

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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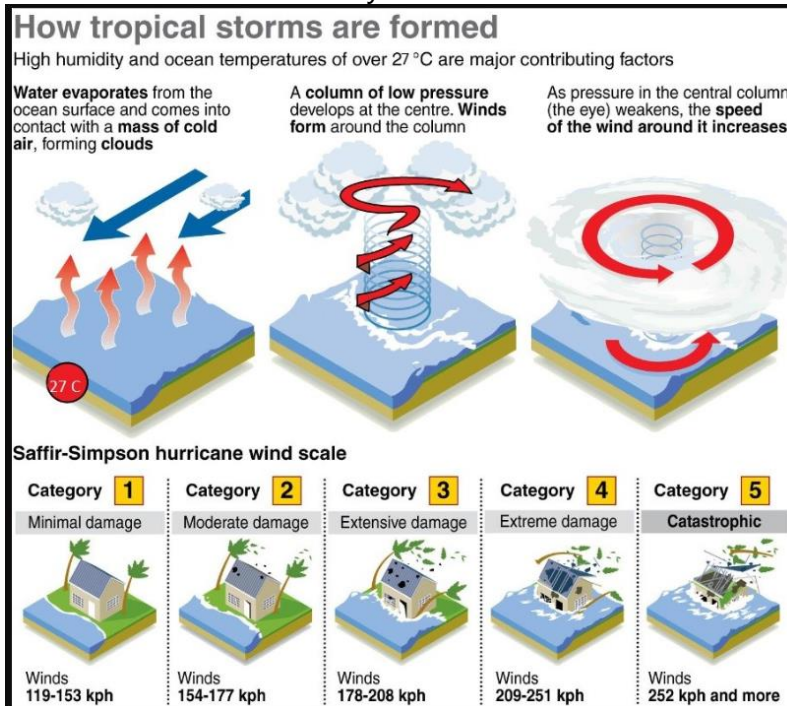
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A depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal has intensified into a deep depression and is likely to further intensify into Cyclone Fengal.

- ➔ The system is currently close to an area with higher sea surface temperatures (SST), contributing to its potential intensification into a cyclonic storm.



Sharp showers: Rain lashed Chennai under the influence of the cyclone that may make landfall on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Cyclone Fengal to cross Puducherry coast today noon

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With the slow-moving weather system gathering pace, the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, announced that Cyclone Fengal will cross the coast close to Puducherry by Saturday afternoon.

The RMC has maintained the red alert – indicating isolated extremely heavy rainfall – in seven coastal districts for Saturday. Intense rain will lash other districts.

On the day of the cyclone's landfall, Chennai and its neighbouring districts, Cuddalore, Puducherry, Villupuram, and Kallakurichi will receive intense rain. With the weath-

er system consolidating itself, it is likely to bring heavy rain in north Tamil Nadu till Saturday, and in the Western Ghat districts and interior parts from December 1 to December 3.

Orange and yellow alerts have been issued for other districts which are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rain. The Cauvery delta districts and north interior districts, too, may receive heavy to very heavy rain on Saturday.

The RMC has said Cyclone Fengal will cross the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast between Karaikal and Mamallapuram as a cyclonic storm by Saturday afternoon. It would have a wind speed of 70-80 kmph gusting to 90 kmph.

Analysis of News:

- ➔ **Origin of the Name 'Fengal'**
 - The name 'Fengal' was proposed by Saudi Arabia and is rooted in Arabic.
 - It reflects a combination of linguistic tradition and cultural identity.
- ➔ **Cyclone Naming Process:**
 - Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) panel.
 - This panel includes 13 member countries, such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, among others.
 - Each member country submits a list of potential

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cyclone names, and these names are used sequentially as cyclones form in the region.

- This system, in place since 2004, ensures easy identification and effective communication of storms to the public

UPSC Mains Practice Question:

Ques : What do you understand by tropical cyclones? Elaborate how tropical cyclones differ from the temperate cyclones. **(250 Words /15 marks)**



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On the second day of the National Seed Congress (NSC), experts, scientists, and industry representatives urged the government to modernize the Seeds Bill of 2004 and the Seeds Policy of 2002.

➔ They emphasized the need to align policies with current advancements in the seed sector and incorporate farmers' concerns.

Scientists, industry demand passage of new Seeds Bill, changes in policy

A. M. Jigeesh
VARANASI

On the second day of the three-day National Seed Congress (NSC), scientists, experts, and industry partners asked the Centre to revisit and modernise the Seeds Bill of 2004 and the Seeds Policy of 2002 to incorporate the latest developments in the sector. At a panel discussion as part of the 13th NSC, the experts also demanded strategic interventions to face the challenges faced by the seed sector.

The Seeds Bill, introduced in Parliament in 2004, was not passed due to opposition from farmers. Experts argued that the policies must be in tune with the contemporary situation in the seeds sector and the concerns of farmers should be incorporated in the new policies.

Challenges with the Seeds Bill of 2004

➔ The Seeds Bill, introduced in 2004, was not passed due to opposition from farmers.



Experts say that seed certification standards in India are much lower than international standards. PTI

“A balanced focus on innovation, farmer empowerment, and policy reforms can pave the way for a resilient and globally competitive seed industry,” said Shiv Kumar Agarwal, regional coordinator of International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas.

Dr. Agarwal told *The Hindu* that the Seeds Bill needs to be reworked.

“The present Bill is 20 years old. Many things have changed. But it can still be sent to all stakeholders so that issues raised by farmers can be addressed. It is about working together. The public sector – the government – is good in science and the private sector is very good in taking science to the farmers. So they must join together to deliver the best

products to the farmers who need them so that they can use quality seeds efficiently and affordably,” Dr. Agarwal said.

Malvika Dadlani, former Joint Director of Indian Agriculture Research Institute, said the country's seed quality assurance system was weak and should be strengthened on issues such as adhering to international standards.

“Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds Rules, 1968 have not been revised. Our seed certification standards are much lower than international standards,” she said, adding that the proposed Seeds Bill was pending for too long and the existing National Seeds Policy had also not been revised. “We have to clearly define what is a farmer seed and what is a commercial seed. Defining them is very important,” she said.

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- ▶ Experts stressed the importance of revising the Bill to address changes in the sector over the past two decades.
- ▶ Collaboration between public and private sectors was highlighted as crucial for delivering high-quality seeds to farmers efficiently and affordably.

Weak Seed Quality Assurance System

- ▶ The existing seed quality assurance mechanisms, established under the Seeds Act of 1966 and Seeds Rules of 1968, are outdated and fail to meet international standards.
- ▶ Experts called for strengthening the system to ensure adherence to global benchmarks.

Need for Clear Definitions

- ▶ There is a lack of clarity in defining "farmer seeds" and "commercial seeds," which needs to be addressed in any revised policy or legislation.

Strategic Interventions Required

- ▶ Experts advocated for a balanced focus on innovation, farmer empowerment, and policy reforms to create a resilient and globally competitive seed industry.

Conclusion

- ▶ Modernizing the Seeds Bill and policy is imperative to address sectoral challenges, promote innovation, and empower farmers.
- ▶ Collaborative efforts between stakeholders can ensure quality seeds are accessible and affordable.

Seed Quality And Indian Agriculture

▶ Importance

- **Higher Yield:** Quality seeds ensure better crop productivity and profitability for farmers.
- **Resilience:** Enhance resistance to pests, diseases, and adverse climatic conditions.
- **Sustainability:** Reduce the need for chemical inputs, promoting eco-friendly farming.
- **Food Security:** Play a critical role in meeting the food demand of a growing population.

▶ Challenges

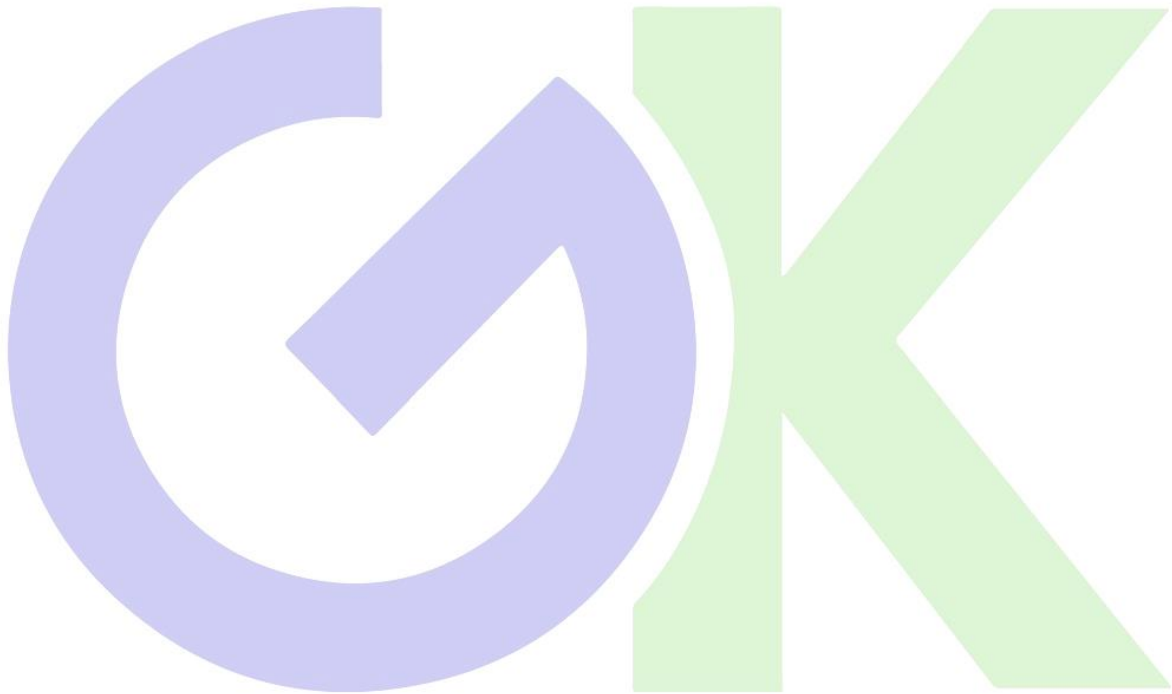
- **Outdated Policies:** Existing legislation like the Seeds Act (1966) lacks relevance to modern agricultural needs.
- **Low Quality Assurance:** Seed certification standards are below international benchmarks.
- **High Costs:** Quality seeds remain unaffordable for many small and marginal farmers.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Farmers often lack knowledge about the benefits of certified seeds.

▶ Way Forward

- **Policy Reforms:** Modernize seed laws to reflect technological advancements and address farmer concerns.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Strengthen seed testing and certification facilities.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Foster partnerships to improve seed availability and affordability.
- **Educate farmers:** Enhance farmer awareness and extension services.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques : Discuss the need for revisiting India's seed policies and the Seeds Bill of 2004 to address challenges in quality assurance, innovation, and farmer empowerment. Suggest measures to strengthen the seed industry for achieving global competitiveness. **(150 Words /10 marks)**



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Heavy rains triggered landslides in Bulambuli district, eastern Uganda, resulting in 20 deaths and displacing 750 people.

Uganda landslides: toll hits 20, many persons missing

Associated Press
KAMPALA

More bodies buried under the mud were retrieved in eastern Uganda on Friday and an injured person died in a hospital, bringing the death toll from this week's landslides to 20, officials said as search efforts pressed on in the stricken area.

Heavy rains had triggered the landslides that engulfed six villages in the mountainous district of Bulambuli, 280 km east of Kampala, Uganda's capital, on Wednesday night. Some 125 houses were destroyed.

The Uganda Red Cross Society spokesperson Irene Kasiita told presspersons that bodies of four more people were found on Friday while a fifth person, one of the injured in the landslides, died at



Volunteers search for bodies after a landslide buried dozens of homes in Bulambuli district, Uganda on Friday. REUTERS

Mbale Hospital. The society in a statement said 750 people had been displaced, with 216 of those living temporarily at a neighbouring school while others were being housed by relatives.

The Bulambuli Resident District Commissioner Faheera Mpalanyi said soldiers have been deployed to help with the digging.

"More bodies are still

buried under the heaps of soils and stones and we are trying as much as we can to recover them," she said.

Local officials told a journalist that an excavator would be brought to assist in the rescue efforts, but the roads were covered in mud and rain was still falling. The impacted area is about 50 acres with homesteads and farmlands spread downhill.

- ➡ Rescue operations are ongoing, with soldiers deployed to assist in recovery efforts.

Bulambuli, Uganda – Place in News

- ➡ **Location:** Bulambuli district, 280 km east of Kampala, Uganda's capital, in a mountainous region.
- ➡ **Event:** Landslides triggered by heavy rains on Wednesday night affected six villages.
- ➡ **Impact:**
- ➡ **Death Toll:** 20 people confirmed dead, with bodies still being retrieved.
- ➡ **Displacement:** 750 people displaced, with 216 temporarily sheltered in a nearby school.

Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture, has been partially restored after the devastating 2019 fire.

- ➔ The reconstructed interiors, including vaulted ceilings and cleaned stonework, were unveiled to French President Emmanuel Macron.
- ➔ The public can revisit the iconic site starting December 8, 2024.

Notre Dame Cathedral:

- ➔ **Location:** Situated in Paris, France, on the banks of Seine River.
- ➔ **Built:** Construction began in 1163, completed in 1345, spanning nearly 200 years.
- ➔ **Architectural Style:** French Gothic, with features like flying buttresses, ribbed vaults, and pointed arches.
- ➔ **Famous Features:**
- ➔ **Rose Windows:** Three large, iconic stained glass windows.
- ➔ **Sculptures:** Detailed carvings of biblical figures and scenes.
- ➔ **Spire:** Originally built in the 13th century, collapsed during the 2019 fire.
- ➔ **Historical Significance:** Hosted major events such as royal weddings, the coronation of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the beatification of Joan of Arc.
- ➔ **Fire of 2019:** Devastating fire severely damaged the roof and spire, prompting global efforts to restore it.
- ➔ **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Recognized for its architectural and historical importance.
- ➔ **Tourist Destination:** Attracts millions of visitors annually.



The altar of Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, seen on Friday, more than five years after a fire ravaged the landmark. AFP

Notre Dame unveils its renewed interior five years after fire

Associated Press
PARIS

After more than five years of frenetic, but sometimes interrupted, reconstruction work, Notre Dame Cathedral showed itself anew to the world on Friday, with rebuilt soaring ceilings and creamy good-as-new stonework erasing somber memories of its devastating fire in 2019.

Images broadcast live of a site visit by French President Emmanuel Macron showed the inside of the iconic cathedral as worshippers might have experienced it in previous centuries, its wide, open spaces filled with bright light on a crisp and sunny winter's day that lit up the vibrant colors of the stained glass windows.

Outside, the monument is still a construction site, with scaffolding and cranes. But the renovated interior – shown in its full glory on Friday for the first time before the public is allowed back in on December 8 – proved to be breathtaking.

Gone are the gaping holes that the blaze tore into the vaulted ceilings, leaving charred piles of debris. New stonework has been carefully pieced together to repair and fill the wounds that had left the cathedral's insides exposed to the elements. Delicate golden angels look on from the centerpiece of one of the rebuilt ceilings, seeming to fly again above the transept.

The cathedral's bright, cream-coloured limestone walls look brand new, cleaned not only of dust from the fire but also of grime that had accumulated for centuries.

The cathedral attracted millions of worshippers and visitors annually before the fire forced its closure and turned the monument into a no-go zone except to artisans, architects and others mobilised for the reconstruction.

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In News : Network Readiness Index 2024

India's rise in the 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI) reflects the country's advancements in digital infrastructure, innovation, and governance.

- Driven by initiatives like Digital India and BharatNet, the country is becoming a leader in digital transformation, particularly in AI and telecom.

Network Readiness Index 2024



India's Improved Network Readiness in NRI 2024

- India has significantly improved its rank in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024, rising from 60th place in 2023 to 49th position.
- The country's score increased to 53.63 from 49.93, reflecting advancements in technology, governance, and infrastructure.
- India achieved the 1st rank globally for AI Scientific Publications, AI Talent Concentration, and ICT Services Exports.
- The country ranked 2nd for Fiber to the Home (FTTH) subscriptions, mobile broadband traffic, and international internet bandwidth.
- India also ranked 3rd for domestic market scale and 4th for annual investment in telecommunication services.
- Among lower-middle-income countries, India secured the 2nd position, demonstrating its leadership in digital progress within its income group.

Network Readiness Index (NRI) Overview

- The NRI ranks 133 economies based on their network readiness, assessing four key pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.

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- ➡ It evaluates a country's ability to leverage digital technologies for economic and social progress.
- ➡ NRI uses 54 variables to determine rankings, focusing on infrastructure, digital adoption, policies, and societal impact.
- ➡ The index is published annually by INSEAD and the World Economic Forum.
- ➡ NRI highlights global leaders in digital transformation, providing insights into how countries utilize technology to drive growth and address challenges.
- ➡ It helps guide policy decisions and investments in digital infrastructure.

Government Initiatives Driving Digital Transformation

➡ Government Initiatives

- **Driving Digital Transformation Digital India Program:** Launched in 2015, it has enhanced broadband access, digital literacy, and government services online, impacting millions in rural and remote areas.
- **BharatNet Initiative:** Aims to connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats with high-speed broadband, narrowing the rural-urban digital divide and enhancing e-governance services.
- **5G and Future Telecom Technologies:** India's 5G rollout in 2022 has significantly boosted mobile broadband speeds, improving its global ranking from 118th to 15th. The government's 5G Intelligent Village Initiative and Bharat 6G Vision aim to leverage 5G for rural innovation and position India as a leader in 6G technology.

➡ National Policies and Plans Supporting Digital Growth

- **National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018:** Focuses on improving connectivity and creating job opportunities through investments in the telecom sector.
- **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan:** Launched in 2021, it integrates infrastructure development, including digital connectivity, to enhance seamless nationwide transport and logistics.
- **National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy:** Promotes AI as a driver of economic growth, with India ranked top globally for AI talent and scientific publications. AI is also targeted for solving social challenges in sectors like healthcare and agriculture.
 - Skill Development and Digital Literacy Programs Skill India and programs like PMGDISHA aim to equip the youth with digital and technical skills, enhancing India's competitiveness in the global workforce.
- ➡ These initiatives have notably improved digital literacy, especially in rural areas, helping people access digital services and participate in the digital economy.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques : Discuss the factors contributing to India's improved ranking in the Network Readiness Index 2024. How do government initiatives enhance the country's digital transformation and global technological standing? (250 Words /15 marks)

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Indians need to share contraceptive responsibility

In 1952, India pioneered a national programme for family planning, whose focus has since changed – from improving maternal and child health to stabilising the population. As this programme evolved, so too did permanent methods of contraception.

During 1966-70, about 80.5% of all sterilisation procedures in India were vasectomies. This percentage declined every year due to changing policies that, together with other factors, placed less and less of an emphasis on vasectomies. The five rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) also show the use of male sterilisation, especially in the last three decades, to be steadily decreasing in all States. In fact, the vasectomies percentage remained constant at around 0.3% in NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5.

Gender and the disparity

This trend goes against Section 4.8 of the National Health Policy 2017, which aimed to increase the fraction of male sterilisations to at least 30%. Even today, India is far from meeting this target. Official data also show a large disparity between the rates of female and male sterilisation – 37.9% and 0.3%, respectively. Such huge differences indicate that women continue to bear virtually all of the burden of sterilisation, which in turn poses a challenge for India to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 – ‘gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls by 2030’ – among others.

In one attempt to bridge this gap, the world observes Vasectomy Day on the third Friday of November (it was on November 15 this year). In 2017, India observed a ‘vasectomy fortnight’ as well.

The initiative is to revitalise the procedure by increasing awareness, generating demand among men, and debunking misconceptions. In the end, the goal is for people already looking for contraceptives as well as those who would if they knew about safe options to consider vasectomies more favourably.

But for these concerted efforts, policies still

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With more awareness of gender equality and rights, it is possible to build a society in which male sterilisation is accepted as normative

overlook multiple issues on the ground, keeping them ineffective and allowing the gap between male and female sterilisation rates to persist.

The ground reality, solutions

For example, two of the three writers of this article surveyed a village in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra, in March 2024 as part of a field exercise. The women said sterilisation was their responsibility and that the men do not believe they need to have vasectomies. Most of them also expressed a belief that men should not be “burdened” by it because they already work hard to make ends meet, and that undergoing the procedure could rob the men of their day’s wages, worsening their hardship.

These women were also unaware of the Indian government’s cash incentives to those who undergo vasectomies to offset the loss of wages. In fact, many studies in India have suggested that illiteracy, male egos, misconceptions about its impact on libido, and family opposition have led to the poor acceptance of vasectomies. Many men are not aware of their role in ensuring the safe passage of reproductive years in the lives of their female partners.

The unavailability of skilled providers has aggravated the situation, especially in rural areas. To make matters worse, many trained community health workers themselves know little about no-scalpel vasectomies.

As things stand, with increasing awareness of gender equality and rights, it is certainly possible to build a society in which male sterilisation is accepted as normative through proper and timely course correction.

As a first step, sensitisation should begin during early adolescence in schools, where awareness programmes and monitored peer-group discussions can lay the foundation for accepting sterilisation as a shared responsibility. Sustained social and behaviour change communication initiatives will be instrumental in debunking myths around and destigmatising vasectomies. Vasectomy is a safe and simple

procedure compared to tubectomy, the corresponding surgical procedure for women involving their fallopian tubes.

Second, these information, education and communication activities should be supplemented with greater conditional cash incentives for vasectomies with the goal to improve male participation.

A study in Maharashtra in 2019 showed that more men in rural tribal areas opted for vasectomies after being offered a conditional cash incentive. Madhya Pradesh’s move in 2022 to increase this incentive by 50% is appreciable in this light.

An international comparison

Third, India should draw from the lessons from other countries that have increased vasectomy uptake. South Korea has the highest prevalence of the procedure worldwide, and has reported that men are more likely to shoulder contraceptive responsibilities as a result of progressive societal norms and greater gender equality. Similarly, Bhutan has popularised vasectomy among its men by making the procedure socially acceptable, availing good-quality services, and organising government-run vasectomy camps. Brazil increased vasectomy uptake by running awareness campaigns on mass media. The prevalence rate has risen, from 0.8% in the 1980s to 5% in the last decade.

Greater public awareness of vasectomies allows both partners in a union to make informed family planning decisions. In tandem, the government must strengthen the national health system to align with policy objectives, invest in training more health professionals to perform the procedure, and promote technical advancements to increase the use of non-scalpel vasectomies.

The resulting policy should not have only intention. It should also lay out concrete steps to achieve its targets. The need of the hour is demand- and service-focused efforts rather than mere formulation.

GS Paper 02 : Social Justice- Health

PYQ: (UPSC CSE (M) GS-1 2021): Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (250 words/15m)

UPSC Mains Practice Question: Despite being a safer and simpler alternative, male sterilisation remains vastly underutilised in India. Examine the socio-cultural and systemic barriers to vasectomy adoption and suggest policy measures to address this gender disparity in family planning. (250 Words /15 marks)

Context :

- India has a long history of family planning initiatives, beginning in 1952 with a national program aimed at improving maternal and child health and stabilizing population growth.
- Over the years, the program has evolved, but one striking trend has emerged: a stark gender disparity in the adoption of permanent contraceptive methods.
- This disparity underscores systemic challenges to achieving gender equality, particularly in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 5: empowering all women and girls by 2030.

The Decline of Male Sterilisation

- During the late 1960s, vasectomies were the dominant sterilisation method in India, constituting over 80% of such procedures.
- However, policy shifts, misconceptions, and societal attitudes have led to a steep decline.
- The five rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reveal a consistent drop in male sterilisation rates, with the most recent surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5, showing no progress.
- This stands in contrast to the National Health Policy of 2017, which set a target of increasing male sterilisation rates to 30%.

Reasons Behind Disparity between Male and Female Sterilisation Rates in India

- **Societal Expectations and Responsibility**
 - In many Indian communities, family planning is perceived primarily as a woman's responsibility.
 - This notion is perpetuated by cultural expectations that women are the primary caregivers and thus must manage reproductive health.
 - Men, on the other hand, are often considered exempt from these responsibilities due to their roles as breadwinners.
 - These ingrained attitudes perpetuate the idea that women must endure the physical and emotional costs of sterilisation, while men remain uninvolved.
- **Myths and Misconceptions About Vasectomies**
 - Misconceptions about vasectomies play a significant role in their low uptake.
 - Many men fear that the procedure will affect their masculinity, libido, or physical strength, despite medical evidence to the contrary.
 - This fear is compounded by a lack of reliable information and widespread myths, such as vasectomy leading to impotence or being a form of emasculation.
 - Such unfounded beliefs discourage men from considering the procedure, even when it is a safer and less invasive alternative to female sterilisation.
- **Economic and Practical Barriers**
 - Economic considerations further discourage men from undergoing vasectomies.
 - Many families rely heavily on male income, and the prospect of missing work for even a day can seem untenable for those living on daily wages.

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- Despite government cash incentives designed to compensate for lost wages, awareness of these programs remains low.
- Women interviewed in a 2024 field study in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra, expressed concerns that vasectomies would impose additional financial burdens on their families.
- This highlights a critical gap in communication about government support systems.
- ➔ **Patriarchal Resistance and Female Reluctance**
 - Interestingly, the resistance to male sterilisation is not confined to men because many women also view vasectomy as inappropriate or unnecessary for their husbands.
 - In patriarchal households, women may internalise societal norms that assign reproductive responsibilities to them alone.
 - Some women interviewed in rural areas believed that asking their husbands to undergo a vasectomy would be disrespectful or could lead to marital discord.
 - This further entrenches gender imbalances and perpetuates the cycle of female burden in family planning.
- ➔ **Lack of Skilled Healthcare Providers and Awareness**
 - In rural areas, limited access to skilled healthcare providers exacerbates the problem.
 - Even when men are willing to undergo vasectomies, the unavailability of trained professionals poses a significant barrier.
 - Additionally, community health workers, often the primary source of medical information in rural regions, are themselves poorly informed about vasectomy options, particularly modern techniques like no-scalpel vasectomies.
 - This lack of awareness reduces the visibility of male sterilisation as a viable option, perpetuating reliance on female sterilisation.

Implications for Gender Equality

- ➔ This gendered disparity undermines broader efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.
- ➔ When women bear the brunt of sterilisation, they face higher health risks and potential disruptions to their daily lives and livelihoods.
- ➔ Moreover, the societal narrative that places the burden solely on women reinforces harmful gender stereotypes and limits the potential for shared responsibilities in marital and familial dynamics.
- ➔ Addressing these disparities requires not only increased awareness about the safety and simplicity of vasectomy procedures but also a societal shift in how reproductive responsibilities are viewed.
- ➔ Until men are encouraged to take an active role in family planning, achieving gender equality in India will remain an elusive goal.

Strategies for Promoting Vasectomy Adoption

- ➔ Early Education, Awareness, Social and Behavioural Change Initiatives
- ➔ Sensitisation about shared family planning responsibilities should begin in schools.

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- Early exposure to concepts of gender equality and reproductive health through peer-group discussions and structured awareness programs can challenge existing stereotypes and destigmatise vasectomies.
- Sustained efforts in debunking myths surrounding vasectomies are crucial.
- Campaigns must focus on the procedure's safety and simplicity compared to tubectomy, the corresponding surgical method for women.

Enhanced Incentives and Learning from International Successes

- Conditional cash incentives can play a vital role in increasing male participation.
- For instance, a 2019 study in Maharashtra revealed that financial incentives encouraged more men in rural tribal areas to opt for vasectomies.
- Madhya Pradesh's 2022 decision to raise these incentives by 50% demonstrates a promising policy direction.
- Countries like South Korea, Bhutan, and Brazil offer valuable lessons.
- South Korea's high vasectomy prevalence is linked to progressive gender norms, while Bhutan's government-run camps and Brazil's mass media campaigns have effectively increased male sterilisation rates.
- These examples show that normalising vasectomies and offering high-quality services can drive acceptance.

Strengthening Health Systems

- The Indian government must align its health infrastructure with policy goals by training more professionals to perform vasectomies and promoting technical advancements like non-scalpel techniques.
- Investments in awareness and accessibility are essential for creating an environment where male sterilisation is a viable option.

Conclusion

- The disproportionate reliance on women for sterilisation highlights deep-seated gender inequalities in India's family planning efforts.
- Bridging this gap requires more than policy intentions; it demands actionable steps that integrate education, incentives, and systemic reform.
- By normalising vasectomies and addressing societal misconceptions, India can promote shared responsibility in family planning, paving the way for gender equality and improved reproductive health outcomes.