



# YK GIST

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## October 2018



# 5

# GENDER EQUALITY



## Preface

This is our 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of Yojana Gist and 34<sup>th</sup> edition of Kurukshetra Gist, released for the month of October 2018. It is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains and therefore, we've come up with this initiative to equip you with knowledge that'll help you in your preparation for the CSE.

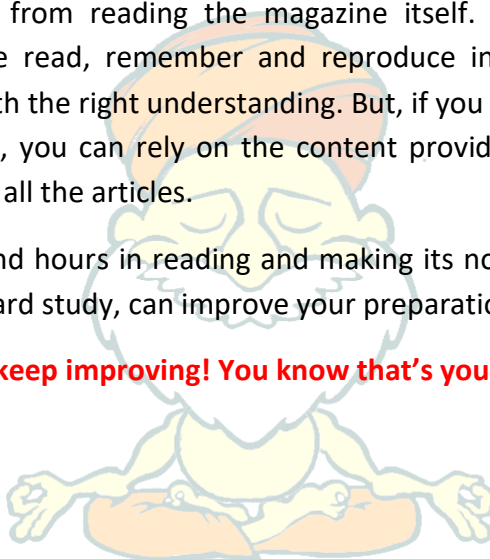
Every issue deals with a single topic comprehensively sharing views from a wide spectrum ranging from academicians to policy makers to scholars. The magazine is essential to build an in-depth understanding of various socio-economic issues.

From the exam point of view, however, not all articles are important. Some go into scholarly depths and others discuss agendas that are not relevant for your preparation. Added to this is the difficulty of going through a large volume of information, facts and analysis to finally extract their essence that may be useful for the exam.

We are not discouraging from reading the magazine itself. So, do not take this as a document which you take read, remember and reproduce in the examination. Its only purpose is to equip you with the right understanding. But, if you do not have enough time to go through the magazines, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles.

You need not put hours and hours in reading and making its notes in pages. We believe, a smart study, rather than hard study, can improve your preparation levels.

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## Gender Equality - SDG Goal 5

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Unfortunately, at the current time, 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period and 49 countries currently have no laws protecting women from domestic violence. Progress is occurring regarding harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), which has declined by 30% in the past decade, but there is still much work to be done to completely eliminate such practices.

### GOAL 5 TARGETS

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

## What do we mean when we pledge to empower our women and girls?

Despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women and girls are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and other forms of violence.

Gender equality will be achieved only when women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. This means **sharing equally** in the distribution of power and influence, and having **equal opportunities** for financial independence, education and realizing their personal ambitions.

Gender equality demands the empowerment of women, with a focus on **identifying and redressing power imbalances** and giving women **more autonomy to manage their own lives**. When women are empowered, whole families benefit, and these benefits often have a ripple effect on future generations.

The roles that men and women play in society are **not biologically determined**. They are socially determined, changing and changeable. And while they may be justified as being required by culture or religion, these roles vary widely by locality and evolve over time. Efforts to promote women's empowerment should ensure cultural considerations are respected while women's and girls' rights are upheld.

## KEY ISSUES – GENDER EQUALITY

### **What are the key issues we face while addressing gender equality and women's empowerment?**

#### **A. Reproductive Health**

The ability of women to control their own fertility is fundamental to women's empowerment and equality. When a woman can plan her family, she can plan the rest of her life. Protecting and promoting her reproductive rights – including the right to decide the number, timing and spacing of her children – is essential to ensuring her freedom to participate more fully and equally in society.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**— Complete physical + mental + social well-being

Reproductive processes + functions + system at all stages of life

Health of a new-born: Function of a mother's Health + Nutrition + Access to healthcare

Must be understood in the context of relationships:

***Fulfilment + Risk + Opportunity to bear desired child + Avoiding unwanted pregnancy***

In addition, for both physiological and social reasons, women are more vulnerable than men to reproductive health problems. Collectively, complications of pregnancy or childbirth are the **number two killer** of women of reproductive age. Failure to provide information, services and conditions to help women protect their reproductive health constitutes gender-based discrimination and is a violation of women's rights to health and life.

## **In India:**

### ***Empowering Women through 'Continuum of Care'***

Under-nutrition continues to adversely affect majority of women in India. In India, every third woman is undernourished and every second woman is anaemic. An undernourished mother almost inevitably gives birth to a low birth weight baby. When poor nutrition starts in-utero, it extends throughout the life cycle since the changes are largely irreversible.

Owing to economic and social distress many women continue to work to earn a living for their family right up to the last days of their pregnancy. Furthermore, they resume working soon after childbirth, even though their bodies might not permit it, thus preventing their bodies from fully recovering on one hand, and also impeding their ability to exclusively breastfeed their young infant in the first six months.

**Anemia in Women:** In India, prevalence of anaemia is high because of:

- Low overall dietary intake
- Poor iron & folic acid intake
- Poor bio-availability of iron in phytate
- Fibre-rich Indian diet
- Chronic blood loss due to infections such as malaria & hook worm infestations

*Strategy to reduce Anaemia:* 3-pronged strategy of



- Dietary diversification
- Use of iron-fortified iodized salt and IFA supplementation
- Detecting & treating anaemia

## Health Ministry & its Approach

Ministry of Health implements several programmes for health of women following life-cycle 'continuum of care' approach to ensure equal focus on various life stages of women, ranging from spectrum of programmes for pregnant women, neonates, infants, young children, adolescents and family planning programmes for women in reproductive age group.

**Hostel for Working Women Scheme** was brought in as effort towards creating safe working environment & providing affordable accommodation for working women away from their home-town.

**Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** was amended in 2017 (Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill 2017) to primarily include increased paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks, provide option of 'work from home' for women after 26 weeks and included provision of crèche facility and leave for mothers adopting children.

## The 3A's

**1. ASHA:** Accredited social health activists (ASHAs) are community health workers instituted by the government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as a part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) – create awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilize the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of the existing health services.

**2. Auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM):** A village-level female health worker in India who is known as the first contact person between the community and the health services. ANMs are regarded as the grass-roots workers in the health organisation pyramid. Their services are considered important to provide safe and effective care to village communities. The role may help communities achieve the targets of national health programmes.

**3. Anganwadi (AWW)** is a type of rural child care centre in India. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition. Anganwadi means "courtyard shelter" in Indian languages.

A typical Anganwadi centre provides basic health care in Indian villages. It is a part of the Indian public health care system. Basic health care activities include contraceptive counselling and supply, nutrition education and supplementation, as well as pre-school activities. The centres may be used as depots for oral rehydration salts, basic medicines and contraceptives.



## Maternity Care

### Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- Providing partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first living child.
- A cash incentive of ` 5000/- would be provided directly in the account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers(PW&LM) for first living child of the family subject to their fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and Child Health.
- Will be implemented using the platform of Anganwadi Services scheme of Umbrella ICDS under Ministry of Women and Child Development in respect of States/ UTs implementing scheme

**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** is launched to provide quality ante-natal care (ANC) to pregnant women on 9th of every month. Mother and Child Protection (MCP) Cards and safe motherhood booklets are provided to pregnant women to inform them about essential care to be taken during pregnancy.

**Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994:** For prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination

## Shishu Suraksha

**Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)** entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no-expense delivery including Caesarean section. Initiative stipulates free drugs, diagnostics, blood and nutritious diet, besides free transport from home to institution.

**LaQshya program**-Labour room Quality improvement initiative for focused and targeted approach to strengthen key process related to labour rooms and maternity operation theatres.

1st 1000 days in life of child holds the key to unlock and shape life-long potential of person. By age of 2 years, 85 % of person's brain is developed. These are formative years where factors like adequate healthcare, good nutrition, early learning and stimulation, quality childcare practices and clean safe environment have significant and crucial influence on future of child.

## Ensuring Emergence Care

**Janani Suraksha Yojana:** For reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.

- About 56,000 women in India die every year due to pregnancy related complications.

- Similarly, every year more than 13 lakh infants die within 1 year of the birth and out of these approximately 2/3rd of the infant deaths take place within the first four weeks of life.
- Out of these, approximately 75% of the deaths take place within a week of the birth and a majority of these occur in the first two days after birth.

## Healthy Adolescence

**Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakaram (RKSK):** Health programme for adolescents, in the age group of 10-19 years, which would target their nutrition, reproductive health and substance abuse, among other issues.

**Weekly Iron – Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS)** entails provision of weekly supervised Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) tablets to in-school boys and girls and out-of-school girls and biannual *Albendazole* tablets for helminthic control for prevention of iron and folic acid deficiency anaemia.

## Planned Pregnancy

- MoHFW has introduced new contraceptives viz. Injectable contraceptive Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (MPA) – Antara and non-hormonal, non-steroidal weekly Centchroman pill, Chhaya to meet changing needs of people.
- Programme focuses on Post Abortion IUCD (PAIUCD) to help women ensure adequate spacing b/w children.

**Mission Indradhanush:** Aims to immunize all children under the age of 2 years, as well as all pregnant women, against seven vaccine preventable diseases. The diseases being targeted are diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles and Hepatitis B.

**Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for Maternal Mortality** – Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has substantially dropped from massive 37 points. From 167/lakh live births in 2011 - 13, it is now 130/lakh live births. This means, 12,000 more pregnant women are saved as compared to 2011 - 13.

## B. Economic empowerment

6 out of 10 of the world's poorest people are women. Economic disparities persist partly because much of the unpaid work within families and communities falls on the shoulders of women, and because women continue to face discrimination in the economic sphere.

**In India:**

### **40% of the Global Workforce- UNTAPPED**

*Trend*

- More likely to be unemployed than men
- Dominate the unprotected informal sector
- More likely than men to be in part-time formal employment in most high income regions
- Spend more time than men in unpaid care-work globally
- Have lower levels of productivity
- Earn less than men for work of equal value
- Poorly represented in public and corporate economic decision-making
- *Hardest hit by:*
  - Financial and economic crisis,
  - Volatile food prices
  - Energy crisis,
  - Export driven agriculture
  - Subsidized imports
  - Climate Change

*Enhancing women's economic participation—*

- Improves national economies,
- Increases household productivity and living standards,
- Enhances the well-being of children with positive long term impacts and
- Can increase women's agency and overall empowerment

*Well-formulated Steps—Need of the hour*

Women's empowerment and equal participation in social, political as well as in the economic sphere is important at all levels of Indian society. But merely addressing the challenges shouldn't be the goal—exploring the emerging opportunities should be the focal point of the present day political workers and policy formulators.

**Paid vs Unpaid: Need to be Gender-Responsive**

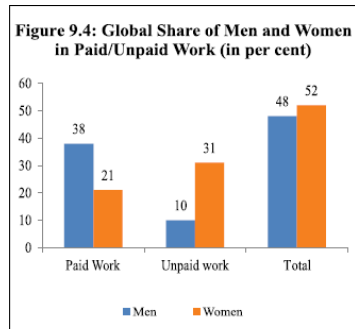
- Substitute non-market work with market-base work (lead to increase in GDP- will provide value to market-based production)
- More equitable sharing of unpaid work among men and women

Productivity-enhancing measures for unpaid work (greater financial independence for women, and intergenerational benefits)

**Men's share in paid work:** Around 1.8 times that of women

**Women's share:** Three times that of men in unpaid work

Paid work which is visible and accounted for by the System of National Accounts (SNA) is dominated by men, while unpaid work which is not accounted for is dominated by women and remains unrecognized and unaccounted for.



Source: Human Development Report 2015.

**India has to address the issue of unpaid work**

**Recognize it-** Via systematic and regular time-use surveys that captures people's activities

**Reduce it-** By providing more goods and services that will mitigate the need for such work

- Provisioning basic amenities- piped fuel and water
- Better quality and affordable healthcare
- Proper education- Reduce the number of female drop-outs
- Huge Gender Gap in wages & granting leadership positions

**Redistribute-** Between households and society and within households across males and females

**The Need—**

**To recognise the**

- Vital role which women play in the economy
- Policy, data collection and programme design

**To emphasise that**

- Livelihood is a critical requirement for self-affirmation (enhance the outcomes of development in the self)
- Economic power within and outside the household makes a difference to gender relations (strengthening of the agency, freedom and intra-household power)
- Equality of opportunity allows women to make the choices that are best for them, their families and their communities

## Women & Microfinance

An entire range of financial and non-financial services to meet their normal financial needs; encompassing:

- Skill upgradation
- Entrepreneurship Development

Attempts to combine lower transaction costs & high degree of repayments

### *The Strategy*

Through forming informal SHGs, rural women in India are getting credit & extension support for various production oriented income generating activities

*'having cash in hand and greater control over it can lead to empowerment'*

## *Jan Dhan Yojana*

**Need** for the women to have separate accounts:

- Operation of the account at her will and not under pressure
- Boost their participation in decision making
- Boost their will to take up economic activity on scale

**Way Ahead-** Via SHGs or special camps, the bankers should organize village camps to solely open accounts in the name of women in a campaign mode

## *SHG Ecosystem*

- Self Help Groups (SHG) in India started with the global emergence of micro-finance as the solution for financial inclusion of rural and urban poor in developing nations
- Developed along the lines of "Community Driven Development" with a focus on financial intermediation through micro-finance interventions
- 1991- Self-Help Groups rose to prominence with NABARD promoting SHGs on a large scale and RBI allowing them to open a savings account and have since, seen tremendous expansion
- SHGs— Perceived as a platform for empowering women through financial inclusion and social development

## SEWA

A trade union registered in 1972; an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers—

- Earn a living through their own labour or small businesses
- Do not obtain regular salaried employment with welfare benefits like workers in the organised sector (unprotected labour force)

**Objective:** Gender equality + Eliciting full participation in nation-building

### Various Initiatives

**NABARD** launched pilot project for women on SHGs in collaboration w/commercial banks & regional rural banks. In Kerala & Tamil Nadu women entrepreneurship & micro-enterprises have grown due to extensive support of SHGs.

**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is implementing 2 special schemes for women namely; Mahila Udyam Nidhi – exclusive scheme for providing equity to women entrepreneurs and Mahila Vikas Nidhi – offers developmental assistance for pursuit of income generating activities to women.

**Support to Training & Employment Programme for Women (STEP):** STEP was launched by Govt's Ministry of Women & Child Development to train women with no access to formal skill training facilities, especially in rural India.

**Stand-Up India:** Seeks to leverage institutional credit for benefit of India's underprivileged.

**Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance & Development (TREAD):** To address critical issues of access to credit among India's underprivileged women, TREAD programme enables credit availability to interested women thru non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

**Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Flagship initiative of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Skill Certification initiative aims to train youth in industry-relevant skills to enhance opportunities for livelihood creation & employability.

**Science for Equity Empowerment & Development (SEED):** Aims to provide opportunities to motivated scientists and field level workers w/focus on women to undertake action-oriented, location specific projects for socio-economic gain, particularly in rural areas.

**Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) by NITI Aayog:** Initiative is aimed at building ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives & chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses. Aspirations are manifest in 3 pillars on which WEP is built:

- Ichha Shakti
- Gyaan Shakti
- Karma Shakti



**Mudra Yojana scheme:** Scheme is launched by Gol for individual women wanting to start small new enterprises and businesses. Loan doesn't require any collateral security and can be availed as per 3 schemes:

- Shishu – loan amount is limited to ₹50,000 can be availed by those businesses that are in their initial stages
- Kishor – loan amount ranges between ₹50,000 & ₹5 lakhs and can be availed by those who have well-established enterprise
- Tarun – loan amt. is ₹10 lakhs and can be availed by those businesses that are well established but require further funds for purpose of expansion.

## Skill Development of Women

### Issues to be dealt with:

#### **During Child-bearing years:**

- i. Importance attached to taking care of the children as the patriarchal dictated society identifies women's main role to be a provider for her children
- ii. Inability to match the regular working hours when employed in sectors like manufacturing
- iii. Lack of companies providing child-care within the same premises that can bring a sense of relief and add value to the work being done

#### **Non-availability of Job for Skilled Women:**

- i. **Cost:** The cost of employing women also means providing working hours flexibility as well as child care benefits which increases the cost of the employer  
**Sol:** To levy as system of cess/levy on employers industry-wise by incorporating a part of it in the CSR Expenditure of the company
- ii. **Working Hours & Lack of Safety:** Shifts cannot work in the favour of women due to the added concern for the safety of women on the backdrop of heinous crimes taking place against them. Provision of transportation does negate the risks associated with the same to a certain extent but this factor is the most discouraging one on both the sides.

**Thomson Reuters Foundation:** India is the fourth most dangerous place for a woman to travel in a public transport

#### **Quick Solutions:**

- Monthly orientation meetings with the auto drivers: Gender Sensitivity
- Criminal Background Check & Training before granting permission
- Common Control Centre (G-Auto model, Ahmedabad)
- Proper Lighting & Visibility

### Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women:

- Equality- Article 14
- No discrimination by the State- Article 15(1)
- Equality of opportunity- Article 16
- Equal pay for equal work- Article 39(d)
- Special provisions to be made by the State in favor of women and children- Article 15(3)
- Renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women-Article 51(A) (e)
- Provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief-Article 42



## Women in agriculture— “Invisible & Silent partners”

*Responsible for half of the world's food production*

- Producers of Food
- Managers of Natural Resources
- Income earners
- Caretakers of household food & nutrition security
- Custodian of traditional knowledge related to seeds- Traditional Seed Mgmt + Exchange systems
- Involvement in Allied Sectors: Dairy + Piggery + Poultry + Fishery + Sericulture + Apiculture + Horticulture

*Involvement ranges from... Crop selection to land preparation to seed selection, planting, weeding, pest control, harvesting, crop storage, handling, marketing and processing*

### **Constraints faced by Farm Women:**

- No ownership of land
- High illiteracy rates
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of leadership and management skills
- Inadequate participation in the organisational & economic affairs of the agricultural institutions
- Lack of appropriate agriculture technology aimed at reducing physical drudgery of farm woman
- Inadequate access to credit & agricultural inputs
- Lack of female farm extension workers
- Lack of marketing facilities and opportunities
- Less participation in decision-making even within the household
- Lack of opportunities to improve socio-economic situation of the farm women

## Key Aspects— Empowering Farm Women

**Gender Friendly Technologies** - Technology + tools + implements + techniques need to be designed in a way that helps in

- Increasing the production
- Reducing drudgery

## Access to Extension Services

Women remain malnourished and eat less food especially when food is scarce, and therefore should be ensured with

- Easy access: Agriculture related input & other services
- Funds: Certain amount of the advances to be fixed exclusively for women farmers
- Cadre: Of Women Extension Agents need to be created to provide timely information to the women farmers
- Make: Women empowerment to be an integral component for sustainable agriculture

## Mobilization of Farm Women

**Goal:** Gender mainstreaming + Gender equality

Capacity Building via

- SHGs
- Educational & Training programmes
- Demonstration & Advisory services
- Drudgery reduction through appropriate tools & technologies
- Small scale enterprise development

## Gender Equality

Gender-blind policies— Lack of access to

- Land and water resources + Credit & other support services
- Gender difference- Role & activities
- Agricultural extension & research
- Agricultural biodiversity & commercialization
- Resource entitlements & Decision-making

## C. Educational Empowerment

About two thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Lack of an education severely restricts a woman's access to information and opportunities. Conversely, increasing women's and girls' educational attainment benefits both individuals and future generations. Higher levels of women's education are strongly associated with lower infant mortality and lower fertility, as well as better outcomes for their children.

### In India:

#### Barriers to Education

##### *Poverty & adverse impact on Gender:*

- Child-care of siblings
- Domestic Work
- Labour outside home to compensate household income
- Support education of Male Siblings

##### *Controlling Girl's Sexuality:*

- Issues of Mobility & Security
- Sexual Harassment, Rapes & Sexual Abuse

##### *Infrastructural Issues*

- Lack of separate Toilets
- Lack of Water
- Lack of Female teachers
- Lack of lightning in streets

##### *Attitude of 'Neglect' towards*

- Gender Sensitization Training
- Recruitment and retaining of women teachers
- Limitation of teaching as well as pedagogy
- Issue of sexual abuse at school- By male students + Principals + Teachers

##### *Other Issues*

- Absence of forward linkages with employment & skill-building
- Alcoholism of male members in the family
- Domestic Violence
- Inability to cope up with course curriculum – Language issues



## Isn't Conditional Cash Transfer schemes working?

Conditional cash transfers exist to enhance the values of girls and increase their retention in education. But they end up maturing at 18 years and post that '**Syndrome of unwantedness**' starts creeping in

- Plus these financial incentives should not be linked to
  - Support in marriage expenses
  - Enhancing illegal discriminatory practices like 'dowry'
  - Family Planning/Sterilization of parents
- **These incentives should be linked to:**
  - Creating assets in the name of daughters
  - Investment in their healthcare and education
- **Government** can create forward linkages by integrating 'career counselling' & 'skill building' through vocational training designed for women

<p><b>BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO</b></p> <p>➤ PM Modi launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samridhi Yojna today</p> <p>➤ Scheme targets to improve child sex ratio from 918 girls to every 1,000 boys</p>	
<p><b>ACTION PLAN</b></p> <p>➤ Promote early registration of pregnancy and institutional delivery</p> <p>➤ Ensure panchayats display gudda-guddi board with number of newborn boys and girls every month</p> <p>➤ Hold panchayats responsible for child marriage</p> <p>➤ Create parliamentary forum of MPs representing 100 districts</p>	
<p>PM Modi and HRD minister Smriti Irani present Sukanya Samridhi account passbook to a girl during the scheme launch in Panipat</p>	
<p><b>SUKANYA SAMRIDHI ACCOUNT</b></p>	
<p>➤ Account opened in girl child's name any time before she attains the age of 10</p> <p>➤ Minimum deposit required Rs 1,000; any amount in multiple of Rs 100s can be deposited subsequently, up to a maximum Rs 1.5 lakh in a year</p>	<p>➤ Govt will provide rate of interest of 9.1% for the savings account; no income tax will be charged</p> <p>➤ 50% money can be withdrawn by the girl child after 18 years</p> <p>➤ Account will remain operative till girl is 21 years</p>

**Udaan** is a platform that empowers the girl students; facilitate their aspiration of joining the prestigious engineering institutions and take important role in development/ progress of the country in future. Under this program, students are provided free offline / online resources through virtual weekend contact classes and study material on pre-loaded tablet while studying in Class XI and Class XII for preparation of admission test to various premier engineering colleges in the country.

## **D. Political empowerment**

Gender equality cannot be achieved without the backing and enforcement of institutions. But too many social and legal institutions still do not guarantee women equality in basic legal and human rights, in access to or control of resources, in employment or earnings, or in social or political participation. And men continue to occupy most positions of political and legal authority; globally, only 24 per cent of parliamentarians are women. Laws against domestic violence are often not enforced on behalf of women.

### ***In India:***

#### **Women as Vote Bank**

**Theory:** Women is free to choose and vote for anyone

#### **Stats:**

- Comprise almost 50% of our electorate
- Both men & women legally eligible for office

**Issues:** Not given priority in the election manifesto → Not considered as vote-bank

**Who are they then-** A mere Puppet

**In favour:** Secret Ballot (for women to exercise their vote independently)

#### **Reality:**

- Men decide who to vote for
- Women follows the decision and cast their vote as directed

#### **Exhibits:**

- Deep flaws within the Political System
- Denies them sufficient opportunity to be integrated within the political system

#### **Way Ahead for Women:**

#### ***State their gender-specific concerns:***

*Safety + Security + Discrimination + Rising Crime + Domestic Abuse*

#### **Due to?**

- *Alcoholism*
- *Sexual Harassment*
- *Rape*
- *Molestation*

- *Eve-teasing*
- *Social Taboos*

**Should not be happy with:** *Mangalsutras + Sarees + Blankets*

## **Political Parties should-**

- Prioritize mitigation of women's issues with a proper time-bound plan for implementation of the promised in their manifesto
- Every Manifesto should clearly state their Plan of Action towards issues identified to be deserve added attention
- Squarely address their entrenched inequality with emancipation and deeper democracy that touches everyone by-
  - Mobilisation & Skilling
  - Disruption of Tradition
  - Democratisation

**Constitution:** 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution stipulates that one-third of the seats in the Panchayati Raj local governance institution are to be reserved for women

## **E. Empowering Rural & Tribal Women**

### **A) Economic Empowerment**

- Heavily engaged: Domestic Work + Subsistence Agriculture + Informal Sector
- Heavily bracketed: Being reproducers and not producers
- **Need:**
  - ✓ Education: Young + Old
  - ✓ Ownership & Control over productive assets
  - ✓ Decision-making Role
  - ✓ Access to land + household budgeting + bank accounts
  - ✓ Political Awareness

### **B) Physical Empowerment**

- Tedious Work Profile: Very long hours + Domestic Responsibilities
- Gender-Gap: In Human Capital endowments
- Hand to Mouth existence + Large family to feed → Women sacrifice their meals leading them to suffer from anaemia
- **Need:**
  - ✓ Recognize the hardships (Productive + Reproductive)
  - ✓ Delivering public service in a timely manner
  - ✓ Availability of clean water & sanitation



- ✓ Efforts to improve their health- Female Mortality + Skewed sex ratios

## C) Psychological Empowerment

- Common Occurrence: Belittling their position in the society & contribution to the economy
- Negative 'self' image of their potential and importance

## D) Capacity Building

- Complementary to empowerment → Enhance Knowledge + Skill + Abilities
- **Need:**
  - ✓ Separate agency to provide skill building training
  - ✓ STEP: Support to Training & Employment Programme (by Govt.)

## TRIBAL WOMEN

**Statistics:** There are around 705 Scheduled Tribes (STs) notified in India. Apart from this, around 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are present. ST community constituted around 8.6 % of total population as per Census 2011.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) was carved out of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in 1999 with a mission to enhance socio economic status of tribal population in India. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established through amendment to Article 338 of constitution by way of Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.

### *Policies by MoTA*

**Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** focuses on improving access to quality education. More than 50% of students in these schools are girls. Ashram Schools where focus is on ST girls. Pre & Post Matric scholarships for ST students, majority of whom are girls is to enable them to pursue their education till 12th standard.

### **Schemes for Economic Development**

- **National Schedule Tribes Finance & Development Corporation:** apex organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs for economic development of STs.
- **Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY):** Corporation is having exclusive scheme for economic development of ST women
- **TRIFED (Tribal Cooperation Marketing Development Federation of India Limited):** Corporation provides financial assistance upto 90% to projects w/outlay of ₹1 lakh at concessional rate of interest of 4%.
- **Right to Forest Products:** The law concerns the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources, denied to them over decades as a result of the continuance of colonial forest laws in India.



- **Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**, provides for full & unrestricted participation of women at all levels.

## **F. Women with Disabilities**

Support and income protection for women with disabilities can be provided in the following ways:

- Income support & protection that protect women from poverty (as a preventative measure- safeguarded from poverty and abuse)
- Flexibility to move between income programs and employment
- Separate income programs from disability-related supports and services
- Supported entrepreneurship programs
- Accessible, affordable housing be made available to disabled women who have children
- **Change in Attitude:**
  - Social attitudes about women with disabilities are improved
  - Knowledge about women with disabilities is expanded
  - Creation of support groups and forums for women with disabilities (as an information resource)

## **G. Women & Climate Change**

The threat of climate change, manifested in the increase of extreme weather conditions such as, droughts, storms or floods, has been recognized as a global priority issue and has broad disparities existing among regions, between different generations, income groups and occupations as well as between women and men.

Women in rural areas in developing countries are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, because of their responsibility to secure water, food and energy for cooking and heating. The climate change and its effects thus, make it difficult for women to secure these resources.

## More women die than men during natural disasters

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Study:** In a natural disaster, women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men and the reason is cultural norms. For example, in the 2004 tsunami in Asia, more than 70% of the dead were women.

**International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has noted that in Sri Lanka, men survived the tsunami more easily than women:

- Men are taught life-saving skills like swimming and climbing trees while women's role stays restricted as a perfect home-maker
- **Taking care of others:** The food and relief material are directed more towards men with women also supporting the move (Compassion & care)
- Rate of death of women increases with the severity of the disaster as a study exhibits the reduction in the normal life expectancy of a woman
- **Alternate explanation:** More men might die owing to the fact that they do take up more risks during disasters (Trait of a saviour)

## Water stress impacts women more adversely

- Climate change leads to droughts and water scarcity, adversely affecting women's physical and emotional wellness.
- Burden of **water collection** and **firewood collection** largely falls on them: Finding and fetching water can consume up to 85% of a woman's daily energy intake.
- **Drought:** Search for water takes a toll not only on the time and health but also on their psychological well-being

## Climate change increases health risks for women

Women and children are more vulnerable to the health effects of climate change

**Data for 2000 and 2012 from South-east Asia:** The diarrhoeal diseases killed more women than men (common during instances of flooding)

## **Perpetuation of gender inequality:**

- Unequal access to health services
- General neglect of women's health in unequal societies: Studies in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia showed that the sex of a child influences the extent of the care given.
- **Common for girls:** Delayed hospitalization and lower rates of hospitalization

## Cultural Norms at Play:

- Primary caregivers for families
- Responsibility increases during times of emergency and disaster
- More likely to suffer from **malnutrition** following a disaster:  
Neglected nutritional needs of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers  
More importance to food hierarchies that favour men

## Women farmers face greater hurdles in adapting to climate change

Women make up **43%** of the agricultural force and Food and Agricultural Organization (**FAO**) has noted that women suffer from the following issues citing **Gender gap** as the main evil:

- Possess smaller landholdings
- Face greater hurdles in accessing farm credit
- Less knowledge of Technical know-how and extension services
- Difficulty in accessing, using, and supervising male farm labour
- Use less fertilizer and of lower quality
- Under-representation in decision making (+formal forest user groups)
- Lower access to management of natural resources

## Way Ahead:

- A gender analysis needs to be applied to all actions on climate change and the gender experts should be consulted in climate change processes at all levels, so that women's and men's specific needs and priorities are identified and addressed.
- Women around the world must adapt their lives to a changing climate depending upon the regional variations and availability of resources. Vulnerabilities need to be tamed with the help of behavioural changes and more changes on a personal as well as on an individual level.
- Women need to be made in control of their required resources as they possess a strong body of over-the-years traditional and environmental knowledge while helping, collecting and managing resources, and raising their families.

### **In control of resources:**

- Women are more likely than men to use them for family health and economic stability
- More likely to change strategies in response to new information
- Take decisions that minimize risk

C

1. **Count women in**

Planning

Designing

Implementing

Resourcing

Evaluating

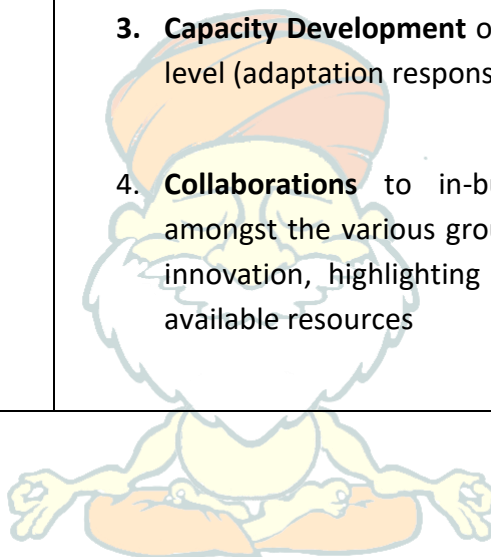
....all programmes and schemes.

2. **Convergence & Integration** of the working schemes

Eg: MNREGA linked with a different scheme

3. **Capacity Development** of women at the grassroot level (adaptation responsive workforce)

4. **Collaborations** to in-build the gender parity amongst the various groups through participatory innovation, highlighting benefits and converging available resources



## **KHADI VILLAGE AND INDUSTRIES COMMISSION**

*Khadi was popularised during the Swadeshi movement from 1905 to 1911. Mahatma Gandhi had called for the boycott of foreign goods and asked people to embrace the charkha and produce handwoven fabric from handspun yarn. This move was meant to make every home self-sufficient through local production, instill a sense of unity among Indians and create employment opportunities in rural areas.*

### **Objectives**

- The social objective of providing employment
- The economic objective of producing saleable articles
- The wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit

### **Organisation**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established under the Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956), and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a statutory organization under the Ministry of MSME and engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy.

KVIC has been identified as one of the major organizations in the decentralized sector for generating sustainable non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas at a low per capita investment. It is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programs for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.

KVIC undertakes activities like skill improvement; transfer of technology; research and development; marketing etc. and helps in generating employment/self-employment opportunities in rural areas.

To ensure that no fake products were being sold in the name of khadi, on July 22, 2013, The Khadi Mark Regulations 2013 was introduced to help screen products. These regulations required institutions or people to sell, trade or produce khadi products bearing the “Khadi Mark Tags and Labels” issued by the KVIC, after they had applied for Khadi Mark registration and have cleared the sample tests.

## ***Khadi: A silent, transformational force in an aspirational India***

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has chalked out ambitious plans to double the sales of khadi to Rs. 5,000 crore in the next two financial years.

- KVIC has planned to open khadi outlets to promote the products in global markets.
- KVIC has also signed an MoU with NIFT for better design development and training at different khadi institutions. **(Khadi for Nation to Khadi for Fashion)**

In an aspirational India, khadi has emerged a silent, transformational force. It is also a major job creator in Bharat, that is, in rural India.

- The low-profile, handspun cloth has seen its demand grow among the common people and the corporate world, suddenly witnessing a 34 per cent sales growth.
- The average growth of production in the khadi sector was only 6.24 per cent in the decade 2004-14, which has risen to 26.43 per cent in 2015-17.
- It is the only sector in the Indian economy to register a double-digit growth in the last three years.

### **Fun fact:**

Contrary to popular belief, khadi is also produced from silk and wool. The KVIC Act defines khadi as “any cloth woven on handlooms in India from cotton, silk or woollen yarn handspun in India or from a mixture of any two or all of such yarns”.

### **Sewapuri**

- Gandhiji stayed here when 600 people used to work in this center those days. The centre was closed in 1990, and the KVIC, on September 17 last year on Sewa Diwas, reopened it.
- Direct employment for more than 800 people was made possible
- Has roped in REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) to revive the legacy of the Sewapuri Ashram and got Rs. 5.5 crores for it.

## COIR INDUSTRY: PROSPECTS & CHALLENGES

### India is the

- largest coir producer in the world - more than 80 % of the total world production of coir fiber.
- largest consumer of coir and coir products

The coir industry provides employment to about **7 lakh** people in the country out of which **80%** are women.

**Areas:** The growth and development of coir industry in India has taken place in area where there is concentration of coconut cultivation and availability of coconut husks – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Orissa, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, and Pondicherry.

**Kerala, the home of Indian coir industry** tops in terms of production & cultivation area of coconut production and over 85 % of coir products, particularly white fiber.

**Utilisation:** Only about 50 % of the coconut husks is utilized in the coir industry, the remaining is being used as fuel in rural areas.

In India, it is estimated that 1,000 husks yield 104 kgs of fiber.

Employment potential women constitute 70 % of the workforce and are primarily engaged in spinning and household industries.

### Foreign trade Coir:

- Moth-proof; resistant to fungi & rot
- It is resilient in nature i.e. springs back to original shape even after constant use.
- It is flame-retardant and unaffected by moisture and dampness
- It is tough and durable
- Provides excellent insulation against temperature and sound

### Export of coir products:

- India was exporting coir products to 115 countries during the period April 2014 - 2015.
- China is the major importer of coir and coir products both in terms of quantity and value with a share of 39% and 28.59 % respectively.
- USA which was the major importer of coir products for the past few years has now been in 2nd position with overall share of 12.39 % in quantity and 21.29 % in value.



## MSMEs: Articles to read

[Yojana – MSME](#)

[Redefining MSMEs](#)

[New classification of the MSMEs](#)

[GST Council: GST Reforms for MSME](#)

[Need of the hour: Inclusive growth of small enterprises](#)

[Reforms to transform informal economy and boost formal economy](#)

## Prelims Oriented News

### Yojana

1. **Section 497** penalizes any man who has illicit relations with wife of another man without consent or connivance of that man.

2. **Right to Property Amendment to Hindu Succession Act, 1956** gave women right to share in joint family property of both, parents & in-laws. Under **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908**, women who married outside community were said to have 'lost their right to parental property'.

3. **Physical Molestation Prior to 2013**, definition of 'rape under Section 375 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 was narrow one, including only sexual intercourse within its ambit.

- It was after infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape cases that Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Anti-Rape Bill) was passed under which definition was enlarged to include acts like penetration, insertion of objects.
- Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was passed which provided that juvenile, 16 years or older, who commits heinous offence (offence punishable w/imprisonment of 7 years or more) will be tried as adult.

4. **Article 44 (Directive Principle of State Policy) of Constitution of India** articulates provision for Uniform Civil Code. It states that 'the State shall endeavor to secure for citizens uniform civil code throughout territory of India'.

5. **1st female fighter pilots** are appointed in Indian Air Force (IAF).

**6. India's successful launch of Mangalyaan & record** – breaking 104 Nano satellites launched into orbit onboard single rocket had team of women scientists behind them.

**7. Literacy rate of women** has risen from mere 9% in 1951 to 65 % in 2011.

**8.** 1/3rd of all certified engineers are women and over 3/4th of all health workers at primary level are women.

**9.** Average life expectancy of women having risen from 31.7 years in 1950 - 51 to abt. 70 years in 2016.

## Kurukshetra

**1. MSME Samadhaan:** Empowers MSMEs to resolve the issues of delayed payments

**2. MSME Sambandh:** Disseminates information on procurements by CPSEs/Govt. Departments

**3. WE-HUB at Hyderabad:** To enable women entrepreneurs to succeed in their start-ups or businesses

**4. Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikash" campaign**

**Aim:** To implement Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) effectively

Under this, more than 250,000 Gram Panchayats of the country will be included, to ensure participation of grassroots people in preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plans

- There are 2,48,160 Gram Panchayat, 6,284 Block Panchayat and 595 District Panchayats in our country. The number of elected representatives at all levels of Panchayats is 31 lakhs. In this way, India's Panchayat Raj-system is the world's largest democratic system. The number of elected women Panchayat representatives is 14,39,000.
- Schemes being formulated under the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) will bring economic and social prosperity to the villages and desired development will be possible at the local level.

## Indian Women in Asian Games 2018

**Vinesh Phogat:** She won gold medal for wrestling in Women's Freestyle 50 kgs. She became 1st Indian woman wrestler to win Gold in both Commonwealth & Asian games.

**Rahi Sarnobat:** She won gold in shooting in Women's 25 meter pistol & became 1st Indian women to win gold medal in shooting in Asian Games.

**Swapna Barman:** She won gold in Women's Hepthalon. She won gold metal at Asian Games 2018. India Women's National Kabaddi team won silver for Kabaddi.

**Dutee Chand** is 3rd Indian woman to ever qualify for Women's 100 metres event at Summer Olympic Games.

**Sudha Singh** won silver medal in Women's 3000 metres Steeplechase.

**Neena Varakil** won silver in Women's Long Jump.

**P. V. Sindhu:** Won silver in Women's Long Jump. Pusarla Venkata Sindhu became 1st Indian woman to win Olympic silver medal & 1 of 2 Indian badminton players to ever win Olympic medal – other being Saina Nehwal.

**Divya Kakran** won bronze medal for wrestling in Women's Freestyle 68 kgs.

**Ankita Raina** won bronze medal in Lawn Tennis in Women's Singles.

**Heena Sidhu** won bronze in Women's 10 metre Air Pistol for Shooting.

**Deepika Pallikal:** She won bronze in Women's Singles in Squash. She is 1st Indian to break into top 10 in PSA Women's rankings in 2012.

**Joshna Chinappa** won bronze medal in Single's Squash.

**Sania Nehwal:** Attaining world ranking of no. 1, she has represented Indian 3 times in Olympics, winning bronze medal 2nd time.

**Seema Punia** won bronze medal in Athletics in Women's Discus Throw. Women's National Field Hockey Team won silver in Field Hockey Tournament.

All the best 😊