

MoSPI Unveils 25th Edition Of “Women and Men in India 2023” Report

- The report by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, gives a comprehensive overview of the status of women and men in India across various sectors like population, education, health, and employment.
- **Key Findings:**
- **Population:**
 - **By 2036, India's population is projected to reach 1.52 billion**, with women making up 48.8% of the population, slightly higher than the **48.5% recorded in the 2011 census**.
 - **The sex ratio** (number of females per 1,000 males) is expected to increase from **943 in 2011 to 952 in 2036**.
 - **The working-age population (ages 15-59)** is expected to rise from **60.7% in 2011-12 to 64.9% by 2036**.
- **Health:**
 - Life expectancy for men, which was **68.6 years (2016-20)**, is expected to rise to **71.2 years by 2036**. For women, life expectancy is projected to increase from **71.4 years to 74.7 years** over the same period.
 - The rate of non-institutional (home) births has dropped to **8.2% between 2019 and 2021**.
- **Employment:**
 - **The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for men increased from **75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.5% in 2022-23**, while the rate for women saw a significant rise from **23.3% to 37%** during the same period.
- **Other Key Points:**
 - **In the 2019 national elections**, the turnout of **women voters (67.2%)** surpassed that of men for the first time.
 - **Nearly 47.6%** of recognized startups, according to the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, are led by women.

FloodWatch India Application

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has launched version **2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile app**. The updated version now includes data from 592 flood monitoring stations, an increase from the previous 200 stations, and covers information on 150 major reservoirs.
- **About the FloodWatch India Application:**
 - **Developed by:** The Central Water Commission (CWC), a leading technical organization in the field of water resources in India.
 - **Purpose:** The app is designed to provide real-time updates and forecasts about flood conditions across the country, with flood forecasts available up to 7 days in advance.
 - **Technology:** The app uses advanced tools such as satellite data, mathematical models, and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate flood-related information directly to users' mobile phones.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- The **Minister of Minority Affairs** has launched the **Jiyo Parsi scheme portal**.
- This portal allows Parsi community members to apply online, track their application status, and receive financial assistance directly through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- **About the Jiyo Parsi Scheme :**
 - **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
 - **Launched Year :** 2013-14.
 - **Objective:** The goal is to reverse the decline in the Parsi population by using scientific methods and well-structured interventions to help stabilize their numbers.
- **The scheme has three components**, Medical Assistance, Advocacy & Health of Community:
 - **Under Medical Component of the scheme**, financial assistance is provided to Parsi Couples for medical treatment under standard medial protocol;
 - **Under Health of Community Component**, financial assistance is provided to Parsi Couples for child care and assistance of elderly people and
 - **Under Advocacy Component**, programmes are conducted to generate awareness among the Parsi Population.

GAURAV

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Long Range Glide Bomb, named '**GAURAV**', from a Su-30 MK-I aircraft.
- **About GAURAV:**
 - **Type:** Air-launched glide bomb, weighing 1,000 kg.
 - **Capability:** It is designed to strike targets from a long distance.
 - **Navigation:** After being launched, the bomb uses a highly accurate hybrid navigation system, which combines the Indian Navigation System (INS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) for guidance.
 - **Development:** GAURAV was indigenously designed and developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad.

Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** recently successfully test-fired the **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**, which was developed in India.
- **About MPATGM:**
 - **Type:** Shoulder-launched, portable missile system.
 - **Purpose:** Designed to target and destroy enemy tanks and armored vehicles.
 - **Components:** Includes a launcher, target acquisition system, and fire control unit.
 - **Features:** Equipped with advanced infrared homing sensors and integrated avionics, making it effective in both day and night operations.

G4 Nations Say Without Reforms, UNSC Is Ill-Equipped To Address Global Challenges

- **India, representing the G4 nations (Japan, Brazil, Germany, and India)**, has called for reforms in the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** to better address global challenges such as extremism and cyber security threats.
- **About the G4 Nations:**
 - **Members:** Japan, Brazil, Germany, and India.
 - **Goal:** All four countries aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC.
 - **Proposal:** Increase UNSC membership from 15 to 25, adding six permanent members and four non-permanent members.
- **Need for UNSC Reform:**
 - **Lack of Representation:** Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and parts of the Asia-Pacific region are not represented in the permanent membership.
 - **Declining Credibility:** The UNSC has been ineffective in resolving key conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - **Interest-Based Decision Making:** Permanent members often use their veto power for self-interest. For example, China vetoed India's proposal to designate certain individuals as global terrorists.
 - **India's Interest:** India seeks a greater role in global decision-making, particularly on issues like terrorism and the concerns of the global south.
- **About the UNSC:**
 - **Origin:** Established by the UN Charter in 1945.
 - **Function:** Maintains international peace and security.
 - **Structure:** The UNSC has 15 members, including **5 permanent members (US, China, UK, Russia, and France)** and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

Agriculture Minister inaugurates New AI platform: National Pest Surveillance System

- **National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)** will regularly provide accurate pest management advice and promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- It operates under the **Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage**, which falls under the **Ministry of Agriculture**.
- **Why NPSS is Needed:**
 - Helps reduce farmers' reliance on pesticide retailers.
 - Tackles the issue of pesticide overuse.
 - Prevents pest attacks, which can cause up to 20% loss in food production.

6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue

- The 6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held on 13 August, 2024 in Canberra
- India and Australia discussed various issues such as maritime domain awareness and coordination for **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**.
 - Additionally, the **14th meeting** of the **India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** was also held. These discussions are key components of the **India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)**.
- **About the India-Australia CSP:**
 - The relationship between India and Australia was upgraded from a **Strategic Partnership (2009)** to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** in 2020.
 - **Foundation:** The CSP is built on mutual understanding, trust, and shared values like democracy and the rule of law.
- **Importance of CSP for India:**
 - **Maritime Cooperation:** Australia supports India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) to promote an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. They also launched the Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIIPOIP).
 - **Economic Cooperation:** The Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) came into effect in 2022, potentially creating at least 1 million jobs in India.
 - **Defence Cooperation:** The two countries signed the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) and regularly conduct military exercises such as AUSTRAHIND.
 - **Regional and Multilateral Cooperation:** India and Australia collaborate in forums like G-20, WTO, IOR-ARC, ASEAN Regional Forum, and the QUAD. Australia also supports the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the UN General Assembly.

Three More Ramsar Wetland Sites Now In India

- **These Wetlands are –**

<u>Wetland</u>	<u>Specifications</u>
Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nanjarayan Lake: A broad, shallow wetland named after King Nanjarayan, who was responsible for its restoration.• Water Source: Primarily relies on rainfall and runoff from the Nallar drainage system.• Biodiversity: Serves as a crucial feeding and nesting ground for both local and migratory birds, and also provides water for nearby agricultural activities.
Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brackish Waterbody: Positioned on the Coromandel Coast, north of Pondicherry.• Linked to Bay of Bengal: Connected via Uppukalli creek and the Yedayanthittu estuary.• Migration Pathway: Located along the Central Asian Flyway, which is a key route for migratory species.• Ecological Importance: It supports bird and fish breeding, helps recharge groundwater, and contains degraded mangrove areas dominated by Avicennia species.
Tawa Reservoir (Madhya Pradesh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location: Situated within the Satpura Tiger Reserve and adjacent to both Satpura National Park and Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.• Water Source: Formed by the confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers.• River Origin: The Tawa River, a tributary of the Narmada River, starts in the Mahadeo Hills.• Tributaries: Important tributaries of the reservoir include the Malanni, Sonbhadra, and Nagdwari rivers.

- **About Wetland:** A land area that remains saturated with water.
- To be classified as a wetland, the area must meet at least **one of nine criteria**, such as regularly supporting **20,000 or more water birds or playing a role** in conserving biological diversity. As of now, India has a total of **85 Ramsar Sites**, with **Tamil Nadu** having the highest number of these sites.