

# Theme 4: Social justice

- Health
  - COVID 19 - Atmanirbhar package
  - Best model – Dharavi
  - Post-COVID 19: Poverty and Hunger
- Education
  - National Education Policy 2020
  - Online learning during COVID
- Miscellaneous
  - National Recruitment Agency
  - Swachha Sarvekshan 2020
  - Surrogacy Bill 2020
  - Reservation- recent important judgements

# HEALTH

- COVID 19 - Atmanirbhar package
  - Best model - Dharavi
- Post-COVID: Poverty and Hunger

# 1) COVID 19- Atmanirbhar package

- Total 5 Tranche

# 1<sup>st</sup> Tranche: 5.94 lakh crore

## Lockdown antidote

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the features for the first part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

### For small businesses

- **₹3,00,000 crore** emergency credit for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Only domestic firms can bid for govt. procurements up to **₹200 crore**

### For employees/ tax payers

- EPF deductions slashed for 3 months to **20% from 24%** of salary; IT returns deadline extended
- This will enhance take-home pay if employers pass it on, but dent retirement savings

### For infrastructure sector

- Power PSUs to lend **₹90,000 crore** to stressed State distribution

companies

- Deadlines for realty projects and public infrastructure contracts extended

### For financial sector

- Fresh **₹45,000 crore** partial credit guarantees for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)
- **₹30,000 crore** special liquidity for microfinance/ housing finance firms and NBFCs



**Relief at hand:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressing a press conference to announce details of the economic stimulus package in New Delhi on Wednesday.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche: Rs 3.1 lakh crore

## SOCIAL SPREAD

The second tranche of the economic stimulus package provides relief to migrant workers, farmers and street vendors

**1] FREE FOOD FOR MIGRANT WORKERS**  
5 kg grain/person, 1 kg chana/family per month for 2 months  
Nationally valid ration card  
**cost ₹3,500 crore**

**2] CHEAP RENTAL HOUSING FOR MIGRANT WORKERS/ URBAN POOR**  
Govt funded housing to be used for this under PPP mode  
Incentives for industry/states to build such houses on own land

**3] CHEAP LOAN FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**  
2% interest subvention on Mudra Shishu loans (up to ₹50,000)  
**cost ₹1,500 crore**

**4] LOANS FOR STREET VENDORS**  
Working capital loan up to ₹10,000  
**cost ₹5,000 crore**



**5] JOB CREATION USING CAMPA\* FUNDS**  
₹6,000 cr of works  
(\* Compensatory Afforestation Mgmtt & Planning Authority)

**6] CREDIT FOR FARMERS**  
₹30,000 crore additional emergency working capital from Nabard  
₹2 lakh cr concessional credit through Kisan Credit Card

**7] AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME EXTENDED**  
Subsidy scheme extended till March 2021    250,000 families to benefit    ₹70,000 crore investment seen

### WHAT IT MEANS

- Farmers get more and cheap credit to tide over crisis
- Boost to construction
- Street vendors get funds to start again
- Migrant workers get food and sustenance through MGNREGA



### BUDGET IMPACT

- STIMULUS LARGELY IN TERMS OF BANK CREDIT
- SMALL IMMEDIATE COST TO GOVT

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Tranche: 1.5 lakh crore

## Booster dose

The third tranche of the measures announced under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** focuses on agriculture and allied activities

- Funds worth **₹1 lakh crore** to be given to agricultural cooperative societies, farmer producer organisations and

- start-ups for boosting farm-gate infrastructure

- **₹10,000 crore** for formalisation of micro-food enterprises; cluster-based farming approach to be followed

- **₹20,000 crore** for fishermen under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana; expected to pave way for additional fish production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years

- **₹13,000 crore** drive to achieve 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalos, sheep, goats and pigs

- **₹15,000 crore** boost for animal husbandry infrastructure

- **₹4,000 crore** for promotion of herbal cultivation; 10 lakh hectares to be covered

- **₹500 crore** for beekeeping initiatives

- Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to be amended to de-regulate **cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, pulses, onion and potato**

- Marketing reforms to be undertaken to provide adequate choice for **farmers to sell produce** at prices of their choice



A farmer carries strawberries after harvesting them in Srinagar on Friday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

# 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> tranche: 48k crore

## Breaking down walls

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman announced a set of structural reforms across sectors as a part of the efforts to boost a sagging economy



### COAL

Commercial mining on a revenue sharing basis to be introduced. Companies in the private sector will be allowed to carry out exploration



### MINERALS

Composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime for minerals to be announced. 500 mining blocks will be auctioned



### DEFENCE

A list of weapons/platforms for ban on import will be notified. FDI limit in manufacturing under automatic route to be raised to 74%



### CIVIL AVIATION

Restrictions on utilisation of the airspace will be eased so that flying becomes efficient. Now, only 60% of the airspace is freely available



### POWER

Power departments/utilities and distribution

companies in U.T.s to be privatised. It will be in line with the tariff policy which is to be announced



### SPACE

Privatisation to be introduced. Planetary exploration, outer space travel to be opened to the private sector



### ATOMIC ENERGY

Research reactor in PPP mode to be set up for the production of medical isotopes



# 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> tranche: 48k crore

## Final dose

The fifth tranche of the economic package under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was announced on Sunday

### Health



- Public spending to be increased; more health and wellness centres
- Infectious diseases hospitals and public health labs to be set up in all districts

### Disinvestment



- Public sector firms in non-strategic sectors to be privatised
- No more than four public sector undertakings to remain in 'strategic' sectors; to be notified soon

### States



- Borrowing ceiling raised from ₹6.41 lakh crore (3% of GSDP) to ₹10.69 lakh crore
- Only a quarter of this hike is unconditional; rest are linked to reforms in specified areas

### Unemployment



- MGNREGS allocation hiked by ₹40,000 crore to fund 300 crore person days
- Aimed at giving migrants who have returned home an income option

### Industry



- Fresh insolvency proceedings suspended for a year, eligible loan size to be hiked from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore
- COVID-19 related debt not to trigger defaults; firms can list abroad directly

- Analysis of Atmanirbhar bharat package
- Strengths
  - As a whole 10pc of GDP
  - At par with most other countries - global standards... Others also have a mix of FP , credit guarantees, monetary policy.. we are already short in resources... Can spend like japan 21pc
  - Mix of short term medium and long term
  - Includes important Structural reforms esp agriculture 1991

- Issues

- Actual fiscal relief only 1pc... Quantity less....
- Actual additional spending is also 1pc of GDP
- Lack of immediate relief
- Sector specific relief missing
- Most measures either indirect or
- Old wine in new bottle

# Possible questions

- Evaluate the adequacy of Atmanirbhar package in India's fight against corona with special focus on other global models
- Discuss the features of Atmanirbhar Package and evaluate its pros and cons
- Atmanirbhar package is an old wine in new bottle. Evaluate

## 2) Best model – Dharavi

- Dharavi model: Why special?
  - Growth rate from 12pc to now at 1.02 pc
  - Largest slum of Asia
    - Area of just 2.4 sq km
    - Population: 8.5 lakh
    - Density: 2.27 lakh persons per.sqkm
  - 8-10 people in 10×10 spaces
  - 80pc people depend on community toilet
  - Was the biggest potential time bomb!



- Strategy used in Dharavi model
  - **Pulse Oximeteres** – detect asymptomatic patients with high specificity and sensitivity
    - Oxygen saturation below 92 is immediately alerted..
    - normal levels is 95-100...
    - But over period of time, people get used to low levels n seem asymptomatic
    - detects low oxygen levels in otherwise asymptomatic patient.
  - Institutional quarantine as no space at home. So home quarantine not possible
  - 4Ts track trace test treat
  - Ramped up infra - fever clinics, mobile vans, private clinics,... Proactive manner... First fever clinic came up just 3 days after 1st case
  - Trust building- distribution of dates and sweets in isolation wards during Ramzan.
  - Ngos role

### 3) Post-COVID 19: Poverty and Hunger (updates and stats)

- Extreme poverty numbers(below \$1.90/person/day) are expected to rise for first time since 1990 globally and in India
  - Currently: India's extreme poverty rate 13.3 pc ( Absolute Number = 175 million)

If Global GDP contracts	Rise in extreme poor (India)
5%	35.4 million
10%	75.2 million
20%	178.5 million

- Contrast: it took 11 years(2005-06 to 2016-17) to lift 271 million people out of extreme poverty

- Global estimates of poverty

# Covid-19 Could Push Half A Billion People Into Poverty

Additional people in poverty due to a 20% income drop caused by a Covid-19 recession\*



\* Poverty level - people earning below \$5.50 per day

Source: Oxfam



- Impact on Children (study by John Hopkins institute of public health)
  - 369 million children denied free school meals due to lockdown
  - Addition of 90-117 million in number of poor children
    - Before covid : 584 million poor children already
  - 1.2 million additional child deaths in 6 months
    - Pre-covid :2.5 million deaths in 6 months
  - 117 million children who could miss measles vaccine
  - 38 countries have put polio drives on hold

# Possible questions

- Corona can undo the major gains of all the poverty alleviation programmes of at least a decade. Discuss
- Poverty and Hunger can be the biggest reason behind lost generation. Discuss in the context of Corona
- Discuss the trajectory of poverty alleviation with special focus on recent developments

# EDUCATION

- National Education Policy 2020
- Online learning during COVID-19

## 1) National Education Policy 2020

- The [National Education Policy 2020](#) announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development sets for itself the goal of transforming the system to meet the needs of 21st Century India.
- To be implemented completely by 2040

Background=>



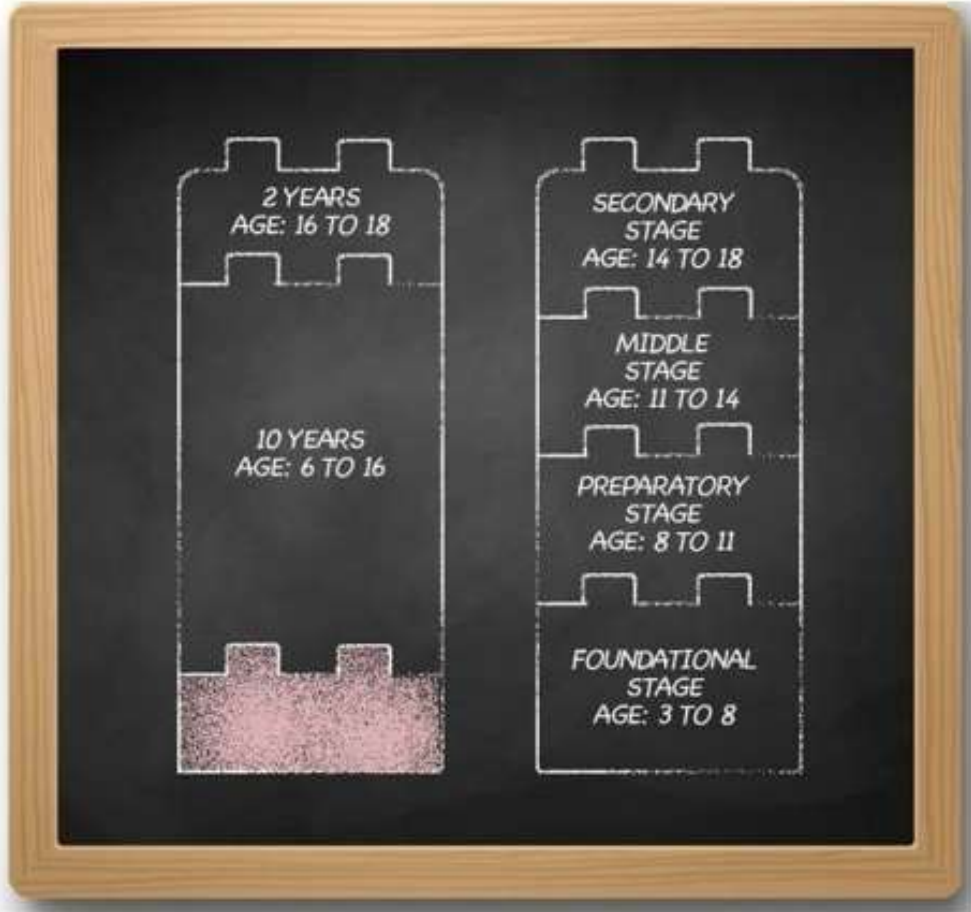
**What purpose does a National Education Policy serve?**

A National Education Policy or NEP is a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country. A new policy usually comes along every few decades. The latest policy is India's third. It replaces the 1986 NEP, which was in place for 34 years.

## What about school education?

\* Focus on overhauling curriculum, "reformed" Board exams, reduction in the syllabus and a thrust on "experiential learning and critical thinking".

\* Unlike the present uniform 10+2 structure of school education, pitch to reconfigure pedagogy in a "5+3+3+4" design.



\* Emphasis on teaching students up to Class V in their mother tongue.

## • Analysis

- Reduction in syllabus, simplification of exam and emphasis on critical thinking is contingent on implementation details
- 5+3+3+4 is merely formalising preschool. It doesn't alter the number of schooling years of the old 10+2 pattern
- Emphasis on mother tongue to improve grasping is not new. Again its just a recommendation (**not binding**)
  - No impact on existence English medium schools

- New things in school education

- Expansion of RTE's compulsory education from 6-14 to 3-18
- Vocational education will now start in schools from the 6th grade and will include internships.
- National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be set up by the education ministry.
  - By 2025, states will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all students by grade 3.

# Reforms in Higher Education

- multi-exit four-year multidisciplinary bachelor's programme
- focus on multiple disciplines institutions like IITs
- Internationalisation (Glocalisation) of higher education
  - Globalise local and localise global
- doing away with the M Phil programme
- cap on fee charged by private institutions in the [higher education](#) space
- one common entrance exam for admissions to all the universities and colleges for undergraduate degrees
  - National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct.
  - This exam will not be compulsory though, and
  - will be similar to the Standardised Aptitude Test or SAT of USA for admissions to universities

# Analysis

## **How will the multi-exit four-year multidisciplinary bachelor's programme work?**

- This pitch, interestingly, comes six years after Delhi University was forced to scrap such a four-year undergraduate programme at the incumbent government's behest.
- However, multi-exit options provide flexibility: students can exit -
  - after one year with a certificate (inc vocational and professional)
  - after two years with a diploma, and
  - after three years with a bachelor's degree.
- Note: 4 year course is not binding either
- No change in masters programme

## Will the focus on multiple disciplines not dilute the character of single-stream institutions, such as IITs?

- The IITs are already moving in that direction.
  - IIT-Delhi has a humanities department and set up a public policy department recently.
  - IIT-Kharagpur has a School of Medical Science and Technology.
- International practice: Some of the best universities in the US such as MIT have very strong humanities departments.
- A lot more factors go into anything related to engineering today.
  - **Eg** Civil engineer: Knowing how to build a dam is not going to solve a problem. He needs to know the environmental and social impact of building the dam.
  - Many engineers are also becoming entrepreneurs. Should they not know something about economics?

## How does the government plan to open up higher education to foreign players?

- The document states universities from among the top 100 in the world will be able to set up campuses in India.
  - While it doesn't elaborate the parameters to define the top 100, the incumbent government may use the 'QS World University Rankings' as it has relied on these in the past while selecting universities for the 'Institute of Eminence' status.
  - However, none of this can start unless the HRD Ministry brings in a new law that includes details of how foreign universities will operate in India.
- It is not clear if a new law would enthruse the best universities abroad to set up campuses in India.
  - Past experience: In 2013, at the time the UPA-II was trying to push a similar Bill, The Indian Express had reported that the top 20 global universities, including Yale, Cambridge, MIT and Stanford, had shown no interest in entering the Indian market.
- Present status:
  - Participation of foreign universities in India is currently limited to
    1. entering into collaborative twinning programmes,
    2. sharing faculty with partnering institutions and
    3. offering distance education.
  - Over 650 foreign education providers have such arrangements in India.

## **Will the states accept NHEC and SAT-like college test by (NTA) ?**

- The idea of a National Higher Education Regulatory Council as an apex control organisation is bound to be resented by States.
- Similarly, a national body for aptitude tests would have to convince the States of its merits.

## **What impact will doing away with the M Phil programme have?**

- M Phil was a middle research degree between a master's and a PhD. Those who have entered MPhil, more often than not ended their studies with a PhD degree.

## **Will a cap on fee charged by private institutions in the higher education space help?**

- fee regulations exist in some States even now, but the regulatory process is unable to rein in profiteering in the form of unaccounted donations.

# Other Reforms in Higher education

- The new policy aims to **increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher** educations, including vocational education, from 26.3 per cent (2018) to **50 per cent** by 2035.
  - For this, 35 million new seats will be added to [higher education](#) institutions.
- The government will set up a **National Research Foundation (NRF)** with the aim of catalysing and energising research and innovation across all academic disciplines, particularly at the university and college levels.
- **SAT-like college test** - The National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct a common college entrance exam twice every year.
- Over the next 15 years, colleges will be given graded autonomy to issue degrees. Affiliation with universities will end, and these institutions will be given the status of 'deemed to be university'.
- The New policy suggests a cap on fee charged by private institutions in the [higher education](#) space.

# Structural and Regulatory reforms

- Single overarching umbrella body for promotion of higher education sector including teacher education and excluding medical and legal education- the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)-
- with independent bodies for standard setting- the General Education Council;
- funding-Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC);
- accreditation- National Accreditation Council (NAC); and
- regulation- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)

# Miscellaneous reforms (FYI)

- The National Education Policy aims to achieve 100 per cent youth and adult literacy.
- To ensure the preservation of all Indian languages, the NEP recommends setting up
  - Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation,
  - National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit,
  - strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in [higher education](#) institutions.
- A separate Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups;

## **How will these reforms be implemented?**

- The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow.
- Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the states.
- This will not happen immediately. The incumbent government has set a target of 2040 to implement the entire policy.
- Sufficient funding is also crucial; the 1968 NEP was hamstrung by a shortage of funds.
  - Progress on these crucially depends on the will to spend the promised 6% of GDP as public expenditure on education.
- The government plans to set up subject-wise committees with members from relevant ministries at both the central and state levels to develop implementation plans for each aspect of the NEP. The plans will list out actions to be taken by multiple bodies, including the HRD Ministry, state Education Departments, school Boards, among others.
- Planning will be followed by a yearly joint review of progress against targets set.

# Possible questions

- The new education policy 2020 emphasises on experiential learning and critical thinking. Discuss the challenges in its effective implementation
- What are the features of New Education Policy? How is it different from the previous policy? Evaluate the pros and cons of its implementation
- Analyse the New Education Policy 2020 with special focus on higher education

## 2) Online learning during COVID-19

- **Benefits**

- Teacher
  - Quantity and quality issues sorted out.. good teachers can take multiple assignment
- Student
  - Customized learning and access in long run
- Learning
  - New e-tools audio video representation like volcano eruption, culture, monuments, hd pictures
  - Syllabus update - techno intervention
- long run.. more accessible

- **Negatives/drawbacks**

- Access in short run(main issues)
  - Digital divide as of now... Suicides in punjab kerala
- Learning
  - Socialisation, interaction, interpersonal competence, training for real life, humour
  - - the process of learning to behave in a way that is acceptable to society
  - - process of internalizing the norms and ideologies of society
- Teacher
  - Feedback realtime eyes, expression
  - Short run - not equipped
- 4. Students
  - Distraction ... Mobile and laptops
  - Unnecessary content
  - Eyes - screen time, addiction

- Way forward - hybrid model
  - 1. Blended learning - online + offline
  - 2. Flipped classroom - offline videos outside the school hours and activities during classes

# Possible question

- “Accessibility” is both the biggest strength and the drawback of online learning. Elaborate
- Online learning in Covid-19 comes up with its own benefits but it is not without its drawbacks. Discuss

# MISCELLANEOUS

- National Recruitment Agency
- Swachha Sarvekshan 2020
  - Surrogacy Bill 2020
- Reservation- recent judgements

# National Recruitment Agency

- to conduct an online Common Eligibility Test (CET) for selecting candidates for majority of central government jobs.
- **different CETs for graduate level, 12th Pass level and 10th pass level**
- **To begin with CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies:** viz. Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection.
- CET will be **held in 1,000 centres across India** in a to bid remove the currently prevalent urban bias.
  - **examination centre in every district** of the country.
- No restriction on number of attempts. But upper age limit for general category
  - Exam to be held twice a year

- **Benefits**

- **Reduce redundancy in exams – no need to appear in prelims every year**
- **Replace multiple examinations** conducted by different recruiting agencies for selection to government jobs advertised each year, with single online test.
- **Increase access to examination centres** especially for women candidates from rural areas & poor candidates as it will be **conducted in each district.**
- **Ease of selection, ease of job placement, ease of living and speedy recruitment.**

# Possible questions

- National recruitment agency will go a long way in streamlining the recruitment processes in India. Discuss
- Discuss the mandate and the need of the recently set up National recruitment agency

# Swachha Sarvekshan 2020

- Basics

- It is an **annual ranking** conducted annually by **Quality council of India** under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and urban affairs to assess urban areas of country on their **levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** in a timely & innovative manner.
  - world's largest urban sanitation and cleanliness survey.
- It was **launched in 2016**

- Swachh Survekshan 2020 is the **5th edition** and
- covered 4,242 cities, 62 cantonment boards and 92
- Ganga towns
- **Highlights of survey**
  - **Indore emerged as the cleanest Indian city** fourth time in a row followed by Surat.
  - **Cleanest capital city** - New Delhi (Union Territory of New Delhi) and the NDMC.
  - **Cleanest state with more than 100 cities** – Chhattisgarh.
  - **Cleanest state with less than 100 cities** –Jharkhand.
  - **Cleanest Ganga town** – Varanasi.



## Swachh Survekshan 2020 Weightage



25% of SS League 2020 Weightage being added in final SS-2020

- Under service level progress, all the cities will be evaluated on varied parameters including:
  - Collection and transportation of municipal solid waste
  - Processing and disposal of municipal solid waste
  - Sustainable sanitation
  - IEC (Information, Education and Communication)
  - Capacity building
  - Innovation and best practices

# Possible questions

- Swachha Sarvekshan is the silent contributor to the Swachha Bharat Abhiyan. Discuss
- Discuss the parameters of Swachha Sarvekshan with special focus on its benefits

# Surrogacy Bill 2020

- Updated Provisions of the Bill (based on recommendations of RS Select Committee)
  - **Eligibility** to be a surrogate mother: Any willing woman can act as a surrogate mother as per the provisions of this Act.
  - **definition** of infertility has **been deleted**.
  - **Age limit**, any couple that are married and are between the ages of
    - 23 to 50 years in case of female
    - 26 to 55 years in case of male
  - **Increase in period of Insurance coverage** surrogate mother to 36 months (from 16 months).
  - Permission **to PIO, OCI and foreigners** to commission Surrogacy
  - **Single woman** (divorcee or widow) and persons of Indian origin (couples or single women) have been made eligible for commissioning surrogacy

# Possible questions

- Enumerate the salient features of Surrogacy Bill 2020. Evaluate its pros and cons
- The recent changes in the Surrogacy Bill can catalyse commercialisation of womb. Critically examine

# Reservation- recent judgements

- **Concept check: Horizontal vs Vertical reservation**
  - **Horizontal reservation: Minimum Guarantee System :**
    - Subcategories like women, differently abled
  - **Vertical reservation: Over and Above System :**
    - Categories like SC, ST, OBC

- **Madhya Pradesh HC judgment in 2020**

- state government had appointed a woman from OBC category as asst.prof in general category as she had topped the list of all candidates who had under and outside quota system
- Court ruled: no migration allowed in compartmentalised horizontal reservation even if candidates had not used the benefits of quota to gain eligibility
  - Eg. UPSC AIR 1 case in past
- However, Supreme court stayed the order and clarified the provision
  - General category is not an implied reservation
  - If a reserved category candidate qualifies general cut off at all levels is equally eligible

- **Supreme court judgement 2020: Right to reservation is not a fundamental right**
  - Plea sought 50% reservation of seats in medical colleges for OBCs in Tamil Nadu.
    - Tamil Nadu has a special case of 69% reservation which includes 50% OBC quota (protected by 9<sup>th</sup> schedule)
    - When TN surrendered its seats to centre in All India quota, they got a total of 50% reservation at par with other states
  - Petition was filed by DMK, CPI and TN Congress committee

# Possible questions

- What do you understand by horizontal reservation? Discuss its present status in light of recent judgements
- Right to reservation is not a fundamental right. Discuss the implications of the recent supreme court judgement
- Reservation system though essential needs a review. Suggest some ways to make reservations more effective.

# Thank you

- End of Governance sessions