

19 June, 2023

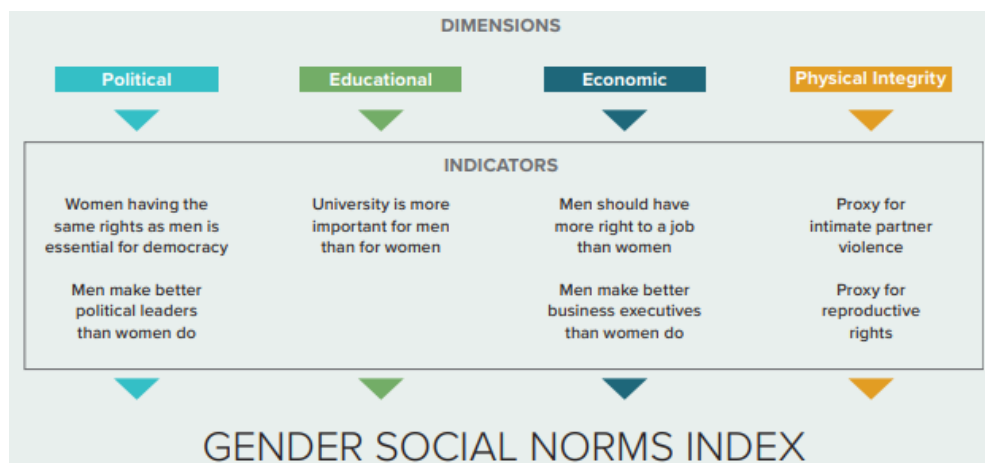
Gender Social Norms Index

Context: The UNDP's Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023 has revealed no improvement in biases against women in a decade, with almost 9 out of 10 men and women worldwide still holding such biases.

- Men are still perceived as superior political leaders by approximately half of the global population.
- More than 40% of people hold the belief that men excel as business executives compared to women.
- Shockingly, a quarter of individuals find it acceptable for a man to physically abuse his wife.
- The representation of women in the positions of heads of state or heads of government has stagnated at around 10% since 1995.
- Women hold less than one-third of managerial positions in the labour market.
- There exists a disconnect between the advancements women have made in education and their economic empowerment.
- Despite increased skills and education levels among women, the gender income gap remains alarmingly high at 39% in favour of men.

What is the GSNI?

- The Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI), initially presented in the 2019 Human Development Report, examines the underlying factors behind gender inequality, impeding the advancement of women and girls.
- GSNI assesses four crucial aspects - political, educational, economic, and physical integrity - to shed light on areas where women and girls encounter systematic disadvantages and discrimination.



United Nations Development Programme

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest multilateral source of development aid worldwide.
- UNDP was established in 1965 by merging the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund.
- The organization operates under the executive authority of the United Nations General Assembly, with the UNDP Administrator being the third highest-ranking member of the UN.
- UNDP is headquartered in New York City and relies on voluntary contributions from member countries.
- It operates national offices in 166 countries, collaborating with local governments to address development challenges and build local expertise.
- The organization works on various issues, including human rights and women's empowerment, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, and crisis prevention and recovery..
- It produces an annual Human Development Report to track and assess development progress globally, along with regional, national, and local reports.

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- UNDP's key functions include facilitating global and national efforts to achieve development goals, focusing on democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, environment and energy, and human rights and HIV/AIDS.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the UN in 2015, serve as a global call to action for ending poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring peace by 2030.

Sustainable Development Goals



Diabetes Burden in India

Context: India has around 101 million people with diabetes and 136 million in pre-diabetes, as per a recent study by the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation and Indian Council of Medical Research.

- A study conducted with a large representative sample of over 113,000 people across 31 states and union territories in India revealed the prevalence of metabolic disorders such as diabetes.
- Over a quarter of the population, or more than 101 million individuals, were either diabetic or in the pre-diabetic stage.
- An additional 136 million people, or 15.3% of the population, were found to be pre-diabetic.
- The study highlighted the concerning fact that almost half of the pre-diabetic individuals could develop diabetes within five years.
- The prevalence of hypertension or high blood pressure was found to be even higher, affecting 35.5% of the population, equivalent to 315 million people.
- The researchers considered abdominal or central obesity in addition to BMI, as Indians tend to accumulate fat in the abdominal region, posing a higher risk of obesity-related diseases.
- According to BMI measurements, 28.6% of the population was classified as obese, while 39.5% had abdominal obesity, totaling 351 million people.
- Hypercholesterolemia, characterized by high levels of LDL or "bad" cholesterol, was present in 24% of the population, equivalent to 213 million people.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)	National prevalence	Urban	Rural	Estimated number of people in India, in millions
Diabetes	11.4%	16.4%	8.9%	101
Prediabetes	15.3%	15.4%	15.2%	136
Hypertension	35.5%	40.7%	33%	315
Generalized Obesity	28.6%	39.6%	23.1%	254
Abdominal Obesity	39.5%	51.6%	33.5%	351
Hypercholesterolemia	24.0%	27.4%	22.3%	213

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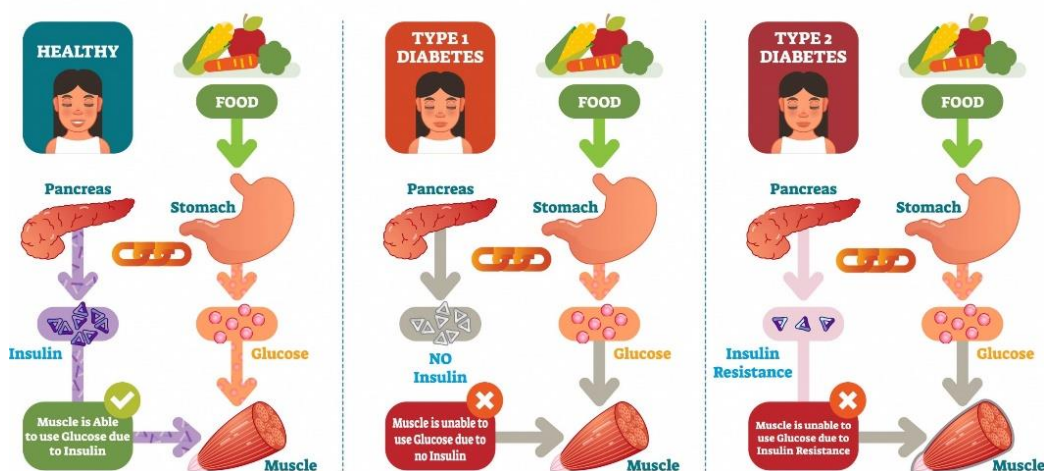


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Indiab

- The India Diabetes (Indiab) study is a 12-year-long project with over 113,000 participants.
- The study collected data in phases across different states, allowing accurate determination of metabolic disorder prevalence.
- It generated evidence indicating that only 7% of known diabetics have their sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol in check.
- The study is highly representative of the Indian population, maintaining a similar ratio of men/women and rural/urban participants.
- With 79,506 participants from rural areas, it accurately represents 70% of the country's population living in rural areas.
- It is one of the largest studies ever attempted, covering all states and 1.4 billion people through door-to-door screening.
- Data from different years was normalized for 2021 using demographic data from the National Family Health Survey.

Types of diabetes



Pentagon Papers and Daniel Ellsberg

Context: Daniel Ellsberg, the Pentagon Papers whistle blower died aged 92.

Pentagon Papers

- The Pentagon Papers were a classified study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Defence.
- The study, officially titled "United States – Vietnam Relations, 1945–1967: A Study Prepared by the Department of Defence," was conducted from 1967 to 1969.
- The purpose of the study was to analyse and document the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.
- The study consisted of a vast collection of documents, including classified reports, memos, and diplomatic cables.
- It revealed a significant discrepancy between the public statements made by the U.S. government regarding the war and the internal assessments of military and political leaders.
- The study exposed the extent of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, the escalation of the conflict, and the doubts and uncertainties within the government regarding the war's outcome.
- Daniel Ellsberg, a former military analyst, leaked portions of the study to the press in 1971.

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- The leaked documents were first published by The New York Times, followed by The Washington Post and other newspapers.
- The publication of the Pentagon Papers led to a legal battle between the government and the press regarding freedom of the press and the right to publish classified information.
- The U.S. Supreme Court, in the landmark case *New York Times Co. v. United States*, upheld the right of the press to publish the Pentagon Papers.
- The Pentagon Papers played a significant role in shaping public opinion and deepening skepticism about U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014

- The act establishes a mechanism to receive complaints related to corruption or misuse of power against public servants and conducts inquiries into such disclosures.
- It provides safeguards against victimization of whistleblowers.
- Any person, including a public servant, can make a public interest disclosure before a Competent Authority.
- The law specifies various competent authorities, such as the Prime Minister for complaints against a union minister.
- Anonymous complaints are not allowed, and the complainant must establish their identity.
- The maximum time period for making a complaint is seven years.
- The act exempts the Special Protection Group (SPG) personnel and officers.
- Appeals against orders of the Competent Authority can be made to the concerned High Court within sixty days.
- Penalties:
 - Revealing the identity of a complainant: Imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine up to Rs 50,000.
 - Making false or misleading disclosures: Imprisonment up to 2 years and a fine up to Rs. 30,000.
- The Competent Authority prepares an annual report on its activities, submitted to the Central or State Government.
- The Whistleblowers Act supersedes the Official Secrets Act, 1923, allowing disclosures that do not harm national sovereignty.
- In 2015, an amendment bill was proposed to limit whistleblowers from revealing classified documents under the Official Secrets Act, weakening the 2014 Act.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Gandhi Peace Prize



Context: Recently, Gita Press, Gorakhpur, established in 1923, has been awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021.

Gita Press:

Gita Press is known for being one of the world's largest publishers, having published over 41 crore books in 14 languages, including more than 16 crore copies of the *Shrimad Bhagvad Gita*.

What is Gandhi Peace Prize?

The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Indian government in 1995 to honor Mahatma Gandhi's ideals. The award was instituted on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, recognizing individuals or institutions that have made outstanding contributions to social, economic and political transformation.

Criteria:

The award is open to all individuals or institutions regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.

Selection Process:

The recipient is chosen by a jury headed by the Prime Minister of India. The jury deliberates and decides the recipient of the award.

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	Award Components: The Gandhi Peace Prize includes the following components: ➤ Cash Prize: The award carries a monetary amount of one crore rupees. ➤ Citation: The recipient receives a citation recognizing their contribution. ➤ Plaque: A plaque is also presented as a part of the award.
Monkeypox 	Context: Recently, there has been a surge in reported cases of Monkeypox, in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific Region. What is Monkeypox? Monkeypox is a viral disease that primarily spreads to humans through zoonotic spillovers. Rodents and primates are potential reservoirs for Monkeypox. The first reported case of Monkeypox in humans occurred in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Transmission: Monkeypox can be transmitted between humans through close contact and exposure to infected bodily fluids or lesions. Incubation Period: The incubation period of Monkeypox is typically 6 to 13 days, although it can range from 5 to 21 days. Symptoms: Common symptoms of Monkeypox include skin rash or mucosal lesions, fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes. These symptoms can lead to a range of medical complications. Vaccine Availability: Currently, there is no effective vaccine available for Monkeypox infection.
Malcha Mahal 	Context: Recently, Malcha Mahal area is set to be beautified through the planting of various layers of flowering trees. Malcha Mahal: Malcha Mahal is a hunting lodge built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq, a ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty, in the 14th century. It is located in the Chanakyaपुरी area of New Delhi. Architectural Style: The architectural style of Malcha Mahal is primarily influenced by the Tughlaq dynasty, which was known for its unique blend of Islamic and Indian architectural elements. Wilayat Mahal: The lodge was renamed Wilayat Mahal after Begum Wilayat Mahal of Awadh, who received the place from the government of India in May 1985. Begum Wilayat Mahal's family, who claimed to be descendants of the Nawab of Awadh, resided in the lodge. The lodge served as the home for Begum Wilayat Mahal's family during their stay. Feroz Shah Tughlaq: Feroz Shah Tughlaq was the third ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty, reigning from 1351 to 1388 AD. He became the ruler following the demise of his cousin Muhammad-bin Tughlaq. Feroz Shah Tughlaq encountered numerous rebellions and widespread unrest throughout his reign. Infrastructure Development: Feroz Shah Tughlaq worked to improve the infrastructure of the empire during his reign. He undertook the construction of canals, rest-houses, hospitals, reservoirs and wells. He also founded several cities around Delhi and repaired the damaged Qutub Minar. Feroz Shah Tughlaq's rule and governance: Feroz Shah Tughlaq wrote his autobiography titled 'Futuh-at-e-Firozshahi'. He ruled with benevolence and leniency, refusing to re-conquer provinces that had broken away. He implemented the advice of Ulemas, imposed various taxes and established offices for charity and slaves. He also established offices for charity and slaves, known as the Diwan-i-Khairat and the Diwan-i-Bundagan, respectively. Furthermore, he provided inheritance rights to the armed forces, allowing officers to rest while their children served in their place.

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National Yoga Olympiad



Context: The National Yoga Olympiad is being held in Madhya Pradesh as a prelude to the main event on the 9th International Yoga Day on June 21 in Jabalpur.

Organised By:

The National Yoga Olympiad is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Education the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), is held outside New Delhi for the first time. It was first initiated by the NCERT in 2016.

Theme:

The Olympiad is held under the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Aim:

The event aims to encourage youth participation in yoga and raise awareness about its physical, mental and spiritual benefits.

Importance:

The Olympiad provides a platform for students, teachers, and yoga gurus from different states to participate and demonstrate their skills and knowledge in yoga.

Places in News (Texas, USA)



Context: Recently, southeast Texas experienced a concerning occurrence known as "fish kill." This phenomenon resulted in thousands of dead fish washing up on the region's beaches.

Why's it called Texas?

Texas is a state in the South-Central region of the United States. It is the second-largest U.S. state by both area and population.

The name "Texas" is believed to have originated from the Caddo tribe's word "Tay-yas," which means "friends" and sounded similar to "Texas" when pronounced by Spanish settlers.

Gulf Coastal Plains

The southern and eastern parts of Texas are known as the Gulf Coastal Plains. This region is characterized by hills. The Gulf Coastal Plains is home to the Pine Belt, where the majority of Texas' commercial timber is grown.

Basin and Range Province:

Texas has a mountainous region known as the Basin and Range Province which is located in the far west of the state. It is the only mountainous region in Texas.

Rio Grande:

The Rio Grande is a river that marks the boundary between the United States and Mexico.

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