

State of World Population - 2024 report

- By **United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA)**
- Report is titled "**Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Rights**".
- Women's SRHR includes right to be free from torture, right to health, privacy, education, life, and prohibition of discrimination.

Highlights of the report:

- **India's population:** 144 crore, doubling in 77 years.
- **Life expectancy:** Men - 71 years, Women - 74 years.
- **Child marriage:** 23% between 2006-2023.
- **Maternal deaths:** Declined, 8% of global total.
- **Vulnerable groups:** High maternal mortality among indigenous and disabled women.
- **Reproductive health risks:** Exacerbated by climate change and caste-based discrimination.

- 24% were aged 0-14
- 68% aged 15-64
- 7% aged 65 and above

3 Indian Banks Among Top 50 lenders in Asia-Pacific by Assets: S&P Global Report

- According to a recent report by S&P Global, three Indian banks—**State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank**—have secured positions among the top 50 banks in the Asia-Pacific region based on their assets

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)

- Private investment, measured by Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), has **not shown significant growth** since 2011-12, Despite corporate tax cuts in 2019, private investment failed to pick up as expected.

What is GFCF?

- **GFCF, Gross Fixed Capital Formation**, gauges growth in fixed assets like buildings and machinery. It signals private sector investment readiness, including government investments. GFCF boosts economic growth by enhancing productivity and living standards, with developed economies having higher fixed capital per person.

Factors Contributing to the Decline in Private Investment:

- I. Structural problems and policy uncertainty are cited as reasons for the decline in private investment.
- II. Low private investment may lead to slower economic growth and could be exacerbated by increased government investment, which some believe crowds out private investment.
- III. The relationship between consumption and investment is complex, with lower consumption sometimes stimulating higher investment.
- IV. Unfavourable government policies and a slowdown in economic reforms have contributed to the decline in private investment.
- V. Private investment dropped to 19.6% of GDP in 2020-21, highlighting its continued struggle to regain momentum.

PEN to be made mandatory for students from academic year 2024-25

- The School Education Department in Andhra Pradesh has mandated the use of **Permanent Education Number (PEN)** for students from the academic year 2024-25.
- **PEN is a unique identification number** assigned to every student by the Union Ministry of Education through the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) portal**.
- The implementation of **PEN aims** to streamline and simplify the process of students' transition from one school

Russia-India Signs Agreement to Operate Large Research Hub in New Delhi

- **HSE University** (officially the National Research University Higher School of Economics), a public research university in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the University of **Delhi (DU) in New Delhi**, India, have signed an agreement on strategic cooperation and joint actions. Under this agreement, a large research **hub will begin operating at DU in India**.
- The agreement was formalized during the **Indo-Russian Education Summit held in New Delhi**, India, from April 11 to 13.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund(NIIF)

- NIIF has invested \$200 million in iBUS Network and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd.

About NIIF (2015):

- NIIF is a **Sovereign-linked Alternative Asset Manager** established by the Government of India, **holding a 49% share**.
- It serves as a collaborative investment platform for both international and Indian investors.
- The organization operates within two distinct and attractive asset classes: **Indian Infrastructure** and **Growth Equity**.
- Established as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**, NIIF is registered with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- Its governing council is headed by the **Finance Minister of India**.
- Key funds under NIIF include the **Master Fund, Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF)**, among others.

NASA'S Mission

Dragonfly mission:

NASA has announced that the **Dragonfly mission** to Saturn's massive moon Titan will be launched in **2028**.

About the Dragonfly Mission:

- The Dragonfly mission is the fourth mission of **NASA's New Frontiers Program**, following New Horizons, Juno, and **OSIRIS-Rex (also known as OSIRIS-REx)**.
- The **mission's goal is** to explore the chemistry and habitability of multiple surface sites covering a large area on Titan, which will help investigate Titan's habitability.
- Dragonfly is scheduled to reach **Titan in 2034**
 - **Titan is the only satellite** in our solar system known to be blanketed by a dense atmosphere and host liquid seas on its surface.

Juno Mission:

NASA's Juno spacecraft has captured the closest views ever of erupting volcanoes on Jupiter's moon Io.

About the Juno Mission:

- **Launched in 2011**, the Juno mission aims to understand the origin and evolution of Jupiter.
- Its objectives include investigating the existence of a possible solid planetary core and mapping Jupiter's intense magnetic field.
- Juno's extended mission continues its **investigation of Jupiter until 2025** or until the end of the spacecraft's life.

Indian Navy Conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar On East Coast

- The Indian Navy conducted **Exercise Poorvi Lehar** on the East Coast to validate procedures for assessing its readiness to address Maritime Security challenges. The exercise involved Ships, Submarines, aircraft, and Special Forces..

BrahMos Supersonic Missiles

- On April 19, 2024, India delivered the **first batch of BrahMos supersonic** cruise missiles to the **Philippines**. This delivery marks a significant milestone in defense cooperation between the two nations, following a USD 375 million deal signed in January 2022.

Defence Export of India :

- India's defense export sector is thriving, with military hardware being exported to approximately 85 countries.
- Key export items comprise missiles, artillery guns, rockets, armored vehicles, and more.
- Notably, in the fiscal year 2023-24, exports surged to a record-breaking **Rs. 21,083 crore**.

IRDAI Celebrates Silver Jubilee on 19th April 2024

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** was established based on the recommendations of the **Malhotra Committee**.

- It was constituted as an **autonomous body in 1999** and later incorporated as a **statutory body in 2000** under the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999**.

Objectives:

- Speedy And Orderly Growth Of The Insurance Industry.
- Ensure The Prompt Settlement Of Genuine Claims And To Establish An Effective Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

Ministry - Ministry of Finance

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Certify insurance companies, ensuring they meet regulatory standards.
- Safeguard the interests of policyholders by overseeing insurance practices.
- Adjudicate disputes between insurance companies and policyholders, providing a platform for resolution.

Initiative by IRDAI

- Saral Jeevan Bima: Standard term life insurance.
- Saral Pension: Immediate annuity plan.
- Bima Sugam: One-stop digital insurance platform.
- IRDAI removes age limits on health insurance (effective from 1st April 2024)