



Current Affairs of the Day

India to grow at 8%: World Bank

1. India is projected to grow at 8% over the current fiscal year (2022-2023), and 7.1% over the next (2023-24) fiscal year, the World Bank said.
2. The country is estimated to have grown at 8.3% in the fiscal year that just passed, following a contraction of 6.6% in the previous year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. For the South Asia region, growth is expected to be slower than projected, by 1 percentage point, at 6.6% in 2022 and 6.3% next calendar year.

Impact of War on South Asia:

Asked what the impact of sanctions on Russia would be on the South Asian region, he said the impact was indirect, rather than direct, given the relatively low proportion of exports and imports that go to and come from Russia and Ukraine. Russia's war on Ukraine has impacted the region when it was already experiencing

- “fragile” growth,
- rising commodity prices,
- bottlenecks to supply and financial sector vulnerabilities.

The impact of the war has seen

- faster inflation,
- deteriorating current account balances and
- growing fiscal deficits

External shocks

1. Given these challenges, governments need to carefully plan monetary and fiscal policies to counter external shocks and protect the vulnerable, while laying the foundation for green, resilient and inclusive growth.
2. There is limited space for fiscal stimulus, and supply bottlenecks are of greater significance than insufficient effective demand said World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia.



House panel deliberates on Bill to raise marriage age for women

1. According to sources, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports met some of the members of the task force appointed by the government in June 2020, which recommended raising the age of marriage to improve the nutritional status of mothers and babies and curb infant and maternal mortality rates.
2. It was on the basis of this task force's recommendations that the Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced the Bill in Parliament, which was referred to the Standing Committee following calls for greater scrutiny from the Opposition parties.

Access to education

The panel was also told that the issue of raising the age of marriage for women must be accompanied by measures that help delay underage marriages such as access to education and improving women's safety.

56% OF WOMEN MARRY BETWEEN 18 & 21

Age Group	Rural	Urban	Total
All ages	25.5	12.1	37.6
18-19 years	10.6	3.1	7.5
20-21	4.9	2.6	21.2
18-21	15.5 (61%)	5.7(47%)	21.2 (56%)

Figures in million (in brackets are % of totals)
Source: Figures for 5 years preceding Census, 2011

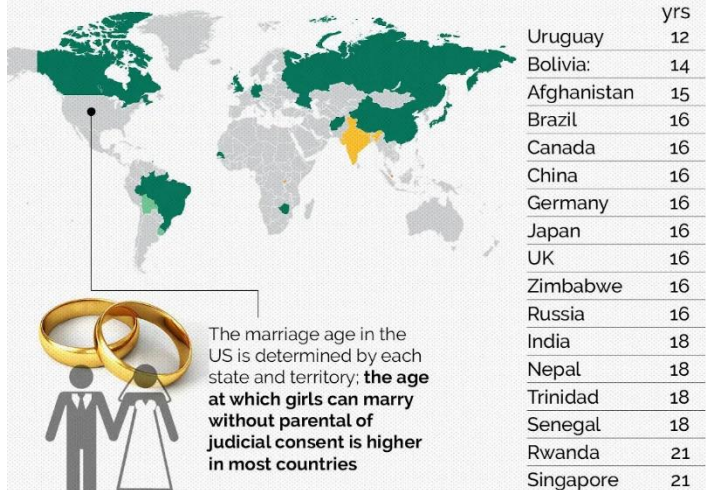
MINIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

None	Less than 14 years	18 years	21 years
Saudi Arabia, Yemen	Sudan (puberty),	143 countries, including	20 countries, including Indonesia.

LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE FOR WOMEN

As India proposes to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, a look at minimum age at which some countries allow females to marry with parental consent

■ 12-14 yrs
 ■ 15-16 yrs
 ■ 18 yrs
 ■ 21 yrs



The marriage age in the US is determined by each state and territory; the age at which girls can marry without parental or judicial consent is higher in most countries

Source: UN Data, news reports





Strident Opposition:

1. It is learnt that the parliamentary panel received 95,000 emails out of which 90,000 opposed the Bill.
2. One Congress MP said “a hasty legislation may end up creating social confusion” and “it will harm many women in our society”.
3. Many also argue that increasing the legal age at marriage for women will expand the number of marriages deemed underage and render young adults without legal protection.
4. The Bill has attracted criticism from the civil society, which has demanded that there is a need for
 - improved access to education,
 - skill training and employment opportunities,
 - safety for women and
 - strengthening maternal health services to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

OBC entrepreneurs own nearly 30% of India's MSMEs

1. As of March 31, 2022, the number of MSMEs owned by OBCs was 23.31 lakh units, out of a total of about 80.16 lakh units in the country.
2. Of the OBC-owned units, around 41% are located in three States — Tamil Nadu (14.5%), Maharashtra (14.4%) and Rajasthan (12.4%), according to a perusal of the data furnished by the Office of the MSME Development Commissioner.
3. The data was compiled on the basis of the units that have registered themselves with the authorities through the Udyam portal.

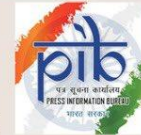
The dominance of the general category:

1. According to the social category-wise distribution, the General Category accounts for the highest share of the MSME units with 61.8%. In absolute figures, there are 49.56 lakh units belonging to this category.
2. As many as 6.8% of the units — around 5.43 lakh — are owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes, while entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Tribes run about 1.68 lakh units with a 2.1% share.



Earlier and Revised Definition of MSMEs

Earlier MSME Classification



Criteria: Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing Enterprises	Investment < ₹ 25 lac	Investment < ₹ 5 cr.	Investment < ₹ 10 cr.
Services Enterprise	Investment < ₹ 10 lac	Investment < ₹ 2 cr.	Investment < ₹ 5 cr.

Revised MSME Classification

Composite Criteria: Investment and Annual Turnover

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment < ₹ 1 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 5 cr	Investment < ₹ 10 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 50 cr.	Investment < ₹ 20 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 100 cr.

Source: Ministry of Finance

Cabinet approves extension of key rural bodies' scheme

1. The Union Cabinet approved an extension to the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a *centrally-sponsored scheme* to help rural India achieve key targets of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



THE HINDU

14.04.2022 Thursday



<http://www.sriramsias.com>

- The 2030 agenda, adopted by all member states in 2015, consists of a set of 17 targets that require an “urgent call for action by all member countries”. The first goal is to end poverty in all its forms by 2030.
- RGSA, worth ₹5,911 crores, is aimed at empowering 278,000 Panchayati raj institutions, or elected rural local governments, to implement the SDGs.



Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Strengthening Governance Capabilities of PRIs* to achieve SDGs**

PM Narendra Modi launches Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan on 24th April 2018



2.55 lakh PRIs across the country to deliver Sustainable Development Goals

Extend to all States and Union Territories and also rural local institutions where PRIs do not exist



To be implemented from 01-04-2018 to 31-03-2022

Allocation of ₹ 7255.50 cr with Central share of ₹ 4500 cr and State share of ₹ 2755.50 cr



Schemes include Central Components - National Plan of Technical Assistance, Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat and Incentivization of Panchayats and State Component - Capacity building of PRIs



*Panchayati Raj Institutions **Sustainable Development Goals



MyGovIndia



www.transformingindia.mygov.in

Date : 24th April, 2018



The revamped RGSA

1. The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the revamped RGSA to be executed from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2026. The programme will focus on developing the “governance capabilities” of Panchayati raj institutions.
2. The revamped scheme, cleared by the Cabinet, focuses on SDGs in nine areas -- poverty-free and enhanced livelihood in villages, healthy villages, child-friendly villages, water-sufficient villages, clean and green villages, self-sufficient infrastructure in villages, socially secured villages, villages with good governance and engendered development in the village.

Empowering PRIs for Targeting SDGs:

1. Implementation and monitoring of the activities of the scheme will broadly be aligned for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. Panchayats are the focal points for all the developmental activities and implementation of schemes of various Ministries/ Departments and State governments to achieve SDGs.
3. According to the scheme’s goal plan, as panchayats have representation of “Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women”, and are “institutions closest to the grassroots”, strengthening them will “promote equity and inclusiveness, along with social justice and economic development of the community”.
4. Since the 15th Finance Commission has also enhanced grants for rural bodies, “resources can’t be an excuse for lagging in SDGs anymore”.



MAINS DAWP

Q1. Critically discuss the aims behind and challenges hidden in raising the marriage age of women in India. Discuss alternatives to achieve the same aims.

Q2. The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is crucial for the achievement of SDGs in India. Comment.

Q3. *The decision of UGC to allow students to pursue two degrees conforms to the New Education Policy's thrust on eliminating silos in education, however, it has its own challenges in the context of the current state of higher education in India.* Comment.

Q4. *“Rooftop is future of solar energy.”* Critically discuss.

MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are classified on the basis of investment and turnover
2. There are separate classification norms for MSMEs in the manufacturing and service sector

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2