



## State of Medical Education in India

**For Prelims:** [National Medical Commission](#), National Health Policy, Paramedics, [Russia conflict with Ukraine](#).

**For Mains:** Challenges for Medical Education in India, Reforms for Medical Education in India.

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

The Ukraine-Russia war apart from other difficulties and hardships has led to tough times for Indian medical students in Ukraine. In February 2022, about 18000 Indian medical students studying in Ukraine were forced to return home after the country's conflict with Russia escalated into a war.

- As a one-time exception, the [National Medical Commission](#) allowed 4,000 of these students, who were in their final semesters, to complete their internship at home.
- According to a report, **around 70% of these repatriated MBBS students** are now pursuing their courses from colleges in Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Georgia.
- These colleges are also attracting students' new batches of students from India to pursue medical education.

### What are the Challenges Related to Medical Education in India?

- **Limited Number of Seats:** Medical college seats are still far less than the number of aspirants. The **ratio of medical college seats to aspirants is about 20:1**.
- **Increase in Number of Aspirants:** As per the study conducted by the National Institute of Educational Planning, the **number of students taking the test** has increased by **almost 3 times in the past 10 years** and only 0.25% make it to the top colleges.
- **Uneven Distribution of Medical Colleges:** Medical colleges in India are concentrated in urban areas which creates a **vacuum in the rural areas**.
- **High Fees of Private Medical Colleges:** Government institutions are more affordable in terms of fees and education quality.
- **Outdated Curriculum:** The curriculum of many medical colleges in India is outdated and not aligned with current medical practices. This leads to a gap between what students learn in medical school and the skills required in clinical practice.
- **Lack of Infrastructure:** Many medical colleges in India lack the necessary infrastructure to provide high-quality medical education. This includes modern laboratories, advanced medical equipment, and access to technology.
- **Insufficient Emphasis on Practical Training:** Medical education in India is often theory-based, with insufficient emphasis on practical training. This can result in doctors graduating without sufficient practical experience.
- **Poor Medical Research:** There is less emphasis on medical research in India as compared to other developed nations. Mostly, doctors in India prefer to take jobs after completion of their education, thus research is neglected.

## National Medical Commission (NMC):

- The NMC has been constituted by an act of Parliament known as the [National Medical Commission Act, 2019](#).
- The NMC acts as India's top regulator of medical education and practice.
- Committed to upholding the highest standards in healthcare education, NMC ensures the delivery of quality medical education and training across the nation.

## What Initiatives have been Taken to Reform Medical Education?

- **National Medical Commission:** The inefficient and opaque Medical Council of India (MCI) has been completely overhauled, establishing the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** of the highest standards in professional integrity, experience, stature, and excellence.
  - Competent individuals have been carefully selected and placed at the helm to further steer these reforms.
- **Raising the Number of Seats:** The Government is scaling up the number of seats by converting district hospitals into medical colleges using a private-public partnership model.
- **Regulation of Fees:** The [National Medical Commission \(NMC\) Act](#) has the provision to regulate fees and all other charges in 50% of the seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities. NMC is framing guidelines in this regard.
- **One Country One Exam:** For MBBS admissions, the [National Eligibility cum Entrance Test \(NEET\)](#) was introduced in 2016, which ensured 'one country, one examination, one merit' system and a common counselling system.
- **Minimum Standard Requirement:** It pertains to streamlining the entire regulations on Minimum Standards Requirement (MSR) for the establishment of medical colleges.
- **Regular Quality Assessments:** Quality assessments of medical colleges should be regularly conducted, and reports should be available in the public domain. The NMC is conducting a common exit exam for all medical undergraduates as a quality control measure.

## What are Recommendations for Improving the Quality of Medical Education in India?

- [NITI Ayog](#) proposed to **link private colleges to district hospitals** to serve the underserved areas of the country.
- **Enhancing the skills of Paramedics and nurses** will help to cater to non-specialist demands of the medical sector and could **tackle the problem of shortage of doctors**.
- **Public investment** for starting medical colleges can be encouraged along with encouraging the private sector to set up medical colleges, with appropriate incentives.
- **Optimal use of existing infrastructure** to expand medical education facilities.
- Adopting a comprehensive **India-specific approach** for the creation of seats for specialists.
- To **prevent the presence of 'ghost faculty'** (teachers who exist only on paper but are paid a salary) in medical colleges, streamlining the recruitment process is imperative.
- **Regular performance evaluations** of colleges to identify and address concerns promptly.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Q. What are the challenges related to Medical Education in India and how has it been impacted by the recent Russia-Ukraine crisis?

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### **Prelims:**

**Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 5 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans- (d)**

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## Erez Crossing

**Source: Reuters**

Israel has reopened the **Erez crossing** between Israel and northern Gaza for the first time since the October 7 **Hamas** attacks to allow more aid to **Gaza**.

- **Erez (or Beit Hanoon)** is located in the north of the **Gaza Strip**. It was the main crossing for the movement of people between Israel and Gaza.
- It is primarily a **pedestrian crossing** but can also be used for road supplies.
- Movement through all of Israel's crossings with Gaza was already **heavily restricted** before the war, as Israel imposed a blockade of the territory with Egypt 17 years ago.
- The only crossings currently operational are the **Rafah crossing with Egypt** and **Kerem Shalom with Israel**.
- Hamas is a **Palestinian political armed group** that was founded in 1987. It's a militant group that emerged as a resistance movement against Israeli occupation.



Read more: [Gaza Strip, Israel-Hamas Conflict and its Global Impact](#), [Israel-Palestine Conflict](#)

## Protection of Women from Domestic Violence

**For Prelims:** [Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005](#), [National Family Health Survey](#), [Dowry Prohibition Act 1961](#)

**For Mains:** Legal frameworks addressing domestic violence in India, the Role of societal norms.

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

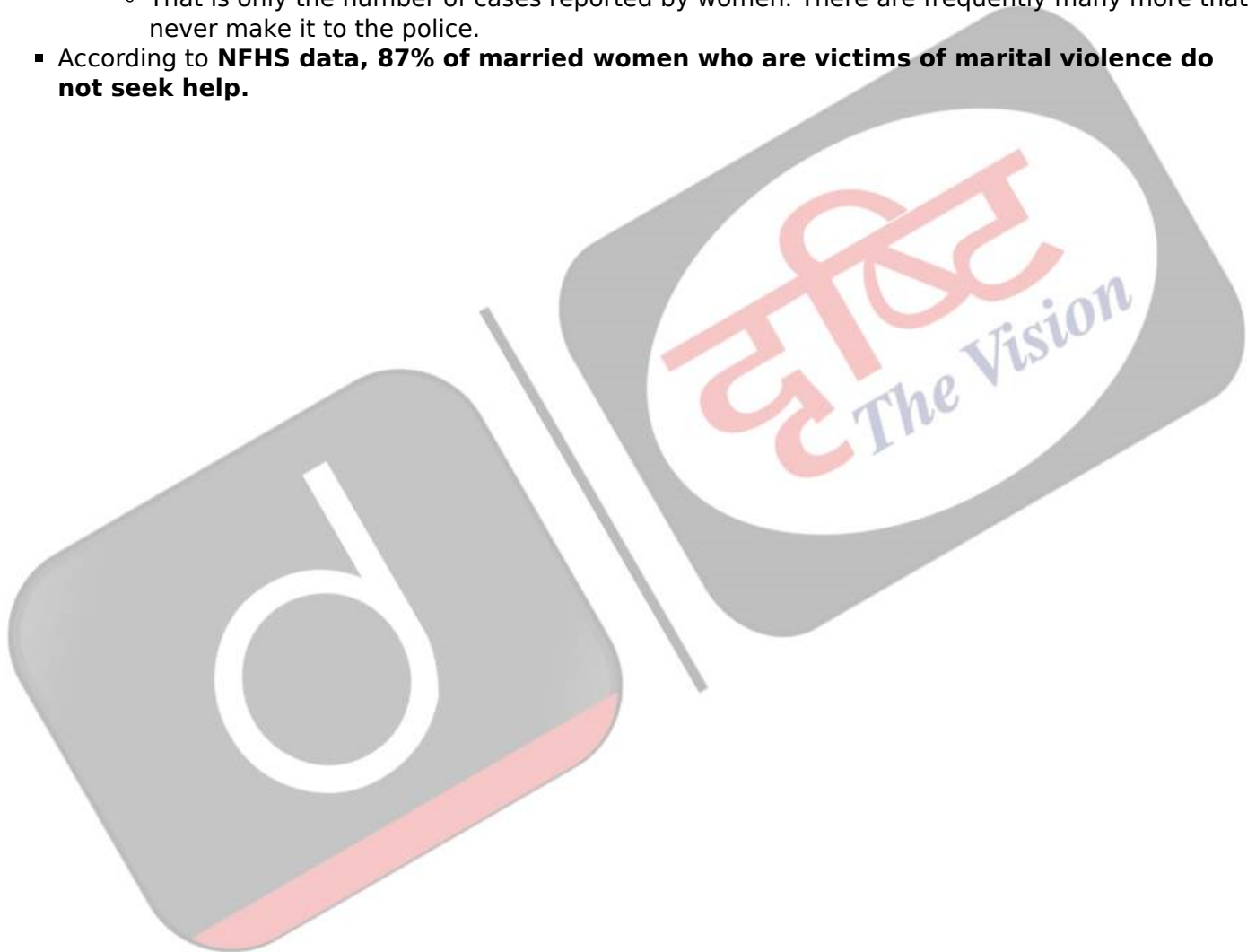
The Delhi High Court recently emphasised the universality of the [Protection of Women from Domestic](#)

**[Violence Act of 2005](#)**, stating that it **applies to all women regardless of their religious or social background.**

- The High Court made these observations while dismissing a plea filed by a husband and his relatives.
- The plea challenged an appellate court order that reinstated a domestic violence complaint filed by the wife.

### **How Widespread is Domestic Violence in India?**

- In India, **32% of ever-married women reported having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence** by their husbands in their lifetime.
- According to the [National Family Health Survey-5 \(NFHS-5\), 2019-2021](#), “29.3% of married Indian women between the ages of 18 and 49 have experienced domestic/sexual violence; 3.1% of pregnant women aged 18 to 49 have suffered physical violence during their pregnancy.”
  - That is only the number of cases reported by women. There are frequently many more that never make it to the police.
- According to **NFHS data, 87% of married women who are victims of marital violence do not seek help.**





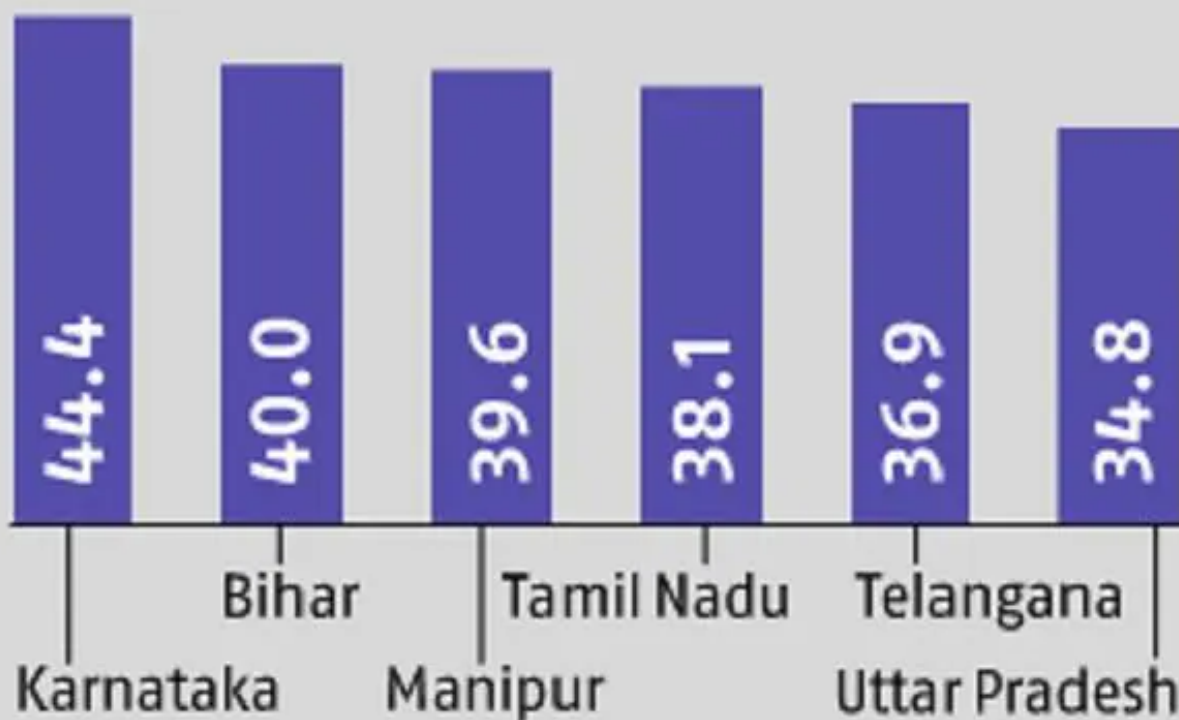
# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACED BY INDIAN WOMEN

29.3  
2015-16

31.2  
2019-21

## STATES WITH THE HIGHEST CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Married women, 18-49, spousal violence)



### What are the Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence?

- **Gender Disparities:**
  - India's wide [gender gap](#), as reflected in global indices, contributes to a sense of male superiority and entitlement.
  - Men may use violence to assert dominance and reinforce their perceived superiority.
- **Substance Abuse:**
  - **Alcohol or drug misuse** that impairs judgement and exacerbates violent tendencies.

**Intoxication** leads to loss of inhibitions and escalation of conflicts into physical or verbal abuse.

▪ **Dowry Culture:**

- There is a strong correlation between **domestic violence and the dowry system**, with instances of violence increasing when dowry expectations are not met.
  - Despite legislation prohibiting dowry, such as the **Dowry Prohibition Act 1961**, cases of bride burning and violence related to dowry persist.
- Financial stressors and dependency dynamics that exacerbate tensions within relationships.

▪ **Sociocultural Norms:**

- Traditional beliefs and practices perpetuate gender roles and household power imbalances.
- **Patriarchal systems** that prioritise male authority and control over women. Violence often stems from notions of ownership over women's bodies, labour, and reproductive rights, reinforcing a sense of dominance.
  - Desire for dominance and exertion of control over a partner, stemming from insecurity or entitlement.
- Social conditioning **often portrays marriage as the ultimate goal for women**, reinforcing traditional gender roles.
- Indian culture often glorifies women who exhibit tolerance and submission, discouraging them from leaving abusive relationships.

▪ **Socioeconomic Stressors:**

- **Poverty, and unemployment**, create additional stresses within households, increasing the likelihood of violent behaviour.

▪ **Mental Health Issues:**

- Untreated mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, or personality disorders that contribute to volatile behaviour.

▪ **Lack of Education and Awareness:**

- Limited understanding of healthy relationship dynamics and rights, leading to acceptance or normalisation of abusive behaviour.
  - Ignorance about legal protections against domestic violence or available support services.
- Many women lack awareness of their rights and accept their subordinate status, perpetuating a cycle of low self-esteem and subjugation.

## What Legal Frameworks Address Domestic Violence in India?

Legal Framework	Description
<b>Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aims to protect women from domestic violence. Covers physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Provides various orders for protection, residence, and relief.</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 498A)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deals with cruelty by a husband or his relatives towards a woman. Criminalises acts of cruelty, harassment, or torture.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Indian Evidence Act, 1872</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While not exclusively focused on domestic violence, this act provides rules for evidence in legal proceedings. Relevant in cases related to domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses dowry-related offences. Makes giving or receiving dowry a crime.</li> </ul>

<a href="#"><u><b>Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Section 354A)</b></u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amended the IPC to include new offenses related to <b>sexual harassment. Relevant in cases of domestic violence.</b></li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u><b>Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015</b></u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protects children's rights and welfare. Relevant when children are victims of domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u><b>National Commission for Women Act, 1990</b></u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes the National Commission for Women (NCW) to <b>safeguard women's rights.</b> NCW plays a role in addressing domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<b>The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aims to prevent child marriages.</b> Relevant when child brides face domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic abuse in the context of same-sex relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current laws primarily focus on heterosexual relationships, <b>leaving same-sex partners vulnerable to domestic abuse without legal recourse.</b></li> <li>Recognition of same-sex marriages could impact existing laws, potentially extending protections to same-sex couples and addressing domestic abuse within these relationships.</li> </ul>

## Global Initiatives:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):**
  - Adopted in 1979 by the [\*\*UN General Assembly\*\*](#), CEDAW works towards eliminating discrimination against women in all areas of life.
- UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW):**
  - The 1993 DEVAW was the **first international instrument explicitly addressing violence against women**, providing a framework for national and international action.
- Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces:**
  - This initiative is a flagship program by [\*\*UN Women\*\*](#) aimed at preventing and responding to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls (W&G) in public spaces.
  - It works collaboratively with city governments, local communities, and civil society organisations.
- Beijing Platform for Action:**
  - The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action identifies specific actions for governments to take to **prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.**



## Why is Enforcement of Laws Against Domestic Violence Challenging?

- **Social:**
  - Victims often hesitate to **report domestic violence due to societal stigma**, fear of retaliation, or concerns about family reputation. This silence makes it challenging for authorities to take action.
  - Domestic violence incidents are often underreported. Victims may not recognise certain behaviours as abuse or may normalise them.
- **Lack of Awareness:**
  - Many people, including victims, are **unaware of their legal rights and available resources**. Without awareness, reporting and seeking legal help become difficult.
- **Dependency and Economic Factors:**
  - Victims may be financially dependent on their abusers. **Fear of economic repercussions** can prevent them from seeking legal assistance.
- **Inadequate Implementation and Training:**
  - Law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies may lack proper training on handling domestic violence cases. Inconsistent implementation of laws hinders effective enforcement.
- **Legal Hurdle:**
  - Proving domestic violence in court requires substantial evidence. Lack of witnesses or physical evidence can weaken cases.
- **Complex Family Dynamics:**
  - Domestic violence often occurs within family units. Legal actions can disrupt **family relationships, making victims hesitant to pursue legal remedies**.
- **Cultural and Regional Variations:**
  - Different cultural norms and practices affect how domestic violence is perceived and addressed.
  - Enforcement strategies must consider these variations.

### Way Forward

- A fundamental prerequisite is a transformative change in attitudes towards gender roles and power dynamics. **Initiatives targeting both men and women are crucial for fostering mutual respect** and dismantling the patriarchal mindset deeply ingrained in society.
- **Mandate gender perspective training for stakeholders** like law enforcement, service providers, and magistrates to foster empathy and victim-centred approaches.
- Ensure victims have access to free or low-cost legal representation throughout the court process.
- Implement programs that equip survivors with job training and financial literacy skills, fostering economic empowerment.

Read more: [Domestic Violence Act, 2005](#)

<https://www.drishtijudiciary.com/en>

#### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Q. Discuss the socio-cultural, economic, and legal challenges hindering the effective enforcement of laws against domestic violence in India.

## UPSC Civil Services Exam Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

### **Prelims:**

Q. 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action', often seen in the news, is (2015)

**(a)** a strategy to tackle the regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

**(b)** a plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of the deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum

**(c)** an agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations

**(d)** a strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit

**Ans: (c)**

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**Mains:**

**Q.** We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. **(2014)**

**Q.** How does patriarchy impact the position of middle-class working women in India? **(2014)**

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