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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

22.11.2021

FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Swachh Survekshan Rankings should force cities to get cleaner in the aggregate and not hide inequity. Explain?

INTRODUCTION = The organiser, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, surveyed 4,320 cities for nearly a month and solicited feedback from 4.2 crore people. In what is turning out to be a predictable sequence in the annual 'Swachh Survekshan' awards –

1. Indore was ranked the cleanest city for the fifth year, followed by Surat and Vijayawada.
2. Chhattisgarh was the cleanest State, for the third time, in the category of 'States with more than 100 urban local bodies'.
3. Varanasi, won for the cleanest 'Ganga city'.

The metrics (cities) were –

- Garbage disposal,
- Open defecation-free ratings,
- Functionality and maintenance of community toilets
- And safe management of faecal sludge.

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced 'Swachh Survekshan-2021' awards under various categories

WINNERS TAKE ALL

ULBs/Corporations | **Category**

GHMC | Best self-sustaining city

Sircilla | Cleanest city

Siddipet | Self-sustaining city

Nizampet Municipal Corporation | Best City in 'Innovation & Best Practices'

Ibrahimpatnam | Fastest Mover City | **Ghatkesar | Cleanest City**



Kosgi | Innovations and Best practices

Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) | Self Sustain-ing Cantonment

Husnabad | Fastest Mover city

Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) | Self Sustain-ing Cantonment

GARBAGE-FREE CITIES | **3 Star GHMC**

SAFAIMITRA SURKASHA CHALLENGE

2nd rank | **2nd rank**

Telangana | Karimnagar Municipal Corporation

The 'Survekshan' awards have a wide range of categories that segregates cities based on their population. While they attempt to capture the diversity of urban agglomerations on the other, **it is hard to deflect criticism:**

1. Every State has at least a few participants who will top one category or the other, thus making the process a giant appeasement scheme.
2. Along with a category such as 'States with over 100 urban local bodies (ULB),' where Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh were ranked second and third, respectively, there was also a top ranker for 'State with less than 100 ULBs' where Jharkhand was judged the cleanest.
3. Then there was a category for a 'Ganga' city and separate population-wise categories.
4. This year there was a novel 'Prerak Daaur Samman' that saw Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi Municipal Council and Tirupati categorised as 'divya' (platinum). They were assessed for solid waste management.

Unsurprisingly, these were entities that had already topped ranks in other categories.

Rankings serve two broad purposes:

1. A publicity boost.
2. And recognition for the other winners but also motivation to climb higher on the totem pole.

Though the number of cities surveyed has increased since the first edition of the survey in 2016, it appears that the same cities — Indore, Surat, for instance — keep topping the list. Six years is a good time to take stock of what the ranking programme intends to achieve:

1. **Is it motivating cities to significantly allocate resources towards improving sanitation?**
2. **Are cleaner cities cleaner because they are better positioned to access State funds and thus able to pull further away from other cities?**
3. **Do States focus their energies and funds in keeping some cities clean to avail of a rank in any of the wide number of categories?**

Reducing a metric as complex as sanitation and cleanliness to blunt rankings can often induce a false sense of progress. Both at the regional level and at the Centre there should be more qualitative analysis of whether India's cities are getting cleaner in the aggregate or if numbers are hiding inequity.

GS 2

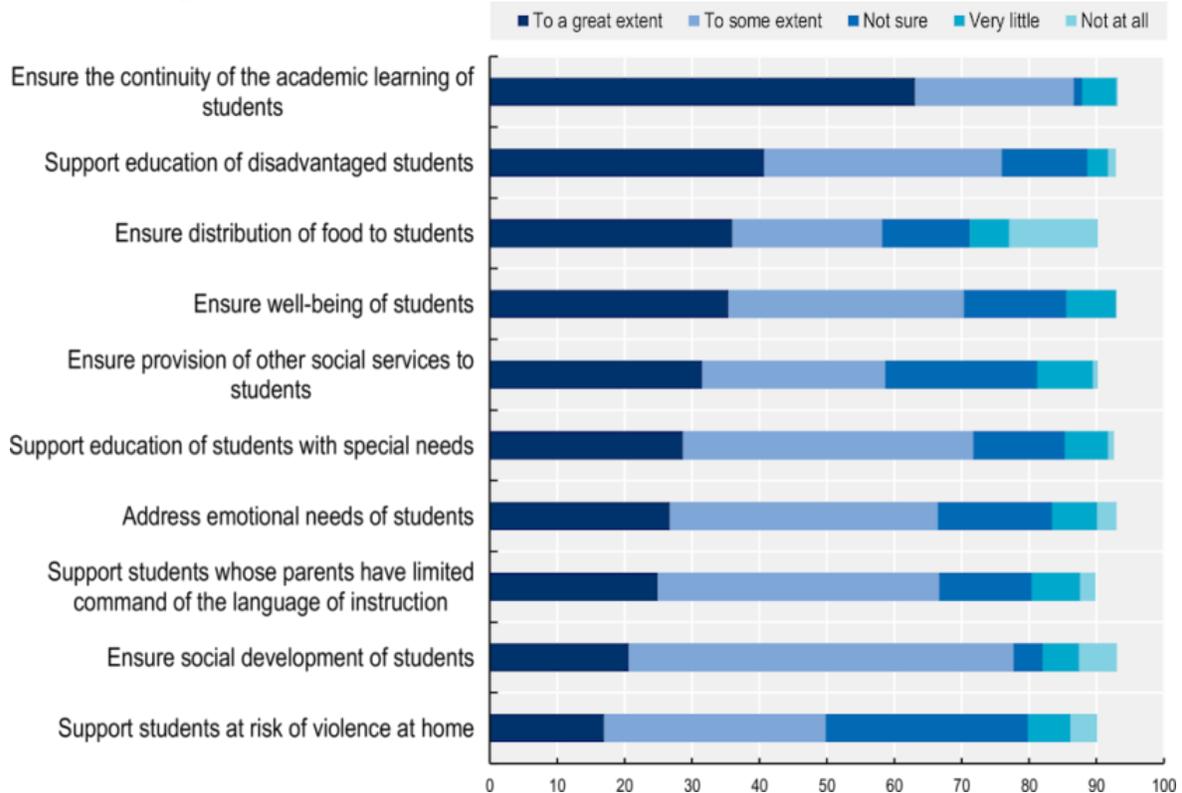
❖ Indian Society

Q- Discuss the effect of closure of schools during Covid-19 induced lockdown on gender equality in India?

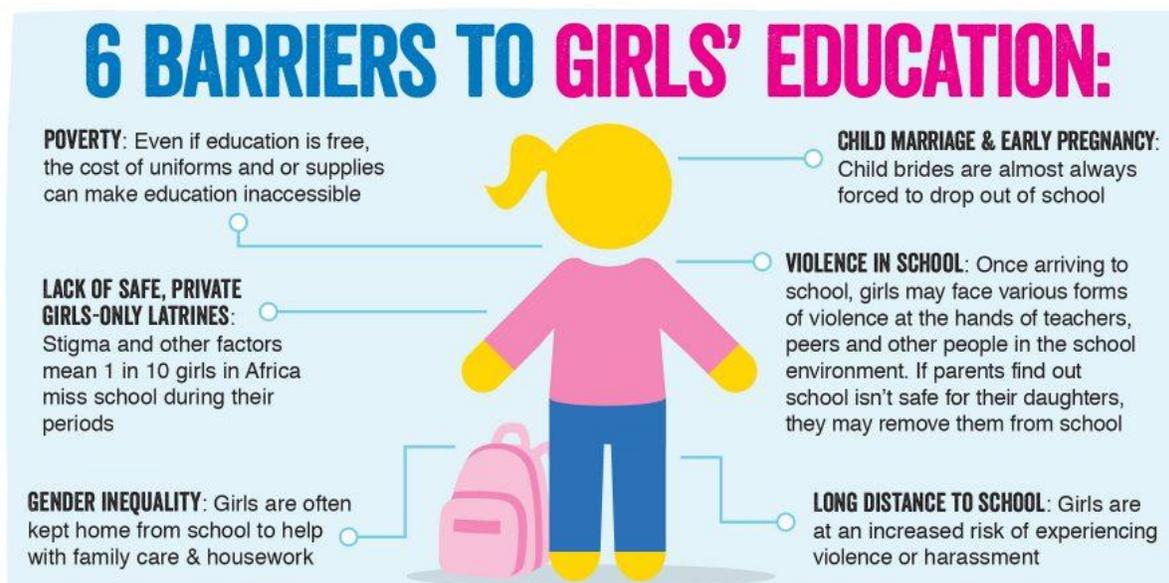
BACKGROUND = Educational disruption due to prolonged closure of schools across the globe will not only have alarming effects on learning loss but also poses threat to gender equality, a new study by UNESCO has pointed out.

The global study, titled **“When schools shut: Gendered impacts of COVID-19 school closures”**, brings to the fore that girls and boys, young women and men were affected differently by school closures, depending on the context.

- At the peak of the pandemic, 1.6 billion students in 190 countries were affected by school closures. Not only did they lose access to education, but also to the myriad benefits of attending school, at an unparalleled scale.



- Drawing on evidence from about 90 countries and in-depth data collected in local communities, the report shows that gender norms and expectations can affect the ability to participate in and benefit from remote learning.
- In poorer contexts, girls’ time to learn was constrained by increased household chores. Boys’ participation in learning was limited by income-generating activities.
- Girls faced difficulties in engaging in digital remote learning modalities in many contexts because of limited access to Internet-enabled devices, a lack of digital skills and cultural norms restricting their use of technological devices.



The study pointed out that digital gender-divide was already a concern before the COVID-19 crisis.

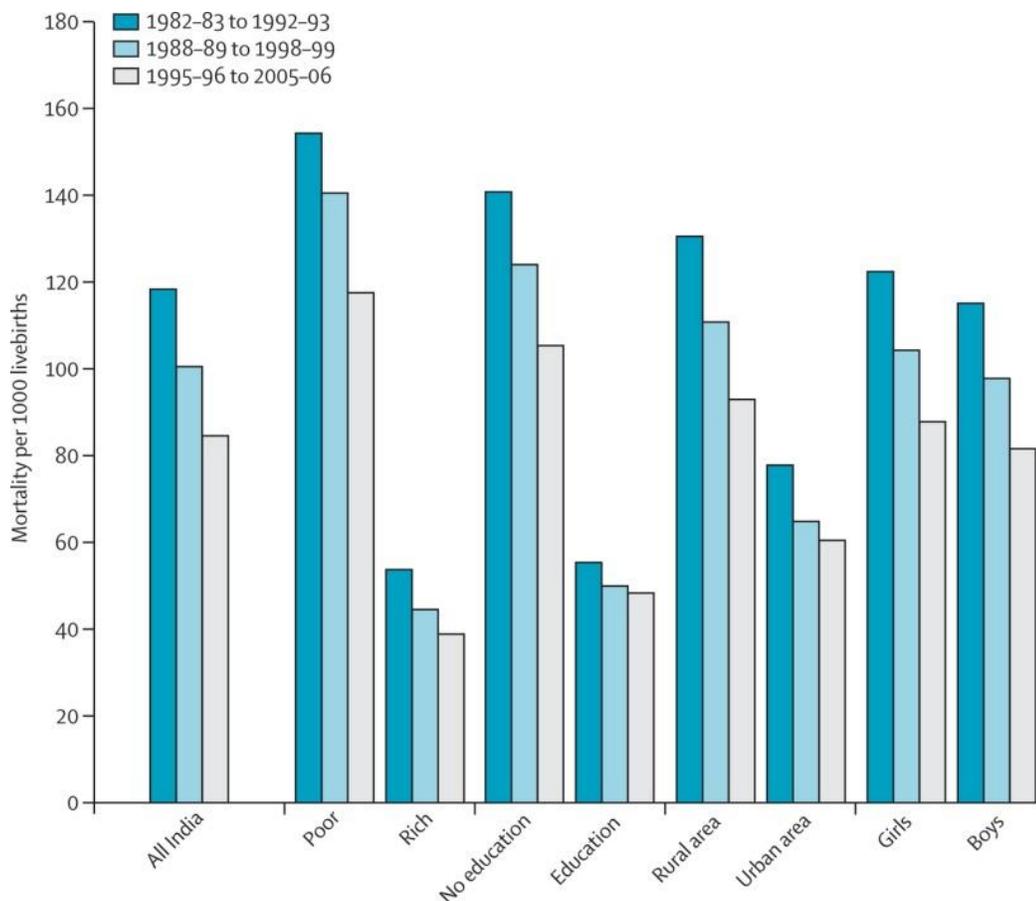
❖ Indian Society

Q- Life expectancy lower for urban poor. Elaborate with Evidence?

BACKGROUND = Life expectancy among the poorest is lower by 9.1 years among men and 6.2 years among women from the corresponding figures for the richest in urban areas, noted a report released recently by Azim Premji University in collaboration with 17 regional NGOs across India.

The report, "**Healthcare equity in urban India**", explores health vulnerabilities and inequalities in cities in India -

- It also looks at the availability, accessibility and cost of healthcare facilities, and possibilities in future-proofing services in the next decade.
- It notes that a third of India's population lives in urban areas, with this segment seeing a rapid growth from about 18% (1960) to 28.53% (2001) and 34% (in 2019). Close to 30% of people living in urban areas are poor.
- The study also draws insights from data collected through interactions with civil society organisations in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Surat, Lucknow, Guwahati, Ranchi and Delhi.
- This also included an analysis of the National Family and Health Surveys, the Census, and inputs from State-level officials on the provision of healthcare.
- The report, besides finding disproportionate disease burden on the poor, also points to a chaotic urban health governance, where the multiplicity of healthcare providers both within and outside the Government without coordination are challenges to urban health governance.
- The other key findings include a heavy financial burden on the poor, and less investment in healthcare by urban local bodies.



Steps to be taken –

The report calls for-

1. Strengthening community participation and governance;
2. Building a comprehensive and dynamic database on the health and nutrition status, including comorbidities of the diverse, vulnerable populations;
3. Strengthening healthcare provisioning through the National Urban Health Mission, especially for primary healthcare services;
4. And putting in place policy measures to reduce the financial burden of the poor.

It also advocates for a better mechanism for coordinated public healthcare services and better governed private healthcare institutions.

“As urbanisation is happening rapidly, the number of the urban poor is only expected to increase. A well-functioning, better coordinated and governed healthcare system is crucial at this point.”

❖ International Relations

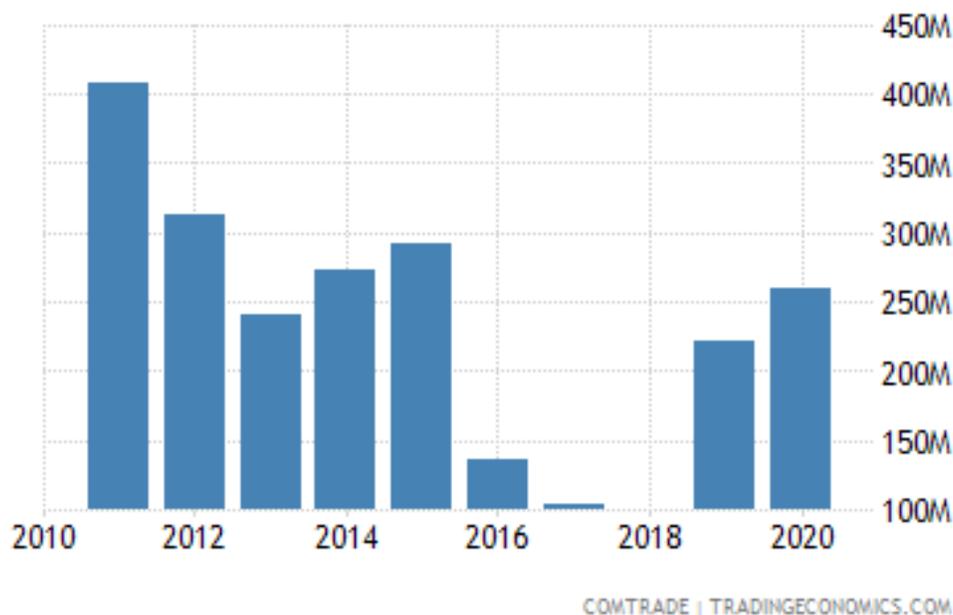
Q- Comment on how far is banning fertilizer use going to affect a nation's Food Security with the recent example of 'Sri Lanka'?

Background = Sri Lanka abandoned its quest to become the world's first completely organic farming nation, announcing it would immediately lift an import ban on pesticides and other agricultural inputs.

The island country has been in the grips of a severe economic crisis, with a lack of foreign exchange triggering shortages of food, crude oil and other essential goods.

Authorities had already walked back restrictions on fertilizer imports last month for tea, the country's main export earner - considering the need to ensure food security.

Sri Lankan Import of Fertilizers -



Effects -

1. Vast tracts of farmland were abandoned after the import ban, first introduced in May.
2. Shortages have worsened in the past week, with prices for rice, vegetables and other market staples having doubled across Sri Lanka.
3. Supermarkets have also rationed rice sales, allowing only five kilograms per customer.
4. Farmers' organisations had planned to march on the national parliament in to demand the import of essential chemicals to protect their crops.

The policy was introduced after a massive hit to the cash-strapped island's economy in the wake of COVID-19, with tourism earnings and foreign worker remittances drastically falling.

Authorities attempted to save foreign exchange by last year banning a host of imported goods, including some food and spices.

Sri Lanka also shut its only oil refinery last month after running out of dollars to import crude. manufactured advanced Electronic Warfare suites to the Navy.



Q- Which of the following rights come under the Right to Life and Liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution as per the interpretations of the Supreme Court?

1. Right to livelihood
2. Right to shelter
3. Eradication of preventable diseases like polio
4. Right to speedy trial
5. Right to travel abroad
6. Right to women to be treated with decency and dignity.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| a. 4 and 6 | b. All of the above |
| c. 1, 2, 3 and 4 | d. 1, 2, 3 and 6 |



Q- Below are the instances where government has taken certain steps or the individuals or the society have taken certain actions. Which of the following is/are violation of Fundamental Rights?

1. The district court has banned the use of loudspeakers by the temples, mosques, and Gurudwar as after 10 pm.
2. Karnataka society runs Kannada medium schools outside Karnataka.
3. A director makes a documentary film that criticises the policies of the government.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. 1 only | b. 2 and 3 only |
| c. 1 and 3 only | d. None |

Answer: d

Explanation: Banning of loudspeaker after 10 pm is in the interest of the larger public good, else this would lead to sound pollution (loudspeakers also disrupt people's peace and concentration). Hence this ban by the district court does not violate fundamental right. All linguistic minorities can set up their own educational institutions to preserve and develop their own culture. Thus, the Karnataka Society has every right to run Kannada medium schools outside Karnataka. A director makes a documentary film that criticises the policies of the government. In this situation the freedom of expression is being used.

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