



Current Affairs of the Day

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- UNFPA's population report launched

GS Paper II

- 'Time for India to have a woman CJI'

GS Paper III

- WPI inflation quickens to a record 7.4%



UNFPA's population report launched

No rights: The report, 'My Body is My Own', turns the spotlight on bodily autonomy. Nearly half the women from 57 countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies.

Highlights:

1. Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies, including using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality, according to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) flagship State of World Population Report 2021 titled 'My Body is My Own'.
2. This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on bodily autonomy, defined as the power and agency to make choices about your body without the fear of violence or having someone else decide for you.
3. The report shows that in countries where data is available, only 55% of women are fully empowered to make choices over healthcare, contraception and the ability to say yes or no to sex. It also highlights that only 75% of countries legally ensure full and equal access to contraception.
4. Some examples of violation of bodily autonomy include child marriage, female genital mutilation, a lack of contraceptive choices leading to unplanned pregnancy, unwanted sex exchanged for a home and food or when people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities cannot walk down a street without fearing assault or humiliation.
5. Under its ambit also fall people with disabilities stripped of their rights to self-determination, to be free from violence and to enjoy a safe and satisfying sexual life.

Realising bodily autonomy is essential to achieving the UNFPA's goals of ending the global unmet need for contraception, preventable maternal deaths, gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030, UN is committed to the cause.



'Time for India to have a woman CJI'

Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde on Thursday said the time has come for India to have a woman Chief Justice of India.

Highlights:

1. Heading a Special Bench, Chief Justice Bobde, however, said women lawyers refuse offers of High Court judgeships citing familial responsibilities.
2. The court was hearing a plea by the Supreme Court Women Lawyers Association that talented women advocates are sidelined for judgeships.
3. There is only one woman Chief Justice in all of the 25 HCs — Chief Justice Hima Kohli leading the Telangana High Court.

WPI inflation quickens to a record 7.4%

Context: Economists expect further acceleration in wholesale prices, partial transmission into CPI inflation.

Highlights:

1. Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) accelerated last month to a record 7.4%, a surge that is expected to feed into higher retail prices in the near term.
2. The price gains at the wholesale level were driven by a 10.3% increase in fuel and power, the quickest pace in two years, and the sharpest surge in manufactured products' inflation at 7.3%.
3. March's wholesale price inflation marks the highest level since the present Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series began, and economists expect the trend to continue for a few more months due to the base effects of last year's national lockdown and a fresh spate of partial lockdowns that could disrupt supply chains.
4. The annual rate of inflation stood at 7.39% (provisional) for the month of March 2021," the Office of the Economic Adviser in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade said in a release.
5. However, month-on-month (March 2021 over February 2021) rate of inflation stood at 1.57 %. The prices of crude oil, petroleum products and basic metal



substantially increased in March 2021 as compared to the corresponding month of last year.

No policy space for rate cut to support growth

The expected trajectory of the WPI inflation, and its partial transmission into the CPI inflation going ahead, supports our view that there is negligible space for rate cuts to support growth.