

GS II

SYLLABUS: PROTECTION AND BETTERMENT OF VULNERABLE SECTIONS.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "We need accessibility rules that are based on principles."

Status of Disabilities:

- According to **2011 national Census** of India indicate that persons with disabilities constitute **2.2% of the total population**.
- **India ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007** & Parliament passed the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016** RPWD Act replaced earlier Act.

Protection of Disabled people:

- RPWD Act 2016: provision for the constitution of the **office of the State Commissioners** for Disabilities at the State level.
 - **Powers:**
 - **Implementation** of the disability law.
 - Commissioners, shall have the **same powers of a civil court** under the Civil Procedure Code 1908.
 - **Powers of suo motu** to identify and inquire about any specific policy affecting PwDs.
 - While trying a suit, and every proceeding before the State Commissioner **shall be a judicial proceeding**.

Problems faced by Persons with Disabilities (in general):

- **Governance Challenges:**
 - **Lax attitude on the part of the State govts** to appoint State Commissioners.
 - **State Commissioners have been unable to intervene suo motu** to address discriminatory policies and practices, eroding faith in statutory offices.
 - **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules:** Eg. Prescribing accessibility standards **were not even mandatory by nature**.
 - **Lack of implementation of rights of persons** with disabilities under Disabilities Act 2016. Leaving them not included.
- **Opportunity Challenges:**
 - **Discrimination in education and employment.** Eg. Nifty 50 report 2023 highlights, out of 50 companies only 5 companies have more than 1% of PwDs employed of them 4 are public sector companies.
- **Accessibility Infrastructure challenges:**
 - **Educational institutions lack the necessary infrastructure.** Eg. Less than 1% institutions are disabled friendly, like no Ramps.
 - Low floor wheelchair-accessible CNG buses for public transport. Eg. **Many cities lack such buses**.
 - Restrooms for persons with disabilities.
 - Highlights the **lack of compassion and human dignity**.
 - **Support mechanisms and workplaces concern.**
- **Emotional and relational challenges:**
 - Particularly regarding access to love, desire, and intimacy.
 - Right to leisure compromised
 - **Society did not even bother** to enquire into the "right to relationships" of persons with disabilities.
 - This **exacerbates the feeling of Exclusion**.
 - **Privacy of PwDs is often overlooked.**
- **Social Challenges:**
 - **Face social stigma & Struggle for dignity.** Eg. Considering them as pitiful or helpless, incase belonging to lower caste it doubles or triples the burden.

- **Marginalisation in all sectors.** Eg. Viewed as incapable of community participation.

Measures for inclusion of Disabled:

Best practices:

- **Karnataka Mobile Adalats:** Reaching out to people with disabilities in **remote areas** and investigating their rights deprivation.
- **Mission Vatsalya & ICDS:** special provisions for children with disabilities in **Child Care Institutions (CCIs)**.
- **Shiv Nader University:** Disability support policy **supporting students case by case basis** based on severity of disability.
- **Brazil model, Fines and penalties:** companies with more than 100 employees **must comprise 2%-5% of total workforce**.
- **Japan model, System of subsidiaries for employees:** i.e **creation of suitable working condition's** for disabled.
- **Enabling Right to leisure measures:** have **subtitles and audio descriptions** on OTT platforms, **sign language interpreter** etc.
- **Showcasing inclusive stories in popular entertainment.** Eg. Films such as **Margarita with a Straw (2014) and Srikanth (2024)**.
- Such above measures **need to be institutionalised**.

Case study:

This year, **India's Paralympians made history at the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games** by bringing home **29 medals**. **Sheetal Devi** with her impeccable precision in **archery**, **Sumit Antil** with his extraordinary **javelin throws**, others.

Their journey underscores the **Ethical principles** like:

- **Determination of Will** despite physical and societal barriers.
- **Dedication** towards training to achieve excellence.
- **Resilience** to overcome setbacks.

Quote:

• "My friend says disabled people can be negative, I (disabled person) agree, we are **so negative sometimes the able-bodied mind never reaches us. That distance is too far..** it is thus those who are creating the distance (who) should bridge the gap"— **Grammar of My Body**.

- "Disability is not inherent in the person, but is created by external factors such as physical, organisational, and attitudinal barriers"— **Supreme Court of India 2024**.

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PYQs: CSE (M).

GS IV 2017: Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss.

GS IV 2022: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.

GEOGRAPHY

PRE-CONTEXT

EARTHQUAKE

THE HINDU, Pg.NO: 10.

News: "Damage control."

About Earthquakes:

- Earthquake is the **shaking of the surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy** in the Earth's **lithosphere** that creates **seismic waves**.
- **Causes of Earthquake:**
 - **Tectonic Movements:**
 - Divergent Boundaries: Plates move apart (e.g., Mid-Atlantic Ridge).
 - Convergent Boundaries: Plates move towards each other (e.g., Himalayas formation).
 - Transform Boundaries: Plates slide past each other horizontally (e.g., San Andreas Fault).
 - **Volcanic Activity:** Associated with magma movement beneath volcanoes.
 - **Human induced:** from large dams, and hydraulic fracturing (fracking), Nuclear or chemical explosions.

Seismic waves:

- **Body waves:**
 - **Primary waves (P-waves):** Fastest, compressional waves that can travel through solids, liquids, and gases.
 - **Secondary waves (S-waves):** Slower, can only travel through solids.
- **Surface Waves: most dangerous and destructive.**
 - **Love Waves:** Cause horizontal movement of the ground.
 - **Rayleigh Waves:** Cause both vertical and horizontal ground movement in a rolling motion.

Foci and Epicenter:

- **Foci/Focus** also called the hypocenter, the **focus is the point within the Earth's crust** where an **earthquake originates**.
- **Epicentre:** the **point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus**. It's the location where the most shaking and damage from an earthquake occur.

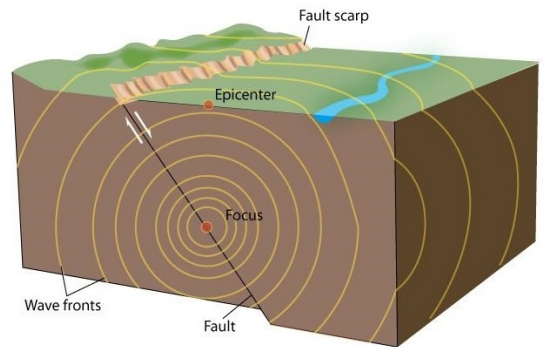
Measurement of Earthquakes:

- **Magnitude: Richter Scale:**
 - **Measures the energy released. Each whole number increase represents a tenfold increase in amplitude.**
 - **There is no upper limit.** Earthquakes approaching magnitude 10 are considered extremely unlikely due to the physical limitations of tectonic plate sizes and energy distribution.
- **Intensity: Mercalli Scale:**
 - **Measures the effects of an earthquake** on the Earth's surface, humans, objects of nature, and man-made structures.
 - **Maximum Intensity: XII (12)** represents the highest level of intensity, indicating total destruction, with structures completely destroyed, landslides, and ground cracking.

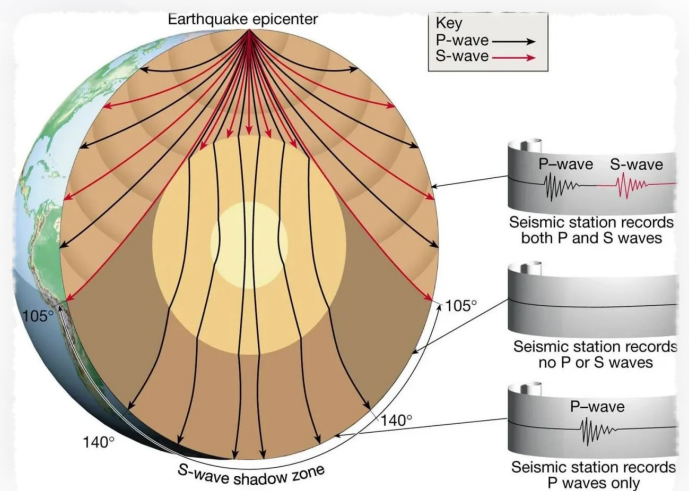
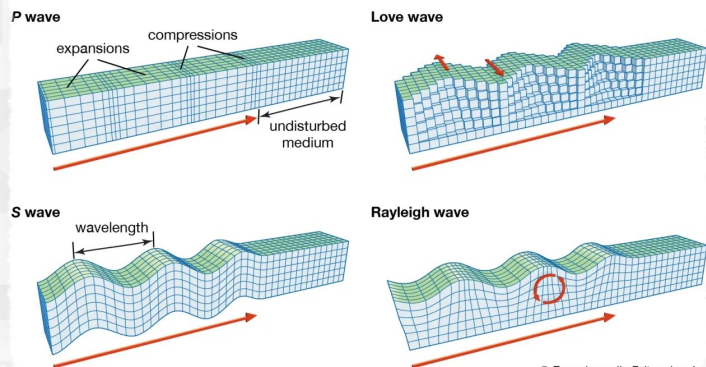
Impacts:

- Loss of Life and livelihood.
- Landslides, Tsunamis, Glacial Lake Outburst, Avalanches, Soil Liquefaction, etc.
- **Notable Earthquakes in India:** 1905 Kangra, 1934 Bihar-Nepal, 1991 Uttarkashi, 2001 Gujarat.

Seismic waves radiate from the focus of an earthquake



Main types of seismic waves





ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

GDP & ECONOMIC GROWTH

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

News: "Decoding India's growth slowdown."

- In India, economic growth is measured using Real GDP.
- **Real GDP:** calculation of prices of goods and services produced in an economy adjusted for inflation.
- Economic growth and Real GDP are directly proportional.
- **Nominal GDP** is calculated at current price (includes inflation).

Base Year:

- A specific year chosen as a benchmark for measuring and comparing economic data over time.
- It helps in distinguishing between **nominal GDP (current prices) and real GDP (constant prices)**.
- Facilitate accurate analysis of growth rates by **removing the effects of price changes**.
- **Real GDP** = Quantity of Goods or Services x Base Year prices.
- Current base year in Indian GDP calculations: **2011-12**.
- Recently, **2021-22 was proposed** for a new base year.
- **National Statistical Office (NSO)** is tasked with revision of base-year.

GDP calculation methods

- **GDP calculation at Market Prices** includes all taxes, subsidies.
- **GDP calculation at factor cost** excludes indirect taxes.

3 methods of calculation: Expenditure, Income, Value added.

Expenditure method:

- Sum of all spending's, investment, govt. purchases, exports.
 - $GDP = c + i + g + X - M$;
 - **C** = Domestically produced consumption goods.
 - **i** = Expenditure/ investment by Pvt sector.
 - **g** = expenditure/ investment by govt.
 - **X** = Exports of goods and services.
 - **M** = Imports of goods and services.

Production or Value added method:

- By adding value added by all firms or sectors.
- **Eg.** If a factory produces goods worth ₹1 crore and uses inputs worth ₹60 lakhs, the value added is ₹40 lakhs which contributes to GDP.
- Gross Value Addition (GVA) **shows economic productivity**.
- $GDP (\text{market price}) = GVA + \text{taxes on product} - \text{subsidies}$.
- Currently, India follows this method for calculation of GDP.
- **Note:** growth rate of GVA can outperform the GDP growth rate.

Income method:

- Sum of all wages, Interest earned, Rent etc.

Economic Growth

- Economic growth refers to an increasing production of goods and services in an economy over a period of time.
- In India economic growth is measured using Real GDP.
- **Real GDP:** Calculation of prices of goods and services produced in an economy **adjusted for inflation**.
 - Economic growth and Real GDP are directly proportional.
- **Nominal GDP** is calculation at **current price** (includes inflation).
- **Slowdown:** When rate of change of Real GDP is **decreasing** but not negative.
- **Recession:** When rate of change of Real GDP is **negative**.
- **Melt down:** steep fall of stock markets.

- **Economic growth can happen even without generation of employment.** Eg. Jobless growth, increased labour productivity, better technology, outsourcing etc.

Core Industries

- **8 core Industries of Indian economy:** they collectively represent 40% of total items included in the Index of Industrial Production(IIP).
- **Cement, Electricity, Coal, Crude Oil, Refinery products, Natural gas, Fertilisers, Steel.**
- **Highest weight in IIP** assigned to Petroleum Refinery products followed by Electricity and Steel.
- **Index of Industrial Production** released by **NSO**.

Gross Capital Formation

- This **gives details about Savings in the economy**.
- Savings include Household, Private, Public sector.
- **Higher GCF = Higher Savings.**
 - Higher Savings = higher money to borrow from market.
 - Higher money in market = higher rates of production.
- **Despite India being a high saving economy (high Capital formation) but its GDP output is low why:** this is due to High-capital-to-output Ratio.
- **Capital-to-Output Ratio** shows how much capital you have invested and how much you get back.
- **High capital-to-output ratio means** one who has invested is not able to get back enough-returns of what they invested.
- **Low capital-to-output ratio means,** despite investing less capital, gets more in return.

National Statistical Organisation

- Works under **Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation**.
- **Indices Published by NSO:** GDP, SGDP, Inflation (CPI, WPI), Employment Reports(PLFS).
- Statistics is under **concurrent list**.

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BIO-TECH

PRE-CONTEXT

GENOMEINDIA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 16.

News: "India releases compilation of 10,000 human genomes from 83 population groups."

About Genomelndia:

- Genomelndia, launched in 2020, a visionary **national project funded by the Department of Biotechnology**.
- **Goal is to sequence 10,000 genomes** from healthy Indian individuals spanning the length and breadth of the country.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Create a precious **national resource for India's public health**.
 - Designing **effective treatments** for certain diseases.
 - **Estimating disease risks, adverse drug reactions, establishing genealogy and DNA-profiling databases.**
- Though the data-base stores information on population groups, **this data will not be classified by the names of castes or tribes but will be numerically coded.**

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POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

BNS: SECTION 152.

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "Section 152 of BNS should not become a proxy for sedition."

Context: While the BNS does not formally use the term 'sedition', the Rajasthan High Court's recent decision hints that the spectre of sedition still looms large in the BNS.

About BNS: Section 152.

- It criminalises any act **exciting secession, armed rebellion, and subversive activities**.
- It also criminalises acts encouraging feelings of separatism or endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.
 - However, **what constitutes such endangerment** under Section 152 has **not been defined in the statute**. This renders the provision **vague**.
- Section 152, which is **cognisable and non-bailable**.

Current status of Section 124A (sedition):

- In 2022, the **Supreme Court had suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A** (sedition) of the Indian PenalCode (IPC) until the govt. reconsidered the law.
- **The potential for abuse of the sedition-like provision is clear:** Out of 548 persons arrested between 2015 and 2020 for sedition, only 12 people were convicted in seven cases — **NCRB data**.

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Thank you!