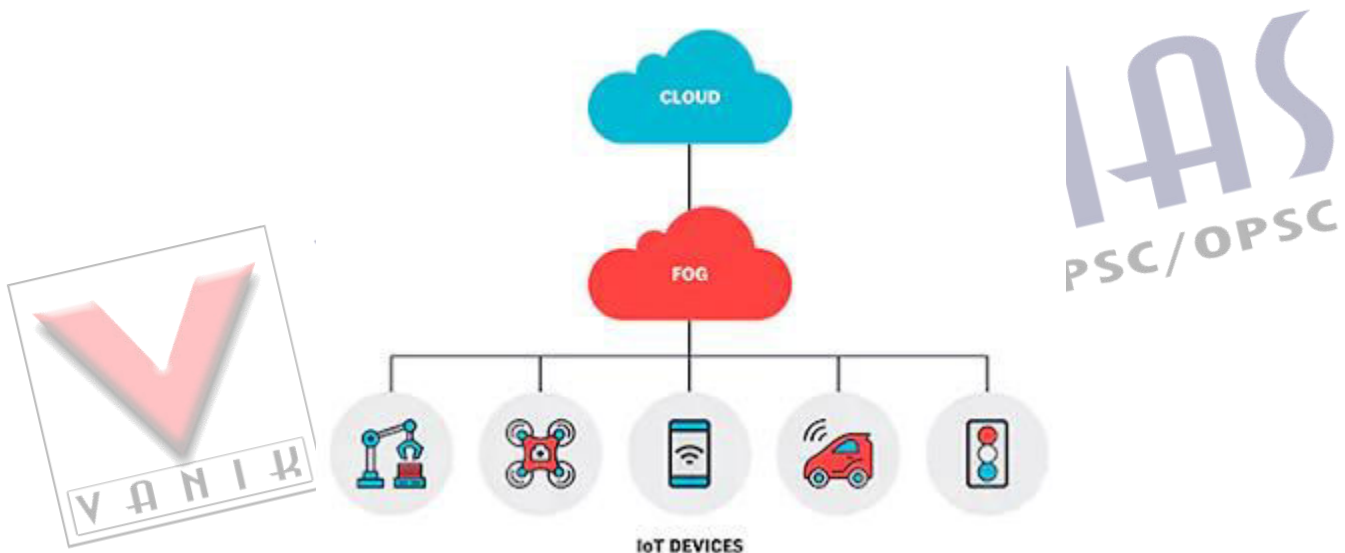
- **About:** The hydrogen line is an important instrument in modern astronomy from studying distant stars to looking for extraterrestrial intelligence (if it exists).
- **Spin Alignment in Hydrogen Atoms:** Each hydrogen atom is made of one proton and one electron.

- Both these particles have a property called spin. Colloquially, the spin can point up or down at any given time.
- When the spins of both particles are pointing up (or down), they are said to be aligned.
- When they are pointing in opposite directions, they are anti-aligned.
- **Hydrogen Line Emission:** Anti-aligned spins give the atom more energy than aligned spins.
- When the electron flips its spin, the atom releases this excess energy as electromagnetic radiation with a 21 cm wavelength.
- This emission appears as a characteristic line in some detectors, known as the “hydrogen line.”
- **Discovery:** Scientists discovered this emission in 1951 and it transformed radio astronomy.
- **Detecting Clouds:** By looking for this emission, they could detect clouds of cold, neutral hydrogen atomic gas in interstellar space.

## 2. Fog Computing

- **About:** A decentralized computing structure, fog computing extends the cloud capabilities to the edge of an enterprise network.
- **Edge and Cloud Analytics:** It facilitates short-term analytics at the edge, while the cloud performs resource-intensive analytics.
- It is not to be confused with edge computing—which brings data processing closer to devices—while fog computing involves processing data on intermediary nodes placed at the network’s edge.

### Fog computing



#### Applications of Fog Computing:

- **Connected cars:** collecting and processing data from sensors in real-time to enable features such as autonomous driving and infotainment.
- **Smart cities:** monitoring traffic flows, managing public transportation, optimizing energy use, and more.
- **Industrial IoT:** enhancing efficiency and safety in factories, power plants, mines, and other industrial infrastructure.
- **Connected health:** supporting remote patient monitoring, telemedicine, and other healthcare applications.
- **AR/VR:** enabling low-latency, high-quality augmented and virtual reality experiences.

## 3. Base erosion and profit shifting

The 16th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) concluded

- An inclusive framework on **BEPS** is finalizing negotiations on Pillar One, while the Global Minimum Tax under Pillar Two is being implemented in countries globally

#### What is an Inclusive Framework?

The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, with 147 countries and jurisdictions including India, fights tax avoidance and promotes fair tax practices through a Two-pillar approach: Pillar One reallocates profits of large MNEs, while Pillar Two establishes a Global Minimum Corporate Tax of 15%. This framework ensures fairness in tax systems, addresses tax avoidance, and adapts to evolving business models and digital economies.

#### What is BEPS?

- It refers to corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to shift profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower or no-tax jurisdictions.



- The OECD defines BEPS strategies as exploiting gaps and mismatches in tax rules. It erodes the tax base (costing countries USD 100-240 billion in lost revenue annually) of the higher-tax jurisdictions.
- As developing countries have a higher reliance on corporate income tax, they suffer from BEPS disproportionately.
- Working together within the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, over 135 countries and jurisdictions are collaborating on –
  - The implementation of measures to tackle tax avoidance,
  - Improving the coherence of international tax rules and
  - Ensuring a more transparent tax environment.

The objective of the Outcome Statement: It delivered a package to further implement the Two-Pillar Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.

Two Pillar Solution/ Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) rules: These rules were agreed upon in 2021 by 137 countries and jurisdictions under the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

#### **4. Green Ammonia Production**

Recently, Solar Energy Corporation of India initiated Competitive Bidding for Green Ammonia Production.

##### **About Green Ammonia Production**

1. As part of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has launched a Request for Selection (RfS) to identify producers of Green Ammonia.
2. This move is under the **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme**, managed by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).
3. SECI aims to allocate a total of 5.39 lakh metric tonnes per annum of Green Ammonia production capacity through this initiative.
4. The selection process involves e-bidding followed by an e-Reverse Auction to ensure cost-effectiveness and transparency.
5. The Green Ammonia produced under this initiative is designated for supply to fertilizer companies, supporting sustainable agriculture practices.

##### **About SIGHT Programme Details**

1. SECI is the appointed agency to implement the Green Ammonia Production incentive under Mode 2A of the SIGHT Programme.
2. Under the same programme, MNRE has already allocated 4.12 lakh metric tonnes per annum of Green Hydrogen production capacity and 1.5 GW per annum of Electrolyzer manufacturing capacity.

##### **About National Green Hydrogen Mission**

1. It was launched on January 4, 2023.
2. It aims to make India self-reliant in clean energy.
3. The mission is designed to reduce carbon emissions, lessen dependency on fossil fuel imports, and position India as a leader in Green Hydrogen technology and markets globally.

##### **About Green Ammonia**

1. Green ammonia is **synthesized using hydrogen obtained from water electrolysis and nitrogen** extracted from the air. These components are combined in the **Haber process**, which is powered by renewable energy sources.
2. **The Haber Process:** In the Haber process, hydrogen and nitrogen react at high temperatures and pressures to form ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).
3. The key to green ammonia is that the entire process, including the energy for the Haber process, is sourced from 100% renewable and carbon-free options.

##### **Uses of Green Ammonia**

1. Green ammonia serves as a cleaner fuel alternative for engines in locomotives and ships, aiming to replace traditional diesel and marine fuel oils.
2. It can be used as a fuel source for generating electricity.
3. As a primary component in fertilizer production, it supports sustainable agricultural practices.
4. Green ammonia is a versatile feedstock used in various applications, including water purification and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

#### **5. Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) Report**

Recently, the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), released its report. It showed that consumption inequality increased in rural areas of 11 states despite a national trend.

##### **About Key Findings**

- i) The **Gini coefficient** increased in rural areas of 11 states between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- ii) **States Affected:** The states where the Gini coefficient rose include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- iii) Nagaland, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh has witnessed increase in Gini coefficient.

iv) The Gini coefficient for consumption expenditure also rose in urban areas of three states which are Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur.

v) Nationally, the Gini coefficient for rural areas declined from 0.283 in 2011-12 to 0.266 in 2022-23. For urban areas, it decreased from 0.363 to 0.314 during the same period.

**Note:** A lower Gini coefficient indicates reduced spending inequality.

**About Gini coefficient**

i) Gini coefficient is an indicator of income or wealth inequality and is derived from the Lorenz curve.

ii) It is measured by dividing area between perfect equality curve and actual income distribution curve by area under perfect equality curve.

iii) The coefficient ranges from 0 (0%) to 1 (100%), with 0 representing perfect equality (where every resident in a country has the same income) and 1 representing perfect inequality (one resident earned all income and the rest earned nothing).

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Examine the challenges faced by survivors of marital rape in India, considering patriarchal attitudes, societal stigma, and legal recourse. Evaluate the adequacy of existing laws and support systems in protecting married women's rights and suggest reforms to create a supportive environment for survivors.**

Marital rape, a form of sexual violence within marriage, remains a prevalent yet under-recognised issue in India. Rooted in patriarchal attitudes and societal norms, it involves non-consensual sexual acts perpetrated by a spouse against their partner. The current legal system does not criminalise marital rape for women over 18 years old, posing significant challenges for survivors in seeking justice and support.

The **National Family Health Survey** pointed out that approximately **30%** of women aged **18-49** in **India** disclosed experiencing **spousal violence**.

**Challenges Faced by Survivors of Marital Rape in India:**

- **Patriarchal Attitudes**

- **Normalisation of Marital Rape:** The belief that marriage implies **irrevocable consent** for sexual relations perpetuates the notion that marital rape cannot exist.

**For example:** **Section 375 of the IPC** exempts marital rape for adult women, reinforcing this belief.

- **Victim-blaming:** Survivors often face blame, with societal expectations placing the burden of marital harmony on women.

**For example:** **NFHS-5** data reveals that around **90% of survivors do not report** due to fear of stigma and societal backlash.

- **Societal Stigma**

- **Silence and Shame:** Survivors are often shamed into silence, fearing judgement and ostracism from their communities.

- **Lack of Support Systems:** The absence of robust community support systems exacerbates the isolation of survivors.

**For example:** Only **limited civil remedies** like protection orders are available under the **Domestic Violence Act, 2005**, which are often inadequate.

- **Legal Recourse**

- **Inadequate Legal Framework:** The legal system does not currently recognise marital rape as a crime, limiting survivors' access to justice. **For example:** **NFHS-5** highlights that **5.6%** of married women report being **physically forced** into sex by their husbands, indicating the prevalence of the issue despite legal gaps.

- **Judicial Challenges:** The ambiguity in law and split judgements on the issue make it difficult for survivors to pursue legal action.

**For example:** Recent judicial debates, including the **Karnataka High Court's** rejection of the marital rape exception, highlight the need for clear legal definitions and protections.

**Adequacy of Existing Laws and Support Systems:**

- **Legal Protections**

- **Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Provides civil remedies but falls short of criminalising marital rape explicitly. The Act **recognises marital rape as a form of domestic violence** but does not provide adequate punitive measures. This Act allows for protection orders and judicial separation but does not criminalize the act of marital rape, limiting its deterrent effect.

- **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** It forbids both the **offering and acceptance** of dowry, **imposing penalties** on individuals involved in this practice. Although this legislation targets **financial exploitation** within marriages, it falls short of addressing the entirety of sexual violence, creating a loophole in protection for survivors of marital rape.

- **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code:** Criminalises cruelty by husbands and their relatives, including physical and mental abuse. This section provides some legal recourse for abused women, but it does not explicitly cover marital rape, which requires its recognition as a distinct crime.

- **Judicial Precedents:** Some court rulings have attempted to address the issue, but **comprehensive legal reform is lacking**.  
**For example:** The Supreme Court's ongoing considerations and previous High Court rulings on related issues show a potential shift towards recognising the crime.
- **Support Systems:**
  - **Role of Family:** Family members can offer crucial emotional support and practical assistance to survivors. However, in a patriarchal setup, family support can be compromised by societal norms that stigmatise the victim.  
**For example:** Families may **pressure survivors** to remain **silent or reconcile** with the abuser, undermining the support system.
  - **Role of Friends:** Friends can provide a **safe space** for survivors to share their experiences and seek help. Their support can be significant but may be **limited** by their **understanding** and **willingness** to challenge societal norms.
  - **Counselling Channels:** Access to **professional counselling** can help survivors cope with **trauma** and navigate their legal and personal options. However, the availability and effectiveness of counselling services are limited, especially in rural areas. Counseling services are often **underfunded and understaffed**, leading to inadequate support for survivors.
  - **NGOs and Advocacy Groups:** NGOs and advocacy groups work to raise **awareness**, provide support services, and advocate for **legal reforms**. These organisations are crucial but often face funding and recognition challenges from the state.

**Case Studies:**

- **Hrishikesh Sahoo Case**
  - **Legal Challenge:** Mr. Hrishikesh Sahoo invoked the marital rape exception to seek dismissal of charges, but the Karnataka High Court rejected this plea, stating that the exception was regressive and violated the right to equality.
  - **Supreme Court Involvement:** The Supreme Court has stayed the High Court's decision, but the case highlights the need for judicial clarity on the issue.
- **RIT Foundation and Delhi High Court**
  - **Split Verdict:** The Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict on the constitutionality of the marital rape exception, illustrating judicial inconsistency and the need for a decisive ruling from the Supreme Court.

**Reforms to Create a Supportive Environment for Survivors:**

- **Legal Reforms**
  - **Criminalisation of Marital Rape:** There is a need to encourage discussions over marital rape in India and form a committee to discuss the issue in depth and recommend amendments to IPC.  
**For example:** Following **international precedents** like those in the **US, UK**, and other countries where marital rape is recognised and penalised.
  - **Clear Judicial Guidelines:** Establish clear judicial guidelines to support survivors and ensure consistent application of the law.
- **Strengthening Support Systems**
  - **Enhanced Support Services:** Develop comprehensive support services, including **counselling, legal aid, and shelters**, specifically for survivors of marital rape.  
**For example:** Implementing **dedicated hotlines** and **support centers** can provide immediate and ongoing assistance.
  - **Community Education Programmes:** Launch widespread educational campaigns to change **societal attitudes** and **reduce stigma** associated with marital rape.

Addressing the issue of marital rape in India requires a multifaceted approach, combining legal reforms, strengthened support systems, and societal education. By criminalising marital rape and providing robust support to survivors, India can take significant steps towards ensuring justice and equality for all women, paving the way for a society that upholds the dignity and rights of every individual.

**MCQS**

1. The term 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of
  - a) mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich but backward areas
  - b) curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies**
  - c) exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies
  - d) lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects
2. Consider the following statements:
  1. Cabinet Minister is the highest-ranking position in the Union Council of Ministers.
  2. As per the Constitution of India, the maximum number of ministers allowed in the Union Council of Ministers is 10% of the total members of the Lok Sabha.
  3. Minister of State (Independent Charge) is one of the categories of ministers in the Union Council of Ministers.

4. The concept of "collective responsibility" in the context of the Council of Ministers implies that all ministers must agree on every decision. How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
  - Only two
  - Only three
  - All four
3. In modern astronomy, which one of the following is the significance of Hydrogen Line?
- It helps in detecting black holes.
  - It is used to study the structure and dynamics of galaxies.**
  - It is used to measure the temperature of stars.
  - It helps in identifying exoplanets.
4. Consider the following statements:
- In the First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system, candidates must secure more than 50% of the votes to win.
  - FPTP can result in a mismatch between the percentage of votes a party receives and the number of seats it wins.
  - Proportional Representation (PR) is an electoral system designed to ensure that parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
  - Only two**
  - All three
  - None
5. A heat dome is:
- A low-pressure system that brings cool and wet weather
  - A high-pressure system that traps hot air over a region**
  - A type of cloud formation that causes heavy rainfall
  - A weather pattern associated with cold fronts
6. With reference to the Placenta Mammals, consider the following statements:
- They have a placenta that nourishes the fetus during gestation.
  - African elephant is a placental mammal.
  - Placental mammals are classified under the subclass Eutheria.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3**
7. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements:
- Khuntkatti system was practiced in the chotanagpur region where the individual owned the land fit for cultivation during the 20th century.
  - Birsa Munda launched the Ulgulan movement in 1899 to drive out foreigners.
  - The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908) allowed the passage of tribal land to non-tribal folks.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- Only one**
  - Only two
  - All three
  - None
8. Which organization is responsible for conducting the 'Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23' in India?
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
  - National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**
  - Planning Commission
  - Ministry of Finance
9. Consider the following statements about Green Ammonia Production
- SECI is the appointed agency to implement the Green Ammonia Production incentive under Mode 2A of the SIGHT Programme.
  - The Green Ammonia produced under this initiative is designated for supply to fertilizer companies, supporting sustainable agriculture practices.
- Which of the following statements are/is correct ?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2**
  - None
10. Consider the following statements about fog computing
- Fog computing is a decentralized computing structure, fog computing extends the cloud capabilities to the edge of an enterprise network.
  - It is used to monitor traffic flows, managing public transportation, optimizing energy use, and more.
- Which of the following statements are/is correct ?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2**
  - None