

**GS PAPER 1- POPULATION AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES****Implications of Delaying the Census**

**Context:** The article discusses the Union government's delay in conducting the Census, which has not occurred since 2011. It criticizes the idea of including caste enumeration without proper planning and emphasizes the negative impact of the delay on public policies and governance.

**Why is the Census Being Delayed?**

1. The Union government has delayed conducting the Census, which has been held every decade from 1881 to 2011.
2. The deadline to freeze administrative boundaries, required before the Census, has been extended 10 times since 2019.
3. The official reason cited is the COVID-19 pandemic, yet 143 countries conducted their Census after March 2020.
4. As of June 2024, India is one of 44 countries that have not conducted the Census this decade.
5. India shares this delay with conflict-affected and crisis-hit countries like Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, and others.

**What Are the Implications of Delaying the Census?**

1. **Impact on Public Schemes:** Delays affect schemes like the National Food Security Act and the National Social Assistance Programme, which rely on updated Census data.
2. **Outdated Data:** The 2011 Census data is outdated, especially with changes in migration, urbanization, and suburbanization.
3. **Reliance on Surveys:** Reliance on sample surveys leads to debates over methodology and biased conclusions.
4. **Global Comparison:** India, as of June 2024, is one of 44 countries not to have conducted a Census, sharing this with conflict-ridden nations like Yemen and Syria.

**Should Caste Enumeration Be Included in the Census?**

1. There is a debate over including caste enumeration in the upcoming Census. This idea is driven by demands from several political parties.
2. However, the article suggests that the government should not rush into including caste data. The example of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011 is given, where the data collected were inaccurate and unusable.
3. The article advises careful planning and a clear timeline for conducting the Census before considering such additions.

**GS PAPER2- GOVERNANCE-MECHANISMS, LAWS, INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES CONSTITUTED FOR THE PROTECTION AND BETTERMENT OF THESE VULNERABLE SECTIONS****Impact of Violence Against Women**

**Context:** The article discusses how women in India live under constant vigilance due to safety concerns. This perpetual alertness affects their freedom and well-being, impacting their daily lives and choices. It argues that this constant state of fear is a form of violence that limits women's potential and freedom.

**What are the types of violence against women in India?**

1. **Physical Violence:** Includes rape, dowry-related deaths, and domestic violence. The brutal rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata highlight this severe issue.
2. **Psychological Violence:** Constant vigilance and fear impact women's mental health. This state of alertness becomes normalized, affecting their freedom and choices.

**What is the Impact of Violence Against Women?**

1. **Psychological Impact:** While physical violence against women is widely recognized, the psychological impact often goes unnoticed.
2. **Constant Vigilance:** Women live in a state of perpetual alertness due to safety concerns, affecting their mental well-being.
3. **Restricted Freedom:** This vigilance limits women's freedom, such as declining job opportunities requiring late-night travel or avoiding new places.
4. **Intergenerational Effects:** Mothers teach daughters to be cautious, reinforcing that women are responsible for their safety.
5. **Social Disadvantage:** Marginalized women face intensified threats due to caste, class, and religion, with fewer resources for protection.
6. **Affect Society:** The restrictions on women's freedom to explore and experience life fully not only harm them but also society. Limiting women's experiences restricts their contributions and potential innovations.

**What Should Be Done?**

1. Acknowledging the psychological impacts of violence and the burden of vigilance as forms of violence is crucial.
2. Society and the state should work towards ensuring women do not have to choose between safety and freedom, fostering an environment where women can live without fear.

**GS PAPER 2 – ISSUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL SECTOR/SERVICES RELATING TO HEALTH****1. Need to address corruption in India's health system comprehensively**

**Context:** The article discusses the issue of medical corruption in India, especially following the death of a resident doctor. It highlights that improving hospital security and laws is not enough. It argues for a national task force to address corruption in the health system comprehensively.

For detailed information on **Violence against healthcare professionals** read this article here

**What triggered the protests by resident doctors?**

1. In 2017, Maharashtra witnessed heated protests by resident doctors after a series of violent attacks on medical personnel.
2. These attacks led to demands for better security in public hospitals and stronger legal actions against the perpetrators.
3. However, these solutions were mostly reactive, lacking deeper analysis of the underlying issues.

**What sparked recent concerns in Kolkata?**

1. A gruesome incident involving the death of a resident doctor in Kolkata has drawn national attention.
2. The Supreme Court of India took notice and initiated proceedings, leading to the formation of a national task force to improve hospital safety. Measures include enhancing infrastructure, installing CCTV cameras, and providing safe transport for night shifts.

**How does the West Bengal government address the issue?**

1. The West Bengal government launched the 'Rattier Saathi' program to improve the safety of women working night shifts, especially in medical settings.
2. This initiative, while important, risks oversimplifying the issue by equating it with general health worker violence or women's safety concerns.

For detailed information on Addressing Violence Against Women Doctors read this article here

**Why are conventional solutions inadequate?**

1. Traditional approaches to health worker violence, like improving hospital security and creating new laws, have not effectively solved the problem.
2. One reason is the chronic underfunding of the health sector.
3. Additionally, the role of corruption in deteriorating public health services has been largely overlooked, despite its significant impact.

**How significant is corruption in the health sector?**

1. The World Health Organization estimates that corruption costs \$455 billion annually worldwide, which is more than the amount needed to provide universal health coverage.
2. In many developing countries, corruption is a major cause of healthcare crises, surpassing even the lack of funds.
3. In India, discussions on medical corruption have mostly focused on private sector issues, ignoring its criminal dimensions in the public sector.

**What Should be Done?**

1. Solutions should include increasing transparency, accountability, and oversight.
2. Need for better whistle-blower protections, digitalization of public management systems, and minimizing political interference.
3. Aim to modernize the outdated public hospital system in India.

**2. Vaccine-derived polio in Meghalaya**

Context: The article discusses a case of vaccine-derived polio in Meghalaya. It explains that while the oral polio vaccine (OPV) can occasionally cause polio, it doesn't threaten India's polio-free status. It also highlights the use of both OPV and IPV in India.

**What is Vaccine-Derived Polio?**

Vaccine-derived polio occurs when the weakened virus in OPV regains the ability to cause infection. This can happen in two ways:

1. In some cases, the weakened virus can continue circulating from child to child, gaining back its ability to transmit quickly, and then cause severe infection every time it spreads.
2. The virus in the vaccine can also cause chronic infection in children with weakened immune systems, replicating in their gut for years and slowly gaining its ability to cause severe infection. This is what seems to have happened in the Meghalaya case.

**Have Vaccine-Derived Polio Cases Occurred in India Before?**

1. India was declared polio-free in 2014 after the last wild poliovirus case was detected in 2011 in West Bengal's Howrah district.
2. Despite this, vaccine-derived polio cases have been reported in the country.
3. In 2013, an 11-month-old child from Maharashtra's Beed district died due to vaccine-derived polio.
4. Multiple other cases have surfaced across India, with the most recent before the Meghalaya case reported in Kerala.
5. These vaccine-derived cases do not affect India's polio-free status, as only wild poliovirus detection would change that.

**How Can Vaccine-Derived Polio Be Prevented?**

1. **Use of IPV:** Switching to the injectable polio vaccine (IPV) can prevent vaccine-derived polio, as it contains no live virus. This eliminates the risk of the virus regaining strength and causing infection.
2. **IPV Limitations:** IPV requires trained personnel to administer, which may reduce immunization rates. It also doesn't prevent virus transmission between individuals.

3. **Current Practice in India:** India uses both IPV and OPV. However, IPV is underused, with only one shot given instead of the three shots and one booster used in countries like the US and Canada.

## **GS PAPER-2- BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL GROUPINGS AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS.**

### **Prime Minister Modi's Historic Visit to Ukraine**

**Context** -The Indian Prime Minister's recent visit to Ukraine was a major milestone in India's foreign policy, being the first visit by an Indian head of government since diplomatic relations began in 1992.

He visited Kyiv as Ukraine was making significant gains into Russian territory, which may have violated Western aid terms. This suggests the peace process could have shifted from India's initial understanding.

#### **What are the highlights of the visit?**

1) **Breaking Tradition**- Indian Prime Ministers used to avoid former Warsaw Pact countries to respect ties with Russia. Modi's visit to Poland and Ukraine, traveling by train, now demonstrates India's role as a credible mediator and its strategic independence.

2) **Balancing Act**- Six weeks after Modi's visit to Moscow, his trip to Ukraine was seen as an effort to ease U.S. concerns.

#### **What has the global reaction been?**

1) **Limited Impact**-The U.S. State Department described Modi's visit as "potentially helpful," signaling limited geopolitical impact.

2) **Mixed Signals from Kyiv**- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Modi's visit a "historical moment" and praised the economic agreements made between India and Ukraine. He agreed in principle to visit India but stressed that New Delhi couldn't remain neutral in the conflict and needed to support peace.

**Conclusion**- It remains unclear whether India can effectively mediate between Ukraine and Russia. Zelenskyy suggested that India host the Global Peace Summit, a proposal that New Delhi should explore.

## **PRELIM FACTS**

### **1. Vigyan Dhara Scheme**

**Context:** The Union Cabinet approved continuation of the three umbrella schemes, merged into a unified central sector scheme namely 'Vigyan Dhara' of Department of Science and Technology (DST).

#### **About the Vigyan Dhara Scheme:**

- **Components:** The scheme has three broad components:
  - Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building,
  - Research and Development and
  - Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment.
- **Outlay:** The proposed outlay for the implementation of the scheme is **Rs.10,579.84 crore** during the 15th finance Commission period from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- **Objective:** Promote **S&T capacity building as well as research, innovation and technology development** towards strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in the country.

#### **Significance**

- **Infrastructure:** Strengthens S&T infrastructure and equips R&D labs in academic institutions.
- **Efficiency:** Merges existing schemes for better fund utilization and synchronization.

- **Research Focus:** Supports basic, translational, and collaborative research, with international cooperation.
- **Human Resources:** Aims to build a critical human resource pool and expand the R&D base of the country towards improving the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) researcher count.
- **Gender Parity:** Promotes women's participation in S&T with goals for gender parity.
- **Innovation Support:** Encourages innovation from school to industry, with increased collaboration between academia, government, and industries.

**About Department of Science & Technology (DST):** It acts as the nodal department for organizing, coordinating and promoting S&T activities in the country.

## 2. Disputed Sabina Shoal

**Context:** Chinese and Philippine vessels collided during a confrontation near a disputed Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea.

**About Sabina Shoal:**

- **Sabina Shoal:** It is an oceanic coral atoll that developed on top of a seamount in the eastern part of the Spratlys.
- **Location:** It is located in west of the Philippine island of Palawan.
  - The closest shallow geographic feature is **Boxall Reef**
- **China- Philippines Dispute:** China refers to Sabina Shoal as **Xianbin Reef**, while the Philippines calls it **Escoda Shoal**.
  - **China claims the Sabina Shoal.** It is more than 1,000 km from China's nearest major landmass, **Hainan island**.
  - Manila and Beijing have stationed **coast guard vessels** around the shoal in recent months, with the **Philippines fearing China** is about to build an **artificial island** there.

## 3. Plea Bargaining in India

**Context:** Plea bargaining's application in India remains minimal, a recent report by the Ministry of Law and Justice has revealed.

**About Plea Bargaining:**

- **Plea Bargain:** It is a practice whereby the **accused forgoes his right to plead not guilty** and demand a full trial and instead uses a **right to bargain** for a benefit.
- Plea bargaining was incorporated into the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in 2005**.
- Plea bargaining is a **less lucrative alternative** for an accused to end the proceedings in contrast with other mechanisms:
  - **Compounding** (compromise).
  - **Quashing** (of criminal proceedings).
  - **Witness turning hostile** (account of compromise between the parties).
- **Use of Plea Bargaining:** Only **0.11% of cases** were resolved through plea bargaining in 2022, according to **Ministry of Law and Justice report**.
  - **Report:** 'Access to Justice through Plea Bargaining as an Alternative Model to Traditional Criminal Trial in India: A Case Study of Select Indian States'
- The **2022 NCRB report** revealed that 119 cases of **crimes against women** and four cases registered under **POCSO Act** were disposed of by plea bargaining.

## 4. Great Nicobar project

The **Rs.72,000-crore Nicobar project**, including a port and airport, will not displace indigenous Shompen tribes, said Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav.

The **project aims to counter Chinese expansion and Myanmar poaching**. Despite concerns regarding forest land diversion, tribal consent, and earthquake risks, the government assured that

the development follows legal protocols and adheres to safety standards. The project, of national strategic importance, will be developed over 30 years, with fewer trees expected to be felled than previously estimated.

**The GNI Project:**

- It is a **Rs.72,000-crore mega project piloted by NITI Aayog** for the “holistic development” of the Great Nicobar Island (GNI), **situated at the southern end** of the A&N group of Islands in the Bay of Bengal.
- It is being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).
- **The plan has four components –**
  - A Rs.35,000 crore transshipment port at Galathea Bay,
  - A dual-use military-civil international airport,
  - A power plant, and
  - A township

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Examine the consequences of the delayed census on India’s socio-economic policies. What measures should be implemented to manage these implications effectively?**

The **delay in India’s Census** since 2021 has significant repercussions on socio-economic planning and development. The Census, conducted every ten years, provides essential data for policy-making, resource allocation, and welfare schemes. The postponement due to **COVID-19** and **administrative challenges** disrupts crucial data collection, affecting evidence-based decision-making and targeted policy interventions.

**Consequences of the Delayed Census on India’s Socio-Economic Policies:**

- **Impact on Resource Allocation:** The absence of updated census data affects the accurate distribution of resources for various government schemes, leading to inefficiencies and potential exclusion of deserving beneficiaries.  
**For example:** The allocation of funds under the **National Rural Health Mission** depends on population data, which, if outdated, misdirects resources.
- **Challenges in Planning and Infrastructure Development:** Census data is crucial for urban planning, infrastructure development, and service delivery. A delay can result in outdated plans that do not reflect current population needs.  
**For instance:** **Smart City initiatives** rely on accurate demographic data to plan utilities, which is compromised due to delayed census results.
- **Disruption in Social Welfare Programs:** Social welfare programs targeting vulnerable populations rely on accurate demographic and socio-economic data. The lack of updated information hampers program effectiveness and reach.  
**For instance:** The **Public Distribution System (PDS)**, which uses census data to identify and serve beneficiaries, faces challenges in reaching the intended populace.
- **Impact on Electoral Boundaries and Representation:** Delimitation of electoral constituencies is based on population data from the Census. A delay affects fair political representation, potentially skewing electoral outcomes.  
**For instance:** The **Delimitation Commission** requires accurate population data to adjust constituency boundaries, ensuring equitable representation.
- **Inaccurate Economic Indicators:** Many economic indicators, such as GDP per capita and unemployment rates, are calculated using population data. Outdated census data can distort these figures, leading to flawed economic policies.

**Measures to Manage the Implications Effectively:**

- **Implement Digital Data Collection Methods:** Leveraging technology for data collection can expedite the census process and ensure real-time updates, reducing delays and enhancing data accuracy.  
**For example:** The use of **mobile apps** for **data collection** in pilot studies has shown promising results in improving efficiency and data accuracy.
- **Enhance Coordination Between State and Central Agencies:** Improved coordination can streamline the process and ensure timely execution, minimising delays and fostering better data management.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educating the public about the importance of the census can enhance participation rates, leading to more comprehensive and accurate data collection.
- **Regular Interim Surveys:** Conducting interim surveys can provide updated data on key demographics, serving as a temporary solution until the full census is completed.  
**For example:** The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** provides interim updates on employment statistics, filling gaps due to delayed census data.
- **Strengthen Data Management and Analysis Capabilities:** Investing in advanced data management systems can enhance the quality and usability of census data, making it more reliable for policy formulation.  
**For example:** The integration of **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** in census operations has improved data visualisation and analysis capabilities.

Moving forward, India must embrace a **multi-faceted approach** to ensure **timely census completion** and **robust data management**. Leveraging technology, enhancing public trust, and fostering inter-agency coordination are essential for adapting to future challenges. By prioritising these strategies, India can ensure its socio-economic policies are **data-driven, inclusive, and responsive** to the needs of its diverse population.

**MCQ**

1. In the context of the criminal justice system, the term 'Plea Bargaining' refers to:
  - a) A mandatory legal requirement for all accused individuals to confess to their crimes before a trial can proceed.
  - b) The negotiation between a defendant and prosecutor where the defendant agrees to plead guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for a lighter sentence.**
  - c) The practice of appealing a court decision to a higher court.
  - d) A judicial procedure where the judge decides the sentence before the trial begins, based on preliminary evidence presented by both parties.
2. J.S. Verma Committee is related to which one of the following?
  - a) Formulation of India's foreign policy towards neighbouring countries.
  - b) Restructuring of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework in India.
  - c) Development of strategies for enhancing agricultural productivity in rural areas.
  - d) Amendment of laws to improve the safety and security of women.**
3. Which of the following is a key condition for an insult or intimidation of SC/ST members to be considered an offence under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, as per the Supreme Court ruling?
  - a) The insult or intimidation must be intentional.
  - b) The insult or intimidation must occur in a public place.

- c) **The insult or intimidation must be based on the victim's caste.**  
d) The insult or intimidation must involve physical harm.
4. Which of the following organisms is known to exhibit the phenomenon of Sonoluminescence?  
**a) Pistol shrimp**  
b) Electric eel  
c) Jellyfish  
d) Firefly
5. Which organization is piloting the Rs.72,000-crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project?  
**a) NITI Aayog**  
b) Ministry of Home Affairs  
c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
d) Andaman and Nicobar Administration
6. What is the primary objective of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha AbhiyaN (PM-JANMAN) campaign launched by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs?  
**a) To achieve 100% saturation of government schemes in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) areas.**  
b) To promote tribal tourism across India.  
c) To introduce new education schemes for tribal children.  
d) To develop infrastructure in urban tribal settlements.
7. What is the primary cause of the flash of light seen in Sonoluminescence?  
a) Chemical reactions within the bubble  
b) Rapid cooling of the bubble  
c) Electrical discharge from the organism  
d) **Rapid collapse of a bubble caused by sound waves**
8. Which one of the following organizations is responsible for implementing the Vigyan Dhara Scheme?  
a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
**b) Department of Science and Technology (DST)**  
c) Ministry of Education  
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
9. With reference to mass wasting, consider the following statements:  
1. Mass wasting is primarily caused by tectonic activities.  
2. Erosion of the landmass is a form of mass wasting.  
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
**d) Neither 1 nor 2**
10. Consider the following Groupings:  
1. BRICS  
2. BASIC  
3. G-20  
4. G-4  
5. IBSA  
6. International Solar Alliance  
How many of the above groupings have Brazil and India as common members?  
a) Only three  
b) Only Four  
c) Only Five  
**d) All Six**