



## Operation AAHT

**For Prelims:** Railway Protection Force, Operation AAHT, National Crime Records Bureau, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

**For Mains:** Human Trafficking in India, Issues related to women, Issues related to children.

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking.**

- As part of “**Operation AAHT**”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- The **National Crime Records Bureau** registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.

### What is Operation AAHT?

- The Indian Railways, which transported over 23 million passengers each day (pre-pandemic), is the largest, fastest and most reliable carrier for suspects who trafficked scores of women and children.
- Under **Operation AAHT**, the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to **collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, the identity of carriers/agents, kingpins** etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.
- Under this, the RPF could act as a **bridge cutting across States** to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.
- Also, **cyber cells** would start patrolling the web/social media to look for digital footprints of Human Trafficking and the focus would be more on trains originating from districts bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

### What is Human Trafficking?

- Human trafficking, also called trafficking in persons, form of modern-day slavery involving the illegal transport of individuals by force or deception for the purpose of labour, sexual exploitation, or activities in which others benefit financially.
  - Human Trafficking, especially of women and children, for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, domestic servitude, organ transplant, drug peddling, etc is an **organised crime and the most abominable violation of human rights.**
- There is a popular understanding that trafficking is happening a lot more between countries but a report by UNODC highlights that close to **60% of trafficking happens internally in countries.**
- **Situation in India:** The **most affected state presently is West Bengal** followed by Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING in INDIA

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Involves recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion/deception, for the purpose of exploitation.

### NCRB 2018:

5264

Cases reported

64%

Females

48%

Below 18



### MOST SUSCEPTIBLE

To fall victim to such malpractices are the economically disadvantaged, and people belonging to the SC, ST, AND OBC CATEGORIES



### CAUSES

Poverty, social or cultural practice, and migration, porous nature of borders, corrupt Government officials, the involvement of international organised criminal groups or networks etc.



### AFTER EFFECTS

Mental and Physical ailments such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, HIV, AIDS, STDS, TB



### RELEVANT LAWS

- Article 23 and 24 of the Constitution of India.
- Sections in IPC such as 366A, 366B, 370 and 374.
- The Juvenile Justice Act
- Information Technology (IT) Act
- Immoral Traffic Act
- Prevention of Child Labour Act
- Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act

### CHALLENGES

- Inadequate understanding & bad implementation of laws
- No regulation of social media
- Inadequate data

**Source: TH**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/operation-aaht>