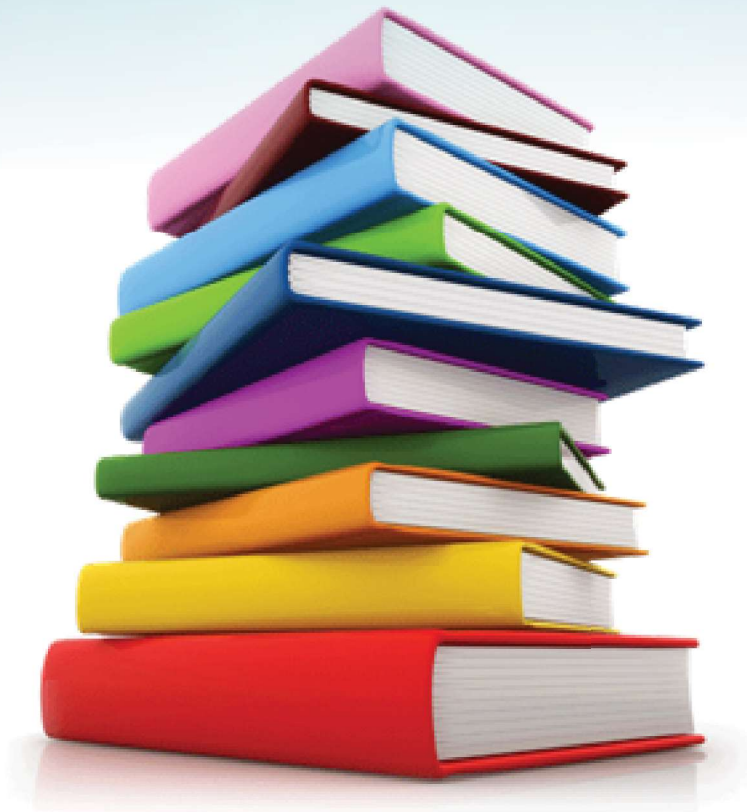




# **PLUTUS IAS**

## **Weekly CURRENT AFFAIRS**



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## JULY 2022

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Topic in news :-** According to IISD (International Institute of Sustainable Development) study, Shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources could trigger financial challenges for developing countries like India, Russia, Brazil & China.

#### **IMPORTANT POINTS TO BE NOTED:-**

- India is a net importer of petroleum products but it also earns revenues – via cesses, taxes from the consumption of petrol, diesel & oil.
- Public revenues from fossils fuel production and consumption currently account 18% in India.

#### **WHAT IS RENEWABLE ENERGY?**

- A renewable energy means energy that is sustainable – something that can't run out, or is endless, like the solar, wind, hydro, tidal etc. Renewable energy is also referred to as 'alternative energy'. It means sources of energy that are alternative to the most commonly used non-renewable energy sources – like coal, crude oil etc. Renewable sources are sustainable, abundant, and environmentally friendly. Unlike fossil fuels, they are not going to expire soon as they are constantly replenished.

#### **THE MOST POPULAR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES CURRENTLY ARE:**

- Solar energy
- Wind energy
- Hydro energy
- Tidal energy
- Geothermal energy

- Biomass energy

### **ADVANTAGES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- **Renewable energy will never run out :-** Renewables energy resources come straight from the environment. The sun, the wind, the tide, the Earth's core will never run out. They are sustainable and abundant natural resources.
- **Renewables save money and provide profitability :-** Renewable energy is cost savings and resources available free of cost to all. Harnessing the power of the sun and wind provides for hundreds of thousands in savings.
- **Reduce carbon footprint :-** Renewable sources of energy don't release carbon dioxide or other harmful pollutants into the atmosphere. Hence it will reduce carbon footprint.
- **Reduce dependence on foreign energy sources :-** Renewable energy is local energy. Those countries utilising renewable energy could become self-reliant & reduce their dependence on foreign energy sources.

### **LIMITATIONS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- **High initial capital investment for renewable energy :-** Manufacture, building, planning and installation of solar panels, wind turbines, hydroelectricity plants and other facilities required a huge capital investment.
- **Geographic limitations of renewable energy :-** Renewable energy totally depends upon geographic location. Example:- For solar energy in India states like Gujarat, Rajasthan are more suitable as compared to H.P, Uttarakhand. Renewable energy is totally dependent upon the weather, variations in the weather are also not suitable for renewable technology.

### **INDIA INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) :-** ISA was announced by Mr. Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Mr. Francois Hollande, former Hon'ble President of France on 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France. It is a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization, having aims of mobilizing more than USD 1000 billion of investment needed by 2030 for the massive deployment of solar energy. ISA's objective is to scale up solar energy, reduce the cost of solar power generation through aggregation of demand for solar finance, technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building.
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),** India had committed to achieving 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030. India has achieved this target in November 2021 itself. The country's installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity stands at 150.54 GW (solar: 48.55 GW, wind: 40.03 GW, Small hydro Power:

4.83, Bio-power: 10.62, Large Hydro: 46.51 GW) as on 30.11.2021.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM):** To provide energy and water security, de-dieselise the farm sector and also generate additional income for farmers by producing solar power, Government launched PM-KUSUM Scheme for farmers. The Scheme consists of three components: Component A: Installation of 10,000 MW of Decentralized Grid Connected Solar Power Plants each of capacity up to 2 MW. Component B: Setting up of 20 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps. Component C: Solarisation of 15 Lakh existing Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps.

**Anoop Singh**

## Artificial Intelligence

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### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Topic in News :- AI- based Mandarin translation devices for Army (THE HINDU)

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS:-

- It is an offline hand-held language translation system which works based on AI.
- It is bidirectional with a range of 5-10 feet and gives converts Mandarin to English
- Defence Minister unveils 75 AI-based products & technology at defence symposium.

### WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is the branch of computer science concerned with making computers behave like humans. So that it could perform cognitive tasks like thinking, learning, problem solving, decision making etc
- Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that could mimic human intelligence.
- AI is being used today across different industries from finance to healthcare.
- AI has evolved in ways that far exceed its original conception. With incredible advances made in data collection, processing and computation power.



- AI's capabilities have enhanced, that's why its utility is growing in diverse fields.

### **APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- In the E- Commerce sector, AI utilization enhances in different ways like Personalized Shopping, AI- powered assistants like chatbots.
- Facial Recognition techniques devices like mobile, laptops & PCs.
- Automobile manufacturing companies like Audi, Toyota and Tesla use AI's to train computers to think and evolve like humans which will be applicable in driving vehicles in any environment and to detect objects to avoid accidents.
- The AI system makes it easier for users by automatically detecting the number of lanes, road types and obstructions on the roads. Now AI is used by Uber and many logistics companies to enhance their operational efficiency, analyze road traffic, and optimize routes. The Hindu Analysis
- In personalized learning AI technology can be used to monitor students' data thoroughly, lesson plans, reminders, study guides, flash notes, revision, etc.
- In the Agriculture sector also, Artificial Intelligence is used to identify defects and nutrient deficiencies in the soil. This is be done by using computer vision, robotics, and machine learning applications.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) STARTUPS PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- Tata Elxsi
- Bosch
- Happiest Mind
- Zensar Technologies
- Oracle

### **FOLLOWING INITIATIVE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THE FIELD OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has initiated a programme titled FutureSkills PRIME in collaboration with NASSCOM, a B2C framework for re-skilling/ up-skilling IT professionals in 10 Emerging areas including Artificial Intelligence.
- Published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in June 2018 and also proposes to develop an ecosystem for the research and adoption of Artificial Intelligence i.e. #AI FOR ALL. The Hindu Analysis

- Launched 'National AI Portal' which is a repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives in the country at a single place.
- Government has initiated 'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme' with an objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors in the country. The research areas under the scheme include Artificial Intelligence (covering 82 PhD fellows) and Machine Learning (covering 59 PhD fellows).
- National Programme on Responsible Use of AI for Youth: With the objective to empower the youth to become AI ready and help reduce the skill gap, the government along with Industry partners has started this initiative to promote AI awareness among Government school going children.
- GoI has also joined the league of leading economies like USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, etc as a founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). The Hindu Analysis
- Government organized Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE) in 2020, a first-of-its-kind global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment through responsible AI..

**Anoop Singh**

## **JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (JWST)**

### **JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (JWST) – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- Topic in News :- NASA unveiled images of the Southern Ring Nebula, taken from the James Webb Space Telescope. (THE HINDU)

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS :-**

- James Webb Space Telescope is the largest and most powerful orbital observatory ever launched.
- Cost of construction is \$ 9 billion and it is an infrared telescope.
- It was launched on December-25-2021 and reached its destination in solar orbit nearly 1 million miles from Earth a month later.

## **NEBULAE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- It is a cluster of stars & gaseous clouds.
- It is an interstellar cloud of dust, hydrogen, helium and other ionized gasses.
- The dust and gasses in a nebula are spread out, but due to gravity it begins to pull together and form clumps of dust and gas. When these clumps get bigger and bigger, their gravity enhances. The Hindu Analysis
- Eventually, these clump of dust and gas gets so big that it collapses from its own gravity and it causes the material at the center of the cloud to heat up-and this hot core is the beginning of a star.
- The closest known nebula to Earth is called the Helix Nebula. It is approximately 700 light-years away from Earth.

## **JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (JWST) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- JWST's developed by joint collaboration of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- It was launched in December 2021 on an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana. The Hindu Analysis
- It reached orbit at the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point in January 2022.
- It is designed primarily for near-infrared astronomy, but can also view orange & red visible light and mid-infrared region, depending on the instrument.
- It is the most powerful infrared telescope.
- It is also considered as the successor of the Hubble Telescope.
- The telescope will study across the fields of astronomy & cosmology such as stars, formation of galaxies, exoplanets etc. The Hindu Analysis
- Telescope is named after James E. Webb, who was the administrator of NASA from 1961 to 1968 during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs.

## **SOUTHERN RING NEBULA (SRN) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- SRN also known as NGC 3132, Eight-Burst Nebula, or Caldwell 74.
- It is a bright and extensively studied planetary nebula in the constellation Vela.
- Its distance from Earth is estimated at about 613 pc. or 2,000 light-years.

**Anoop Singh**

# Financial Stability Report – An analysis of the financial system in India

## FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT – AN ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN INDIA – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Financial stability may be disturbed by processes from both – inside and outside of the financial sector leading to the emergence of weak spots like excessive leverage; dealing in doubtful products like collateralized debt securities (CDS), regulatory lapses and inadequate safeguards prescribed by law and other.

### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### HOW INDIAN BANKS SURVIVE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS?

- Indian banks are well-regulated through proper supervision.
- They are well capitalized through capital adequacy ratio according to BIS.
- Calibrated globalization.

#### POST-LEHMAN : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Maintaining and monitoring financial stability has always been a key objective of monetary policy. However, it was only from 2008 crisis that the government and the RBI sought to institutionalise the process.

#### RBI TRACKS THE FOLLOWING PARAMETERS TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Excessive volatility in interest rates.
- Exchange rates.
- Asset prices.
- Signs of excess leverage (borrowings) in the financial sector by Companies and households.
- The unregulated parts of the financial sector.

#### RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) RELEASED ITS BI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT (FSR) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- On NPA: The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio declining from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022 due to recoveries, write-offs and reduction in slippages.



- Provisioning coverage ratio (PCR): It improved to 70.9 per cent in March 2022 from 67.6 per cent a year ago.
- Banks, as well as non-banking financial institutions, have sufficient capital buffers to withstand shocks, and support from it during Covid helped banks arrest their GNPA ratio.

### **ABOUT PROVISIONING COVERAGE RATIO (PCR) : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- It is the portion of money a bank reserves for losses brought on by bad loans. For banks to protect themselves from losses if the NPAs start rising more quickly, a high PCR can be advantageous.

### **CONCERNS RAISED : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

**GLOBAL SPILLOVER: US RATE INCREASE AND THE THREAT OF RECESSION; UKRAIN CRISIS; OIL PRICE RISE.**

### **FINTECH:**

- It has exposed the banking system to new risks such as safeguarding of data privacy, cyber security, consumer protection, competition and compliance with AML (anti-money laundering) policies.

**THE INDIAN FINTECH INDUSTRY —IS AMONGST THE FASTEST GROWING FINTECH MARKETS IN THE WORLD. THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- India has the highest fintech adoption rate globally (87 per cent).

### **RISK FROM BIGTECHS (BIG TECHNOLOGY FIRMS):**

- They can scale up rapidly and pose risk to financial stability, which can arise from increased disintermediation of incumbent institutions.
- Moreover, complex intertwined operational linkages between BigTech firms and financial institutions could lead to concentration and contagion risks and issues relating to potential anti-competitive behaviour.
- Cryptocurrencies are termed as a “clear danger” and anything that derives value based on make-believe, without any underlying, is just “speculation under a sophisticated name”.
- Thus, financial stability report gives a glimpse about the financial stability of the Indian economic system highlighting the measures that could be taken by the government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that the Indian economic system doesn't face the instability akin to 2008 crisis situation.

**Vikas Gupta**

# **The Gold Ecosystem in India – Success and Failures**

## **THE GOLD ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA – SUCCESS AND FAILURES – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Gold has a very important place not just in the cultural milieu in India, but also in the economy. It is a commonly held perception that marriages in India are incomplete without gold jewellery. This close relationship with gold may be viewed not just from the perspective of tradition but in economic terms as well. So, government thought of bringing a gold scheme to tap this underlying potential asset of India.

### **TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **SALIENT FEATURES OF THE GOLD MONETISATION SCHEME :**

The scheme will replace the prevailing gold deposit scheme, which started in 1999.

Minimum deposit at any one time shall be gold (bars, coins, jewellery excluding stones and other metals). There is no maximum limit. This gold will then earn interest based on gold weight and also the appreciation of the metal value.

Time period: The designated banks will accept gold deposits under the short term (1-3 years) Bank Deposit (STBD) as well as medium (5-7 years) and long (12-15 years) term government deposits.

All scheduled commercial banks are allowed to implement this scheme and are also free to fix interest rates.

Depositors can also make premature withdrawal of their deposits, subjected to a minimum lock-in period and penalty to be determined by individual banks.

All residents Indians can invest.

#### **RECENT EFFORTS BY THE RBI AND THE GOVERNMENT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Reserve Bank of India has allowed central and state governments and entities owned by them to deposit gold under its Gold Monetization Scheme.

Furthermore, charitable institutions have also been made eligible to deposit gold with banks.

#### **PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHEME : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The scheme has got lacklustre response largely because of

- Psychological issues like gold are perceived to be more useful than any other asset.
- Structural deficiencies like low interest rates (2-3%) offered and unaccounted money will bring questions.
- Lack of social engineering because most of the gold is in form of jewellery and carries a lot of sentimental value. Moreover, it allows women to get some sort of control over ownership and inheritance.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO MAINSTREAM THE USE OF GOLD : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Examine the rate of interest being offered as well as the lock-in period.

Many households might prefer private schemes, which allow them to get back the gold in form of jewellery as opposed to the government's scheme which offers cash or solid gold. The Hindu Analysis

To incentivise collection of gold, the commission that is being offered to commercial banks 2.5% — could also be offered to select jewellers.

Finally, and most importantly, it is necessary to undertake household-level surveys to determine the attitude of households towards gold in different parts of India, and then focus on a strategy to collect gold under the scheme.

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE NITI AAYOG PANEL OF THE GOLD ECOSYSTEM : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The major recommendations of this Committee, evolved through the above process, are structured into five key focus areas.

- These are Make in India in Gold
- Financialization of Gold
- Tax and Duty Structure
- Regulatory Infrastructure and Skill Development
- Technology Upgradation

Thus, gold can serve as a very important source of not only psychological security but also economic activity there by enabling the earning of profit and carrying new entrepreneurial adventures.

**Vikas Gupta**

# Sedition – a curse on Indian Democracy

## SEDITION – A CURSE ON INDIAN DEMOCRACY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Section 124A of the IPC says that anyone either by words or by signs, or otherwise attempts to bring any hatred or contempt or excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India shall be punished with life imprisonment.

- The law was originally drafted by Thomas Macaulay to curb Wahabi Movement in Patna & Islamic Revivalist movement led by Syed Ahmed Bareilvi. However, many Indian freedom fighters, including Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, were charged with sedition under the section.
- Sedition was part of reasonable restrictions under 19(2) in the draft constitution but was later on dropped on the suggestion of the K.M Munshi.

## TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NCRB DATA:

- NCRB data has revealed that sedition cases have jumped twice since 2014. Still, it accounts for less than 0.01% of all IPC crimes. Assam and Jharkhand have emerged as sedition hotspots.
- In 2018, there were more than 1000 cases registered under UAPA in five states (Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Jharkhand and Manipur).

### MAHATMA GANDHI : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

Mahatma Gandhi described it as the “prince among the political sections of the Indian Penal Code designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen.”

### SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENTS : THE HINDU ANALYSIS

- Kedernath vs. State of Bihar, 1962: The Court ruled that the mere criticism of the government or comments on the administration — however vigorous or ill-informed — is not sedition and that incitement to violence is the essential ingredient of that offence.
- In Balwant Singh v/s State of Punjab 1993: SC on the pro Khalistani Slogans, held that the casual raising of such slogans a couple of times by the individuals do not tantamount to sedition.
- Nazir Khan vs. NCT of Delhi, 2003: The court said that it is the fundamental right of every citizen to have his own political theories and ideas and to propagate them so long as he does not seek to do so by force and violence or contravene any provision of law.



Thus, shouting slogans like Pakistan or Khalistan zindabad, per se, would not attract Section 124-A. Even criticism of the SC judgment upholding the conviction of Afzal Guru also would not attract Section 124-A. However if a person has says “Hindustan Murdabad”, or that it is necessary to overthrow Indian State, that could possibly amount to sedition. The Hindu Analysis

The problem is that it has often been misused by ill-informed and over enthusiastic prosecuting agencies who are against any criticism of the government. For example, Kanhaiya Kumar and Hardik Patel has been slapped with sedition charges. Also, in the year 2014, some of the Kashmiri students were charged with sedition for supporting Pakistan in a cricket match between India and Pakistan.

### **PRO : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

- This is an effective check and a safety valve.

### **RECENT EVOLUTION : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

S.G. Vombatkere Versus Union of India:

- In an interim order, the Court ordered the Centre and State governments not to file any FIRs under the aforementioned clause while it was being re-considered.
- All outstanding trials, appeals, and actions relating to charges brought under Section 124 A should be put on hold.

### **OPINIONS OF NEERA CHANDHOKE : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Public universities are not a teaching shop but open spaces where students assemble and discuss political predicaments, with co-students of different regions of the country.

Through these activities, students become familiar with the notion of citizenship, they connect with others, they learn their constitutional right to challenge the power of elected representatives. It is in the university that they absorb the virtue of solidarity. It is here that they learn that in a democracy they have the right to make their own histories, even if they make these histories badly.

She believes that political equality is inadequate without social and economic equality. So she opines that students in past have been the agents of changes and they should raise voices to bring forth the ills of the society, and debate and discuss issues that affects the daily life without fear and favour.

Thus, the remedy does not lie in repealing Section 124-A. As there is no statutory provision which cannot be misused. The actual remedy is to lay down proper procedures to ensure legal compliance. As short term measures, following could be done:

- All speech-related offences should be made bailable and non-cognisable offences.
- In the case of hate speech, it is important to raise the burden of proof on those who claim that their sentiments are hurt rather than to accept them at face value.

Vikas gupta

## The Draft National Policy on Disability

### THE DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON DISABILITY – TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### WHY IN NEWS?

The new draft national policy on people with disabilities has been released, and the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has requested public input (PwD).

#### TODAY CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### STATUS OF PwD IN INDIA?

According to the 2011 Census, there are 2.68 crore people with disabilities, which means that 2.21 percent of Indians are disabled, compared to the global average of 15 percent.

According to the Census of 2011, the overall PwD population has a literacy rate of roughly 55 percent (males – 62 percent, females – 45 percent).

In terms of higher education, only 5% of PwD are graduate-level students.

Further census data from 2011 reveals that around 36% of all PwD are employed (male -47 percent , female-23 percent ).

#### WHAT STEPS WERE TAKEN TO HELP PwD? THE HINDU ANALYSIS

For the purpose of fostering an inclusive environment for PwD, the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was passed, which recognised 7 types of disabilities.

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was developed by the Central Government in 2006 and is founded on the concepts of equality, freedom, justice, and respect for all people.

India joined the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a party in 2007. (UNCRPD).

The United Nations approved the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 with the aim of promoting inclusive and peaceful societies.

There are 21 different types of disability recognised by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Hindu Analysis

India is a signatory to the “Incheon Strategy for Asia Pacific Decade for PwD: 2013-2022,” which was created under the auspices of UNESCAP and lays out 10 objectives for the Asia-Pacific nations to achieve in order to promote the inclusion and empowerment of PwD.

The Unique Disability ID (UDID) project, which aims to create a national database for people with disabilities, has begun implementation by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **ABOUT THE CURRENT DRAFT : THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

The draft was created by a committee under the direction of Anjali Bhawra, secretary of the Department of Empowerment of PwD.

Revision of the current policy: According to the Draft National Policy on PwD, 2021, the 2006 draft of the current national policy on disability called for a revision.

The draft went beyond the conventional causes of disability by including other elements, such as undernourishment, medical malpractice, socio-cultural problems, and impairment brought on by disasters.

Prevention: It asked for the creation of a thorough national prevention programme that would include both the risk cases of other diseases as well as the disabilities imposed by the RPD Act. The Hindu Analysis

According to the proposal, if disabilities in children were identified early enough, one-third of them could be avoided.

Permission and recognition of educational institutions: According to the policy, when granting permission or recognition to educational institutions, States and Union Territories should include a clause requiring compliance with the RPD Act.

Disability module—MBBS and other medical programmes should contain a disability module. The Hindu Analysis

Accessible vehicles: According to the requirements, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will issue the required instructions for modifying personal automobiles used by people with disabilities.

A specific commitment to education, health, skill development, employment, sports, culture, social security, accessibility, and other institutional processes is highlighted in the policy statement.

### **WHAT CHALLENGES DO PWDs ENCOUNTER IN TERMS OF POLITICAL INCLUSION? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

Political empowerment: The Incheon objectives, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and other initiatives encourage PwD participation in political debate and decision-making.

There is no policy commitment in India that aims to increase the political involvement of individuals with disabilities.

Disability marginalisation has been made worse by obstacles to party politics involvement and a lack of representation at the municipal, state, and federal levels. The Hindu Analysis

Voting accessibility issues: According to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions are required to make sure that all polling places and the electoral process are accessible to people with disabilities.

However, not all polling places have wheelchair accessibility or even electronic voting machines that can read braille.

Lack of data: The marginalisation of handicapped persons is exacerbated by the absence of current aggregate statistics on the precise number of disabled people in each constituency.



## The Hindu Analysis

Inadequate Representation: At all three tiers of government, there is not enough representation for people with disabilities.

Sadhan Gupta, the first visually impaired member of India's independent parliament, is hardly ever mentioned in discussions of politics or disabilities.

To increase participation, just a few States have started the project at the municipal level. The Hindu Analysis

For instance, Chhattisgarh initiated the nomination of at least one person with a disability in each panchayat.

### **WHA-T IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR? THE HINDU ANALYSIS**

A four-pronged strategy can be used by the policy to attain political inclusivity.

Building the ability of organisations for disabled people and empowering their members via instruction in the political process and governmental framework

creation, modification, or abolition of legal and regulatory frameworks by lawmakers and electoral agencies to promote the involvement of the disabled in politics. The Hindu Analysis

the involvement of civil society in domestic election surveillance or voter education initiatives

Framework for political parties to effectively reach out to people with disabilities when drafting election campaign strategies and policy stances.

**Vivek Raj**

# Issues with LGBTQIA++ health

## ISSUES WITH LGBTQIA++ HEALTH

### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

There must be comprehensive and long-term remedies for the mental diseases and difficulties that LGBTQIA++ persons in India experience.

### LGBTQIA++: WHO ARE THEY?

- The letters “L,” “G,” and “B” stand for sexual orientation, or the people to whom one is attracted, most frequently lesbian or homosexual people.
- Both men and women find bisexuals attractive.
- Anyone who identifies as a sex other than that with which they were born is considered transgender.
- The letter Q stands for queer and questioning.
- Queer is frequently used to identify oneself as a part of the LGBTQIA++ community, whereas Questioning is a name one may use to communicate they are investigating their identity and may not want to call themselves.
- The “I” refers to intersex, a condition in which a person has reproductive or sexual anatomy at birth that doesn't appear to conform to the stereotypical categories of female or male.
- Asexual people, or those who lack sexual desire, are referred to as “A.”
- ++ denotes inclusiveness and openness.

### WHY DO LGBTQIA++ POPULATIONS CONTINUE TO BE AT RISK FOR CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESSES AND DIFFICULTIES?

- The Raahat Project, which has been focusing on using participatory approaches, has brought to light a number of difficulties that LGBTQIA++ populations regularly deal with in prestigious colleges.
- mental disease causes
- permanent discord
- ingrained stigma
- Discrimination Abuse
- pressure to embrace sexual orientation and gender norms
- Stigmatizing Internalized Homophobia's effects