



Barriers to Abortion Access in India

For Prelims: [Supreme Court](#), [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita](#), [Article 21](#), [Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971](#)

For Mains: Abortion Laws in India, Women's Autonomy and Reproductive Rights in India

[Source:TH](#)

Why in News?

The [Supreme Court's \(SC\)](#) denial of late-term abortions in borderline **foetal viability cases (24-30 weeks)**, has reignited the debate over reproductive rights in India..

- Despite legal reforms, ethical dilemmas, procedural delays continue to obstruct timely access to abortions.

What is the Legal Framework for Abortion in India?

- **Pre-1971 Legal Position:** Under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** Sections 312 and 313, abortion was a criminal offence.
- **Shantilal Shah Committee:** In response to increasing unsafe abortions and maternal mortality, it recommended **a broadening and rationalisation of laws related to abortion** in 1966 to protect women's health.
- **MTP Act, 2021:** The [Medical Termination of Pregnancy \(MTP\) Act, 1971](#), last amended in **2021**, allows abortion up to **20 weeks** with the approval of **one registered medical practitioner (RMP)**.
 - Between **20 and 24 weeks** with the approval of **two RMPs**.
 - **Beyond 24 weeks**, a state medical board determines abortion **eligibility based on specific conditions**, such as foetal abnormalities incompatible with life or a serious risk to the mother's physical or mental health.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita:** The [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita \(BNS\)](#) (formerly the IPC) continues to criminalize abortion **outside these legal exceptions of MTP Act, 2021**.
- **Judicial Interventions:** *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2017* affirmed that abortion is part of a woman's **right to privacy and liberty under Article 21**.
 - The SC ruled that **unmarried women with pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks** are entitled to the **same abortion rights as married women**, affirming that reproductive autonomy, dignity, and privacy grant all women equal rights to choose whether to continue a pregnancy.

ABORTION LAW

Abortion is the deliberate termination of a pregnancy, typically performed during the first 28 weeks of gestation.



Abortion Law in India

■ Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 (Section 312)

- ⌚ **Criminalized:** Voluntarily abortion
- ⌚ **Exception:** To save mother's life
- ⌚ **Punishment:** Imprisonment or fines or both

■ The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), 1971

- ⌚ **Based on:** Shantilal Shah Committee, 1964
- ⌚ **Ground for Legalised Abortion:**
 - Marital rape
 - Safeguarding women's physical & mental health
 - Reduce maternal mortality
 - Children with physical or mental abnormalities
 - Pregnancies from rape or contraceptive failure

■ The MTP Amendment Act, 2021

- ⌚ Allowed abortion irrespective of marital status
- ⌚ **Eligibility Criteria for Legal Abortion:**
 - Survivors of sexual assault, rape, incest or minors
 - Change of marital status during pregnancy (widowhood & divorce)
 - Women with physical or mental disabilities (as per Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)
 - Foetal malformation or risk abnormalities in child
 - Pregnant women in disasters/ emergencies

■ Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs. the Union of India Case, 2017

- ⌚ The Supreme Court recognized reproductive choices of women as **part of personal liberty under Article 21.**

Time Since Conception	MTP Act, 1971	MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021
Up to 12 weeks	On the advice of one doctor	On advice of one doctor
12 to 20 weeks	On advice of two doctors	On advice of one doctor
20 to 24 weeks	Not allowed	On advice of two doctors for special categories of pregnant women
More than 24 weeks	Not allowed	On advice of medical board in case of substantial fetal abnormality
Any time during the pregnancy	On advice of one doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life	On advice of one doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life

Abortion in Other Countries

■ Countries Criminalized Abortion

- ⌚ **Total Ban:** Andorra, Malta & the Vatican State
- ⌚ **Ban with Certain Exceptions:** Poland, Brazil, Chile and Argentina

■ Countries Legalized Abortion

- ⌚ **France** is only country to **guarantee** voluntarily abortion as constitutional right

⌚ Ireland:

- **Condition:** Within 12 weeks of pregnancy
- **Punishment:** 14 years of imprisonment

⌚ New Zealand:

- **Condition:**
 - Within 20 weeks of pregnancy (if life at risk)
 - Approval of two doctors mandatory



Drishiti IAS

What are the Barriers to Abortion Access?

- **State Mandated Polices:** Mandatory pregnancy registration in states like Haryana risks violating **Section 5A of the MTP Act** (which ensures strict confidentiality for women undergoing

abortions) compromising women's confidentiality, increasing stigma, and potentially pushing them toward unsafe abortions.

- **Lack of Abortion-on-Demand:** Abortion in India is conditional, unlike in jurisdictions (like US) where reproductive autonomy is paramount.
- **Foetal viability:** Foetal viability is medically and ethically uncertain, generally assumed at 24 weeks but dependent on medical infrastructure and gestational health.
 - Advances in **neonatal care** may further reduce this threshold, impacting abortion laws.
 - Courts weigh foetal rights against a woman's autonomy, especially in borderline viability cases (24–30 weeks), often overlooking mental or emotional well-being.
- **Medical Board Delays:** Decisions are made on a **case-by-case basis**, often leading to **delays** that push pregnancies even further.
 - Boards lack standardised protocols and may apply **subjective ethical considerations** (perceptions of foetal life) over clinical evidence.
- **Specialist Shortage:** Abortion laws require gynecologists or obstetricians, but rural areas face a 70% shortage, per **2019-20 Rural Health Statistics** and lacks neonatal intensive care units (NICUs).
- **Legal Fear:** Since abortion is an exception rather than a guaranteed right, healthcare providers fear legal liability, especially in complex cases.
 - Hospitals sometimes require unmarried women to report to the police, leading to potential legal complications.
- **Stigma:** Women seeking late-term abortions are often met with **judgmental attitudes**, and intrusive questions. **Unmarried women**, minors, or widowed face even greater scrutiny.

What Can Be Done to Improve Access to Abortion Care?

- **Abortion as a Healthcare Right:** Shift from a permission-based approach to a **rights-based framework**, recognizing abortion as essential healthcare within legal gestational limits.
- **Enhance Privacy Protections:** Avoid mandatory pregnancy registration; reinforce confidentiality as per Section 5A of the MTP Act.
- **Medical Abortion (MTP) Pills:** Ensure availability of **MTP pills** across pharmacies and health centres with regulatory oversight.
- **Expand Provider Base:** Train general physicians and mid-level providers for early-stage MTPs. Strengthen rural healthcare infrastructure to ensure safe and timely access.
- **Improve Sex Education:** Enhance sex education with **accurate, stigma-free information on contraception, and abortion** to prevent unwanted pregnancies and unsafe procedures.

Drishti Mains Question:

What are the barriers to Abortion Access in India across different socio-economic contexts, and what can be done to ensure reproductive justice?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question:

Mains

Q. What are the continued challenges for Women in India against time and space? (2019)

SDG Progress & Challenges

For Prelims: [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Index 2024](#), [Sendai Framework for Disaster](#)

For Mains: SDGs, challenges associated with it and way forward.

[Source: BS](#)

Why in News?

India has shown **significant improvement** in its [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) index 2024](#) ranking which has improved to **109th** out of 166 countries.

- **States** have also demonstrated **better performance**, with an average increase of **five units** in the composite index over the past three years.

How Has India Performed on SDGs So Far?

- **Overall Progress:** India's **SDG index score improved from 57 (2018) to 71 (2023-24)**.
- **States Performance:** **Kerala & Uttarakhand** lead with **8 goals each** scoring above 80 (above 80 score is an indicator of **achievement**).
 - However, over **9 states** recorded a decline in **No Poverty (Goal 1)**, **Gender Equality (Goal 5)**, **Reduced Inequality (Goal 10)**, and **Strong Institutions (Goal 16)**.
- **Target Specific Progress:**
 - **SDG-3:** [Maternal Mortality Ratio](#) reduced from **130 (2014-16)** to **97 (2018-20)** per 1,00,000 live births.
 - **SDG-4:** The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in **higher education** rose from **23.7% to 28.4%** between 2014-15 and 2021-22.
 - **SDG-6:** Over **95%** of people in **rural areas** and **97.2%** in **cities** are having access to improved sources of drinking (potable) water during 2020-2021.
 - **SDG-7:** India's renewable energy capacity increased from **180.80 GW** in December 2023 to **209.44 GW** in December 2024.
- **Budgetary Allocations:** Some states (like **Haryana, Odisha, Meghalaya**) now publish **SDG-specific budgets**.
 - Developing nations need **USD 4 trillion annually** to meet SDGs.

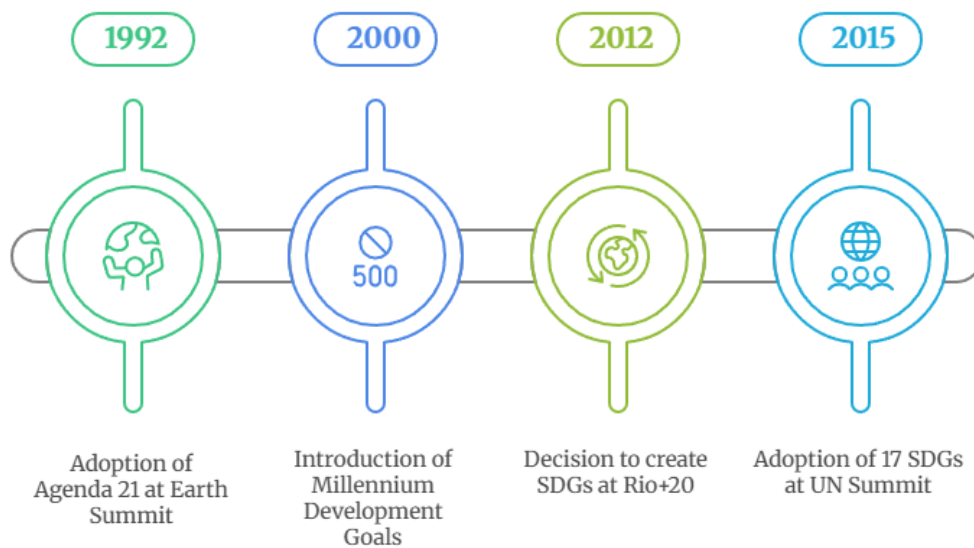
What are the Key Highlights of the SDG Report, 2024?

Click Here to Read: [Key Highlights of the SDG Report, 2024](#)

What are Sustainable Development Goals?

- **About:** SDGs are **17 interconnected goals** addressing global challenges like **poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation**.
 - It was adopted in **2015** by **193 UN Member States** as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- **Aim:** It aims to achieve **peace, prosperity, and sustainability** by **2030** through **global partnership**.
- **Historical Background:**

Historical Background



Core Principles of SDGs:

- **Universality:** Apply to **all countries** (developed & developing).
- **Integration:** Progress in one goal affects others (e.g., poverty reduction improves education).
- **Leave No One Behind:** Focus on **marginalized & vulnerable groups**.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Approach:** Requires **governments, businesses, civil society, and citizens**.

SDGs List:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- **Monitoring:** **Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)** assesses progress every **4**

years.

- **Supporting Agreements:**
 - [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) to strengthen disaster resilience.
 - [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) for financing sustainable development.
 - [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#) for combating climate change.

What are the Challenges in Implementation of SDGs?

- **War & Political Instability:** Conflicts in key resource-producing nations (e.g., **30% of global wheat exports from Russia & Ukraine**) trigger **food shortages** worldwide.
 - In war-torn regions, basic needs like **healthcare (SDG 3)** and **education (SDG 4)** become unattainable.
- **Economic Disparities:** Developing nations rely on **forestry, mining, and fossil fuels** for economic growth, conflicting with **climate goals (SDG 13)**.
 - Wealthier countries push for **sustainability**, but poorer nations **lack funds & technology** to transition.
- **Governmental Challenges:** Some governments **prioritize short-term economic gains** over sustainability (e.g., **fossil fuel lobbying**).
 - Shutting down polluting industries without alternatives **increases unemployment (SDG 8)** and poverty (SDG 1).
- **Poverty & Inequality:** **650 million people** still face hunger, while **10% lack electricity**—key barriers to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 7 (Clean Energy).
 - Rural areas lag in **education, healthcare, and jobs**, worsening inequality (SDG 10).
- **Global Economic Crises:** Covid-19 pushed millions into poverty, **reversing years of progress** (e.g., 5 million in Southeast Asia alone).
 - **Economic downturns** in one country (e.g., US recession) hurt trade partners (e.g., Mexico), disrupting SDG progress.

Way Forward

- **Conflict Resolution:** Increase **UN-mediated negotiations** to resolve ongoing wars (e.g., Ukraine, Sudan).
 - Expand initiatives like **Finance for Peace** to fund post-conflict recovery.
- **Finance for SDGs:** Developed nations must fulfill their **0.7% GDP aid** commitment to unlock **USD 4 trillion annually**.
 - **Private sector** engagement through impact investing and **SDG bonds** can support developing nations.
- **Country-Specific SDG Strategies:** Each nation should focus on **most urgent SDGs** (e.g., India improving **Gender Equality (SDG 5)** and **Reduced Inequality (SDG 10)**).
- **Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Mandating [environmental, social and governance \(ESG\) reporting](#) for large firms can strengthen **corporate SDG commitments**, while **AI** and **blockchain** can enhance SDG monitoring.

Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), a UN mechanism to assist countries transition towards greener and more inclusive economies, emerged at (2018)

(a) The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg.

(b) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro.

(c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015, Paris.

(d) The World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi.

Ans: (b)

Q. Sustainable development is described as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In this perspective, inherently the concept of sustainable development is intertwined with which of the following concepts? (2010)

(a) Social justice and empowerment

(b) Inclusive Growth

(c) Globalization

(d) Carrying capacity

Ans: (d)

Mains

Q. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (2018)

Reassessing Food Subsidies in India

For Prelims: [Household Consumption Expenditure Survey](#), [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#), [NITI Aayog](#), [Multidimensional Poverty](#)

For Mains: Need to Reform the Food Subsidy Programmes in India, State of Poverty in India, Government Measures for Poverty Elimination.

Source: [BL](#)

Why in News?

The [Household Consumption Expenditure Survey \(HCES\) 2023-24](#) reveals a significant **rise in household incomes, reduced poverty levels, and improved food expenditure capacity**. This raises the need to reassess the [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#), which was based on **2011-12 data** and currently provides **highly subsidized food to over 81 crore people**.

Poverty Lines Estimation in India

- **Tendulkar Committee (2009):** Defined the **poverty line** based on **minimum calorie intake**, setting it at **Rs 27/day for rural** and **Rs 33/day for urban areas** (2004-05 prices),

emphasizing **income and basic needs** for poverty measurement.

- This metric continues to form the basis of **India's official poverty assessment**.
- **Rangarajan Committee (2014)**: Revised the **poverty line to Rs 32/day for rural and Rs 47/day for urban areas**, considering **broader consumption patterns** and **socio-economic factors**, including education and health.
 - Estimated poverty rate at 29.5% for 2011-12, **compared to 21.9% by Tendulkar**.
 - **The report is not adopted for official planning or poverty estimates**.

Why is there a Need to Reassess the Food Subsidy Programmes in India?

- **Rising Consumption**: The **Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)** has seen a significant rise across **both rural and urban areas**.
 - In 2023-24, **rural MPCE increased to Rs 4,122** (from Rs 2,079 at 2011-12 prices), marking a **45% rise** from 2011-12 levels, while **urban MPCE reached Rs 6,996** (from Rs 3,632 at 2011-12 prices), reflecting a **38% increase**.
- **Decline in Poverty Levels**: A recent [study by SBI \(2025\)](#) estimates **India's poverty ratio at 4-4.5% in 2024**, with **extreme poverty** of around **6.7 crore people** in poverty.
 - Using the **inflation-adjusted Tendulkar poverty line**, it estimated that **rural poverty** declined from **25.7% in FY12 to 4.86% in FY24**, while **urban poverty** fell from **13.7% in FY12 to 4.09% in FY24**.
 - **India's extreme poverty fell to 8.7% (12.9 crore people) in 2024** from **21.9% in 2011-12 (World Bank)**.
 - **Only 11.28% of the population was living in multidimensional poverty in FY23**, as per the [MPI](#).
- **Discrepancy in NFSA Beneficiary Coverage**: The NFSA provides subsidized food to **81 crore people (75% rural and 50% urban population)**.
 - However, **with poverty now around 10%**, the **coverage exceeds the actual need**, indicating that many **Priority Household (PHH)** beneficiaries **may no longer require subsidies**.
- **Opportunity Cost of Food Subsidy**: The government spends **Rs 2 lakh crore annually on NFSA**.
 - Rationalizing beneficiary coverage could **free up resources for key sectors** like **employment generation, industrial growth, and social infrastructure**.
- **Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)**: It also recommended **reducing the PDS coverage to 40% of the population** to better target subsidies.

What are the Key Highlights of the HCES 2023-24?

Click to Read: [Key Findings of the HCES 2023-24](#)

What is the Status of Poverty in India?

Click to Read: [Poverty in India](#)

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) & Priority Households (PHH)

- Under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**, beneficiaries are categorized into **AAY and PHH**.
- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Households**: AAY covers the **poorest of the poor**, including landless laborers, marginal farmers, and daily wage earners. Each household receives **35 kg of food grains per month** under NFSA.
- **Priority Households (PHH)**: PHH includes **vulnerable populations** identified by states based on socio-economic criteria.

- Each member is entitled to **5 kg of food grains per month**, totaling around **20 kg per family** (average size: 4.2).
- **Coverage:** AAY covers around **9 crore people**, while PHH covers **72 crore people**, making up **NFSA's 81 crore total beneficiaries**.

What is the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013?

Click to Read: [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#)

How Can Food Subsidy Programmes Be Made More Effective?

- **Data-Driven Targeting:** Using **HCES 2023-24 data**, NFSA **beneficiary lists can be rationalised based on current poverty levels**.
 - Setting **clear inclusion and exclusion criteria** will help ensure that only those who truly need assistance receive benefits.
- **Gradual Reform of Food Subsidies:** Continue food subsidies for **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households** while transitioning **Priority Households (PHH)** to **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** for greater flexibility.
 - Implement a **phased plan to reduce subsidized foodgrain dependence for non-poor households**.
- **Technology-Driven Transparency:** Use **Aadhaar-linked databases** and **AI-based monitoring** to prevent **leakages**, while **integrating tax, vehicle, and employment records** to update beneficiary lists.
- **Shift Toward Nutritional Security:** Focus on **providing nutrient-rich foods** (fruits, vegetables, pulses) to **combat micronutrient deficiencies** like **anemia** and **stunted growth**.
 - As per the **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2023)**, around **74% of India's population could not afford a healthy diet**.
- **Local Purchase with DBT:** Allow beneficiaries to **purchase food from local markets** using **DBT-linked accounts**, **reducing transportation costs** and making distribution more efficient, thereby lowering the food subsidy bill.
- **Universal Basic Income (UBI) and Policy Realignment:** Introduce **UBI** or **unemployment benefits** to provide **direct financial support**, ensuring a **minimum standard of living**.
 - As spending shifts towards education, healthcare, and housing, food security policies must adapt to **focus on broader socio-economic needs**, improving **access to essential services** alongside affordable food.

Conclusion

With the significant **reduction in poverty levels and enhanced household consumption** capacity, the expansive coverage of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** may require **reassessment**. **Optimizing the food subsidy program** can help **reallocate resources** towards employment generation and economic growth, fostering a **more sustainable and inclusive welfare system for India**.

Drishti Mains Question:

Examine the need for reassessing food subsidy programs in India. Suggest measures to enhance efficiency and targeting in food distribution.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development

Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (2012)

1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
2. Purchasing power parity at national level
3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (2016)

Q. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance? (2016)

IAEA Backs India's NSG Bid via MECR

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#) has backed India's entry into the [Nuclear Suppliers Group \(NSG\)](#), a key body within the 4 major [Multilateral Export Control Regimes \(MECR\)](#).

What are Multilateral Export Control Regimes (MECR)?

- **About:** MECR are **voluntary frameworks** aimed at **preventing the proliferation of [Weapons of Mass Destruction \(WMDs\)](#)** and **restricting the transfer of sensitive technologies**.
 - India is a member of **3 out of the 4** MECRs, **except the NSG**.
- **Key Features:** They function **independently of the United Nations (UN)**.
 - Their regulations **apply only to members**, and **participation is voluntary**.

4 Major Regimes:

- **Australia Group (AG):**
 - AG was formed in **1985** as an **informal forum of 43 countries** aimed at **preventing** the proliferation of **chemical and biological weapons**.
 - The group helps members comply with the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#) and [Biological & Toxin Weapons Convention](#).
 - **India joined it in 2018**, strengthening its position for membership in the **NSG** and

advancing global non-proliferation objectives.

▪ **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR):**

- MTCR is a **voluntary, informal partnership of 35 countries**, established in **1987**, which aims to **limit the proliferation of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** capable of delivering **WMDs**.
- It **restricts the supply of such systems to non-members** and is based on **consensus decisions**.
- India joined as the **35th member in 2016**, gaining access to advanced missile technologies. Members are obligated to **share military information and consult on exports**.

▪ **Wassenaar Arrangement:**

- It aims to **regulate the transfer of conventional arms and dual-use technologies**.
- It establishes **lists of sensitive items for export controls** to **prevent destabilizing arms buildups** and ensures that **transfers do not enhance military capabilities** that could undermine global stability.
- Member countries are required to **implement controls and report on the transfer of controlled items**.
- **India joined it in 2017**.

▪ **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG):**

- NSG was formed in response to **India's 1974 nuclear tests**, aims to **prevent nuclear proliferation** by **regulating nuclear and related exports**.
- It has **48 members** and a **Trigger List** that **restricts the export of certain nuclear items** to **non-nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) signatories**.
- India's NSG membership bid has been **blocked by China**, which calls for **non-discriminatory procedures** for **countries outside the NPT** and **links India's entry to Pakistan's membership**, despite Pakistan's ineligibility.

India And NSG

NSG

- Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) is a 48-nation body that controls the global nuclear commerce.
- Set up in 1974 after India's nuclear test.



India's Aspirations

- India has sought NSG membership since 2008.
- Key members—USA, Russia, France, Australia and Japan have been supportive of India's entry into the select club.
- NSG had granted 'Clean Waiver' to India in 2008 after intense lobbying by USA.
- Following the **Clean Waiver**, Delhi has signed several civilian nuclear pacts with US, France, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Canada, UK, Argentina and Australia.

Challenges in India's bid

- Pakistan, backed by China, is also lobbying to become an NSG Member.
- Both Pakistan and India are Non-signatory of NPT.
- Since Pakistan's is unlikely, exercise seems aimed at sabotaging India's prospects.

IAEA

- It was established in 1957 for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and preventing its military use, including nuclear weapons.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.
- It reports to both the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the UN Security Council (UNSC).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. In India, why are some nuclear reactors kept under “IAEA safeguards” while others are not? (2020)

- (a) Some use uranium and others use thorium
- (b) Some use imported uranium and others use domestic supplies
- (c) Some are operated by foreign enterprises and others are operated by domestic enterprises
- (d) Some are State-owned and others are privately owned

Ans: (b)

Q. In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the ‘Additional Protocol’ with the ‘International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)’? (2018)

- (a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.
- (b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.
- (c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- (d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

Ans: (a)

Need for Reforms in CBI

Source: HT

Why in News?

The [Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee](#) on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in its 145th report recommended significant reforms in the [Central Bureau of Investigation \(CBI\)](#).

What are the Key Reforms Recommended by the Parliamentary

Committee?

- **Independent Recruitment Framework:** Establish a **CBI-specific exam via SSC, UPSC**, or an independent body to create a **permanent cadre** with **structured career growth**.
 - Establish an **in-house expert team** to reduce reliance on external specialists.
 - Retain **deputation only for senior positions** that require diverse experience.
- **Lateral Entry:** Introduce **lateral entry** for specialists in **cybercrime, forensics, financial fraud, and legal domains**.
 - Reduce dependence on external specialists by creating **in-house expertise teams**.
- **Separate Law for CBI:** Enact a **separate law** to grant CBI **wider investigative powers** in cases affecting **national security and integrity** without requiring state consent.
 - The withdrawal of **general consent** by **8 states** has restricted the CBI from investigating **corruption** and **organized crime**.
 - Under **Section 6** of the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946** CBI requires **state government consent** to investigate cases within a state unless:
 - The Supreme Court, High Court, or Lokpal orders the investigation.
 - The state has granted general consent for certain categories of cases.

What are Departmental Related Standing Committees?

Click Here to Read: [Departmental Related Standing Committees](#)

What are Key Facts About CBI?

- **Establishment:** Formed in 1963 based on the **Santhanam Committee's** recommendations (1962-64).
- **Role:** It investigates cases related to **bribery, government corruption, central law violations, multi-state crime, and international cases**.
 - India's nodal agency for coordinating investigations with **Interpol**.
- **Legal Framework:** Operates under the **DSPE Act, 1946**.
- **Administrative Control:** Functions under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (PMO)**.
- **Supervision:**
 - **Corruption Cases:** **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** oversees investigations under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**.
 - **Other Cases:** Supervised by **DoPT** under the **Ministry of Personnel**.
- **CBI Director Appointment:** Recommended by a committee comprising the **PM, Leader of Opposition, and CJI (or SC judge)** under the **Lokpal Act, 2013**.
 - Tenure: **2 years**, extendable up to **5 years** in the public interest.

Drishti Mains Question:

Q.Examine the significance of investigative autonomy for CBI in cases affecting national security and integrity.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains:

Q. The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting a probe within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of the States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (2021)

Exercise Prachand Prahaar

[Source: TH](#)

The Indian Army conducted the **tri-service integrated multi-domain warfare exercise Prachand Prahaar** under the Eastern Command in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

About Exercise Prachand Prahaar:

- The exercise follows '**Exercise Poorvi Prahar**' (Nov 2024) conducted along the **India-China border**, focusing on integrated use of aviation assets.
- **It aims to enhance operational readiness and integration across the Army, Navy, and Air Force**, while validating an **integrated approach to surveillance, command, control, and precision firepower** in modern warfare scenarios.
- It featured **advanced platforms**, including **long-range reconnaissance aircraft, UAVs, armed helicopters, and space-based assets**.
- Simulated targets were neutralized through **coordinated strikes involving fighter aircraft, rocket systems, artillery and kamikaze drones** (suicide drones or loitering munitions) in an **electronically contested environment** to replicate real battlefield conditions.

Joint Military Exercises of India with Other Countries	
Name of Exercise	Country
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
Ekuverin	Maldives
Hand-in-Hand	China
Kurukshetra	Singapore
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia
Shakti	France
Surya Kiran	Nepal
Yudh Abhyas	USA

Read More: [Major Military Exercises of India](#)
