

TARGET MAINS 2022

CURRENT AFFAIRS

SOCIAL ISSUES-3

5 imp news



Topics under discussion

1. Religious minority safeguards ✓✓
2. Occupational safety ✓
3. Inheritance Rights for women ✓✓
4. Prohibition of liquor ✓✓
5. Socio-economic inequalities ✓✓

USA | reports

OSH ✓

post covid era

#1

Increased attacks on people, places of worship in India: Blinken



Sriram Lakshman

WASHINGTON DC JUNE 03, 2022 01:05 IST

UPDATED: JUNE 03, 2022 01:05 IST

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- Recently, the 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom (IRF) was released by the US Department of State.
- The document is distinct from the IRF report released by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).
- USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan federal government entity while the IRF is part of the US State Department. The former's report holds a statutory obligation.

Home ministry

2021 Report on International Religious Freedom

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM / JUNE 2, 2022

The annual Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom – the International Religious Freedom Report – describes the status of religious freedom in every country. The report covers government policies violating religious belief and practices of groups, religious denominations and individuals, and U.S. policies to promote religious freedom around the world. The U.S. Department of State submits the reports in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

US House of International Religious Freedom

1998, the then-US President Bill Clinton signed the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA, 1998) into law.

The US Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) monitors religiously motivated abuses, harassment, and discrimination globally. It recommends, develops and implements policies and programs to address the mentioned concerns.

Highlights of the report - India

- Rising Attacks ✓
- Anti-Conversion laws: 28 states have these laws and arrests were made under them. ✓
- Arrests by Police
- Suspected Terrorists Targeted
- Lynching ✓
- Foreign Contributions Regulations Act

religious minorities ✓
FCRA
Greenpeace



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

In response to media queries regarding the release of U.S. State Department 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom, the Official Spokesperson, Shri Arindam Bagchi said:

"We have noted the release of the U.S. State Department 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom, and ill informed comments by senior U.S. officials.

It is unfortunate that vote bank politics is being practiced in international relations. We would urge that assessments based on motivated inputs and biased views be avoided.

As a naturally pluralistic society, India values religious freedom and human rights. In our discussions with the US, we have regularly highlighted issues of concern there, including racially and ethnically motivated attacks, hate crimes and gun violence."

June 03, 2022

concerned

Highlights of the report - World

Iraq ✓

Vietnam and Nigeria have been cited as countries where religious expression was being curtailed.

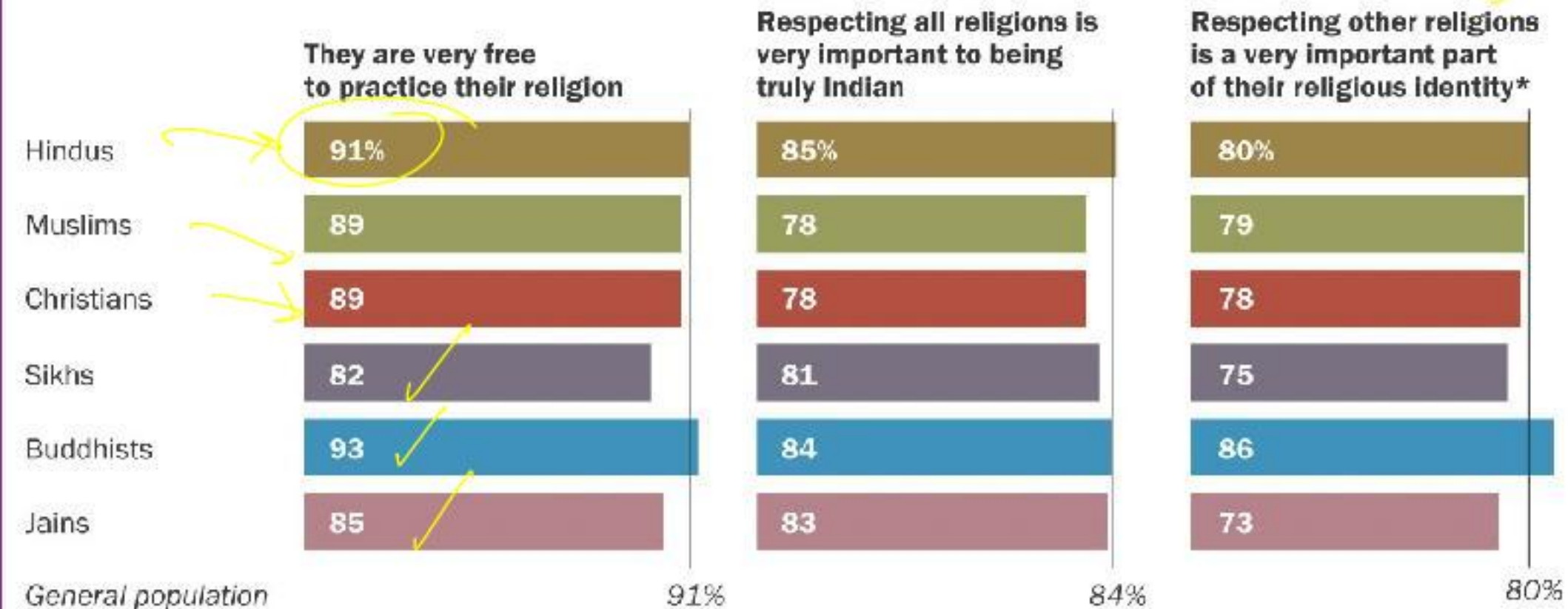
Another set of examples of countries with religious freedom restrictions cited include US ally Saudi Arabia, as well as China, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

China continues its genocide and repression of predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other religious minority groups.

Progress Made: Morocco, Timor Leste, Taiwan and Iraq as examples of countries where

Indians feel they have religious freedom, see respecting all religions as a core value

% of Indian adults who say ...



* Respondents were asked, "Is respecting other religions a very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important part of what being [Hindu/Muslim/etc.] means to you?" The very small share of respondents who do not identify with a religion were not asked this question.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 17, 2019-March 23, 2020, among adults in India. See Methodology for details.

"Religion in India: Tolerance and Segregation"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

State of Freedom of Religion in India

25-28 ✓

29-30

- Article 25 (Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion).
 - Article 26 (Freedom to manage religious affairs).
 - Article 27 (Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any religion).
 - Article 28 (Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions).
-
- Article 29 and 30 of the Constitution deal with the protection of interests of minorities.

Practice Question

In their unparalleled wisdom, the constitution makers ensured adequate safeguards for religious minorities in India. Elaborate.



A dipping graph in occupational safety



K.R. Shyam Sundar

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 00:12 IST

UPDATED: FEBRUARY 14, 2022 11:10 IST

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A safety drill in a factory in Puducherry | Photo Credit: S.S. Kumar

There is a need for a comprehensive review of labour inspection and the labour statistical system

It is a fact that while industrial accidents occur often, only major accidents – say in construction or in a hazardous industry – are reported. Recently, the CRUSHED Report 2021 released by Safe in India (SII), reported in this daily, portrays a dismal picture concerning occupational safety and health in the auto sector. However, occupational safety

Essay → Saturday
7.30 pm
100 jobs
const. factory

- Unfortunately in India, making work environments safer is a low priority, although the productivity benefits of such investments have always been clear.
- The consequences are frequently seen in the form of a large number of fatalities and injuries, but in a market that has a steady supply of labour, policymakers tend to ignore the wider impact of such losses.
- Although occupational safety and health (OSH) is an existential human and labour right, it has not received the due attention from law-makers and even trade unions in India.

TL0

Provisions for ensuring Occupational Safety

- In India, the statistics concerning industrial accidents and eventually occupational safety are produced by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 spells out duties of employers and employees, and envisages safety standards for different sectors, focusing on the health and working condition of workers, hours of work, leaves, etc. The code also recognises the right of contractual workers. The code provides for statutory benefits like social security and wages to fixed-term employees at par with their permanent counterparts.
- The code also brings in gender equality and empowers the women workforce. Women will be entitled to be employed in all establishments for all types of work and, with consent, can work before 6 am and beyond 7 pm subject to such conditions relating to safety, holidays and working hours.

Labour codes

4 codes

Shortcomings of the Statistics Presented by the Labour Bureau

- The available government statistics show a decreasing trend in occupational injuries in manufacturing and mining sectors. However, when interpreting the statistics, the unregistered factories and mines are not covered. During 2011-16, the number of cases of occupational diseases reported to the government in India was only 562. In contrast, a scientific article published in the National Medical Journal of India, 2016, indicates prevalence of occupational diseases such as silicosis and byssinosis.
- The Labour Bureau has not yet expanded the scope of statistics on injuries by adding sectors such as plantations, construction, the service sector, etc.
- Under-reporting is another serious issue which is more likely to be in case of non-fatal injuries than fatal ones for obvious reasons. There is massive under-reporting of industrial injuries in small-scale industries.

150 factories

Rat hole mining?
→ Meghalaya

Status of Employing Factory Inspectors and Inspection Rates

- According to the Directorate General, Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), in 2019, the proportion of working in sanctioned posts for factory inspectors (employment rate) for India was 70.60%. However, major States such as Maharashtra (38.93%), Gujarat (57.52%), Tamil Nadu (58.33%), and Bihar (47.62%) had poor employment rates of inspectors. In 2019, there was only one inspector for every 487 registered factories (one inspector for every 25,415 workers), thus revealing the heavy workload of inspectors.
- The inspection rates for all-India declined from 36.23% during 2008-11 to 34.65% during 2012-2015 and further to 24.76% in 2018-19. The inspection rates fell in almost all the States over the last 12 years.

30% → Food inspectors
Factory inspectors
40%
100

Parliament Passes 3
Historic & Path-breaking
Labour Codes

Occupational Safety & Health Code (OSH) (1/2)



Free health checkup once a year for
workers of more than a certain age



Legal right for getting Appointment
Letter to workers



Cine Workers now designated as Audio
Visual Workers for wider coverage

Possible way forward

- Abiding by the ILO Conventions: It is critical that India establishes efficient Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) data collection systems to better understand the situation for effective interventions.
- Revisiting Existing Policies: The labour codes, especially the OSH Code, the inspection and the labour statistical systems need to be reviewed as the Government is in the process of framing the Vision@2047 document for the Labour Ministry.
- Public Awareness ✓✓
- OSH Committees ✓✓

International
labour Organisation

Vision@2047

Practice Question

The first step towards creating a productive workplace is to make it a safe and healthy workplace. Comment.

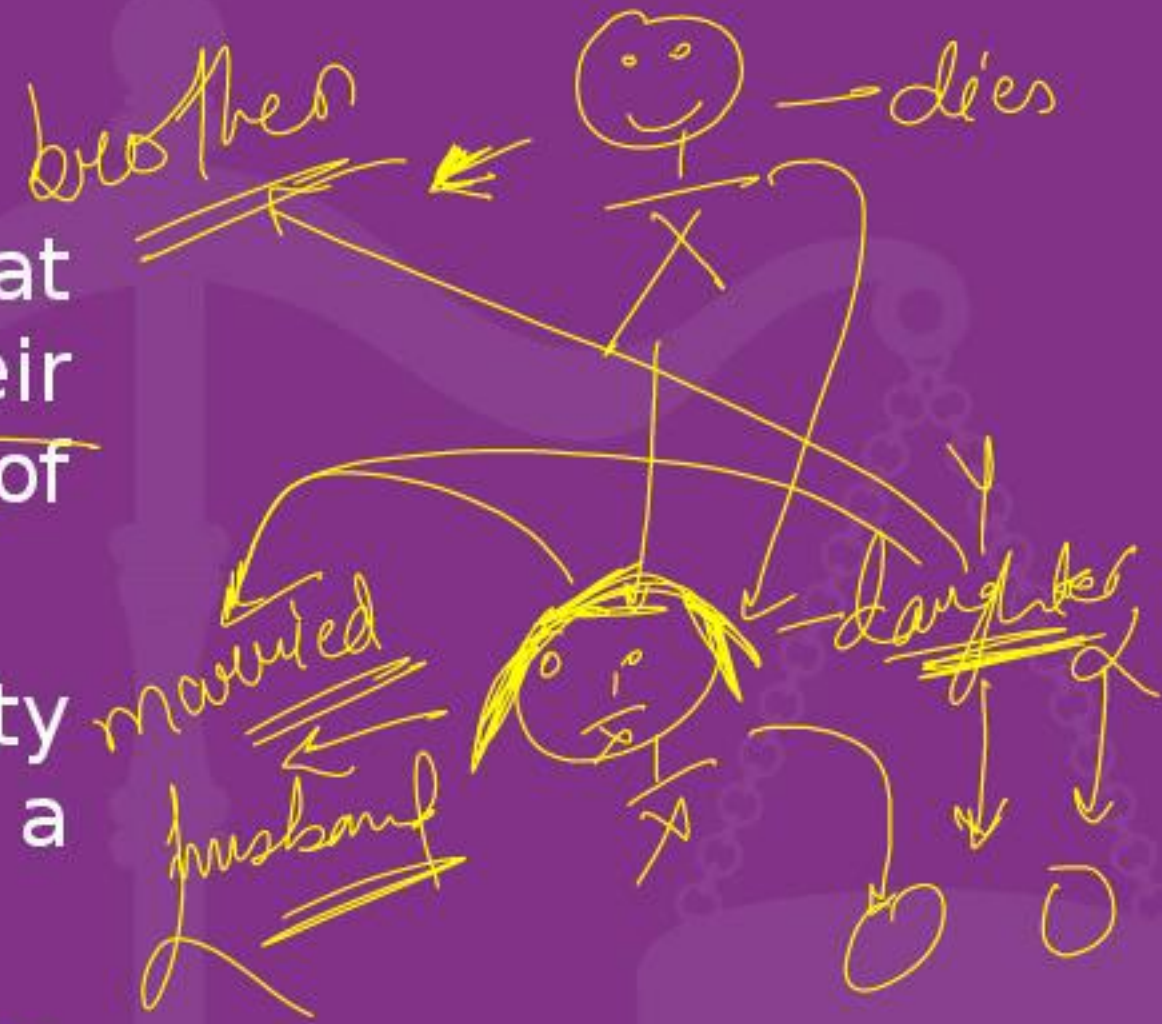




Explained: How the Supreme Court has interpreted inheritance of daughters

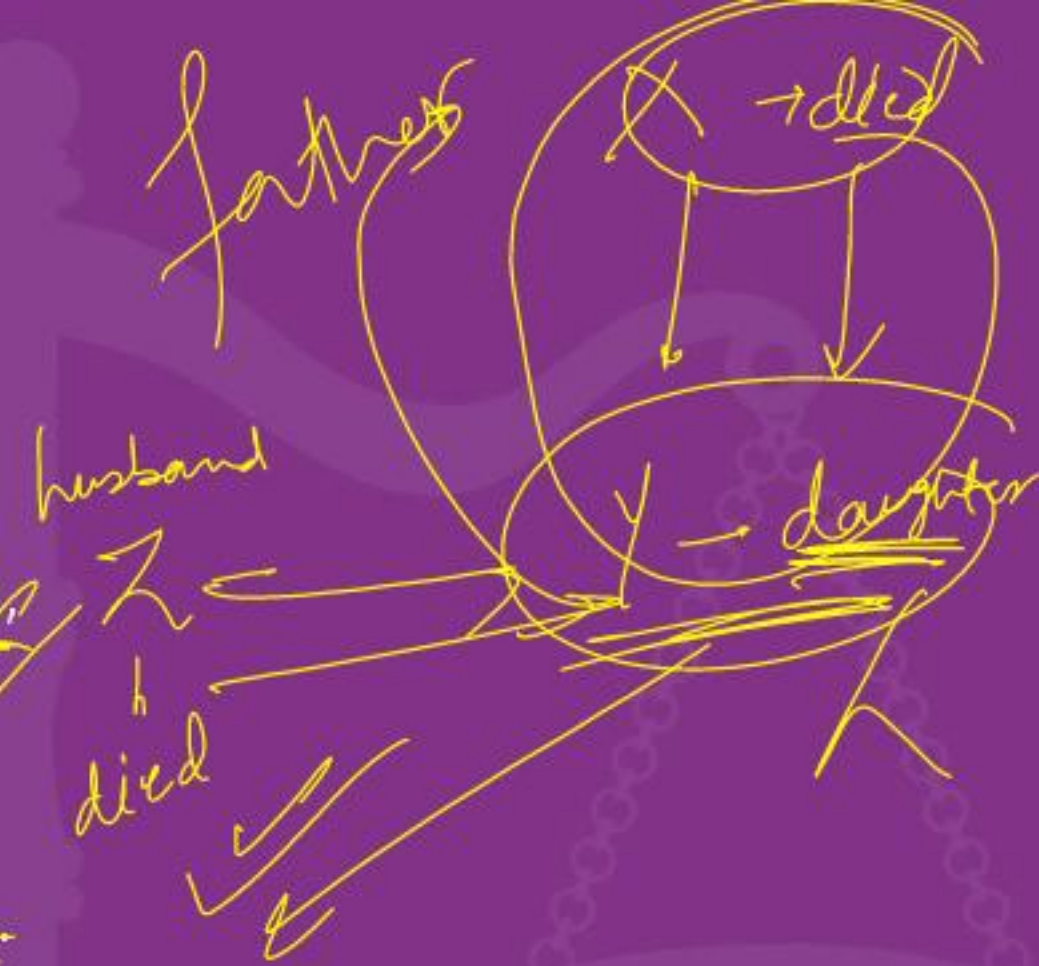
The Supreme Court has ruled that the property of a man who has died without executing a will and is survived only by a daughter will devolve upon the daughter and not others such as his brother. What was the case? How did SC come to this conclusion?

- Recently, the Supreme Court has ruled that daughters will have equal rights to their father's property even prior to the enactment of the Hindu Succession Act (HSA) of 1956.
- The case involved a dispute over the property of a person who died in 1949 leaving behind a daughter who also died issueless in 1967.
- Earlier, the trial court held that since the person had died prior to the enforcement of HSA, 1956 therefore the petitioner and her other sisters were not the heirs as on the date of his death and was not entitled to partition of share in the suit properties. Later, the High Court, too, dismissed the appeal against the trial court.



Important pointers

- ✓ Daughters Inheritance: It ruled that the property of a man who had died without executing a will and is survived only by a daughter will devolve upon the daughter and not others such as his brother. In 2020, the SC has already expanded the Hindu women's right to be the coparcener (joint legal heir) and inherit ancestral property on terms equal to male heirs.
- Ancient Texts & Judicial Pronouncements: SC discussed Mitakshara law. SC also looked into Vyavastha Chandrika, a digest of Hindu Law by Shyama Charan Sarkar Vidya Bhushan which quoted 'Vrihaspati' as saying 'the wife is pronounced successor to the wealth of her husband, in her default, the daughter. As a son, so does the daughter of a man proceed from his several limbs.'
- ✓ Property After Woman's Death: The court also said that if a female Hindu dies intestate without leaving any issue, then the property inherited by her from her father or mother would go to the heirs of her father whereas the property inherited from her husband or father-in-law would go to the heirs of the husband. In case a female Hindu dies leaving behind her husband or any issue, then Section 15(1)(a) of the HSA 1956 will come into operation and the properties left behind including the properties which she inherited from her parents would



Who inherits a woman's property?

Here's how the property of a Hindu woman devolves if she dies without a will.

HINDU WOMAN

Whether she is married or unmarried

Sections 14, 15 & 16 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, govern the manner in which her property is inherited.



Section 14 describes what constitutes a woman's property—both movable and immovable, owned and acquired by her. It does not distinguish between inherited and self-acquired property. It includes all the

property obtained by the woman through inheritance, partition, maintenance, gift or by her effort or purchase or in any other manner, and also any such property held by her as *streedhana*.

Section 15, sub-section 1

Explains the devolution of the woman's property as per the following priority:

First preference to sons and daughters, including children of any pre-deceased son or daughter, and the husband

Heirs of the husband

Father and mother

Heirs of the father

Heirs of the mother

Section 15, sub-section 2

Property distribution depends on whether she has inherited it from her parents, husband or in-laws.

- If inherited from father/mother, it devolves, in absence of a son or daughter (including kids of predeceased son/

daughter), not upon heirs referred to in sub-section (1), but upon father's heirs.

- If inherited from her husband or father-in-law, it devolves, in the absence of any son or daughter (including kids of predeceased son or daughter) upon the heirs of the husband.

MUSLIM WOMAN

If a Muslim woman inherits property from any relation (husband, son, father, mother), she becomes the absolute owner of her share and can dispose it of. If a Muslim woman wants to make a will, she cannot give away more than one-third share of her property, and if her husband is the only heir, she can give two-thirds of the property through the will.



OTHER RELIGIONS

The distribution of women's inheritance, other than those who are Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and Muslims, is governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. The blood relatives of a woman inherit even in the presence of husband and husband's relatives.



'ANCIENT TEXTS RECOGNISED FEMALE RIGHTS'

➤ Order could open up disputes over properties partitioned prior to 1956 in which daughters were not given any share and could result in their heirs seeking to reclaim their rights

“It is clear that ancient texts as also the Smritis, the commentaries written by various renowned learned persons and even judicial pronouncements have recognised the rights of several female heirs, wives and daughters being foremost of them

The rights of women... to maintenance were in every case very substantial... it would seem that some of the commentators erred in drawing adverse inferences from vague references to women's succession in the earlier Smritis. The views of Mitakshara on the matter are unmistakable

– SC bench



Women & land rights in India

- **Related Data:** According to the NFHS-5, 43% of women respondents reported owning house/land alone or jointly, but doubts remain about women's ability to actually access and control property. In fact, a 2020 University of Manchester working paper found barely 16% of women in rural landowning households own land.
- **Patriarchy:** In deep patriarchal mores and rural-agrarian settings, property, which is seen as a primary source of wealth, is largely inclined to be passed on to male heirs.
- **State Laws:** In this regard, states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and even Delhi have regressive inheritance provisions. In fact, Haryana twice tried to take away the progressive rights given to women through HSA 1956, while in UP since 2016 married daughters aren't considered primary heirs.
- **Ground-level Resistance:** There is also a lot of ground-level resistance to registering land for women in several north Indian states. Thus, women's empowerment and property rights remain an unfinished project.

Stamp duty 7%
female - 5%
male

Hindu Succession Act, 1956

- The Mitakshara school of Hindu law codified as the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 governed succession and inheritance of property but only recognised males as legal heirs.
- It applied to everyone who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion. Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj, are also considered Hindus for this law.
- In a Hindu Undivided Family, several legal heirs through generations can exist jointly.
- Traditionally, only male descendants of a common ancestor along with their mothers, wives and unmarried daughters are considered a joint Hindu family. The legal heirs hold the family property jointly.

Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005

- The 1956 Act was amended in September 2005 and women were recognised as coparceners for property partitions arising from 2005.
- Section 6 of the Act was amended to make a daughter of a coparcener also a coparcener by birth "in her own right in the same manner as the son".
- It also gave the daughter the same rights and liabilities "in the coparcenary property as she would have had if she had been a son".
- The law applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property, where succession happens as per law and not through a will.

Schools of Hindu Laws

Mitakshara Law School

The term Mitakshara is derived from the name of a commentary written by Vijnaneswara, on the Yajnavalkya Smriti.

It is observed in all parts of India and subdivided into the Benares, the Mithila, the Maharashtra and the Dravida schools.

A son, by birth acquires an interest in the ancestral property of the joint family.

All the members enjoy coparcenary rights during the father's lifetime.

A coparcener's share is not defined and cannot be disposed of.

A wife cannot demand partition but has the right to a share in any partition between her husband and her sons.

Dayabhaga Law School

The term Dayabhaga is derived from a similarly named text written by Jimutavahana.

It is observed in Bengal and Assam.

A son has no automatic ownership right by birth but acquires it on death of his father.

Sons do not enjoy coparcenary rights when the father is alive.

The share of each coparcener is defined and can be disposed of.

Here, the same right does not exist for the women because the sons cannot demand partition as the father is the absolute owner.

Practice Question

How have the inheritance rights for women evolved in India due to the multiple laws and Supreme court judgments in this regards?



OTHER STATES

Drones to monitor illegal liquor manufacturing in Bihar



Amarnath Tewary

PATNA: DECEMBER 28, 2021 20:05 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 28, 2021 20:25 IST

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Gujarat
Bihar
Kerala

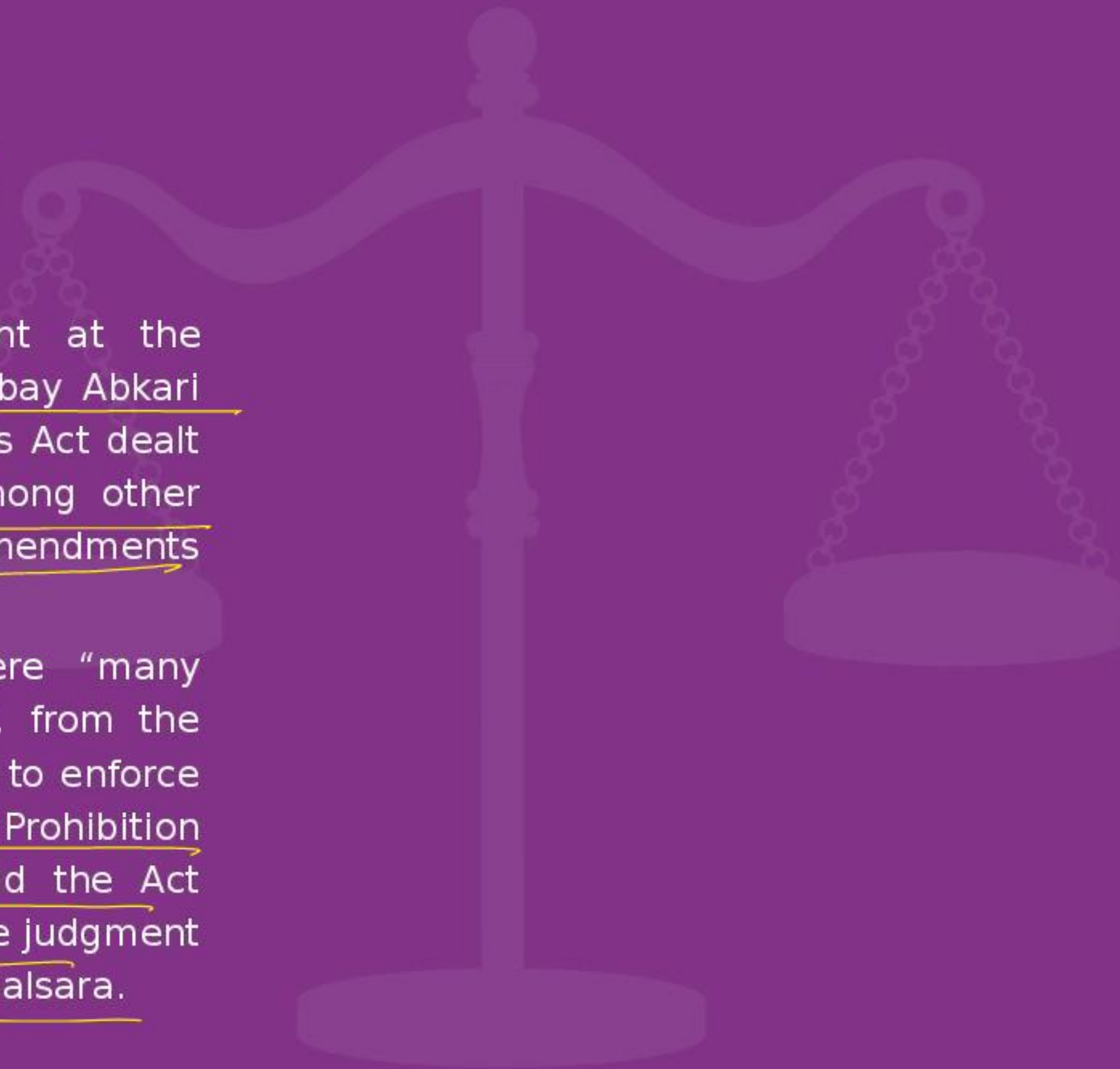
Constitutional provisions

DPSPs →

- **Article 47:** The Directive Principle in the Constitution of India states that “The state shall undertake rules to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health”.
- **State Subject:** Alcohol is a subject in the State list under the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Prohibition Acts in India

- **Bombay Abkari Act, 1878:** The first hint at the prohibition of liquor was through the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878 (in the Province of Bombay). This Act dealt with levying of duties on intoxicants, among other things and aspects of prohibition via amendments made in 1939 and 1947.
- **Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949:** There were “many lacuna” in the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878, from the point of view of the government’s decision to enforce prohibition. This led to the birth of Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The Supreme Court (SC) upheld the Act broadly barring a few sections in 1951 in the judgment of State of Bombay and another versus FN Balsara.



Prohibition Acts in India

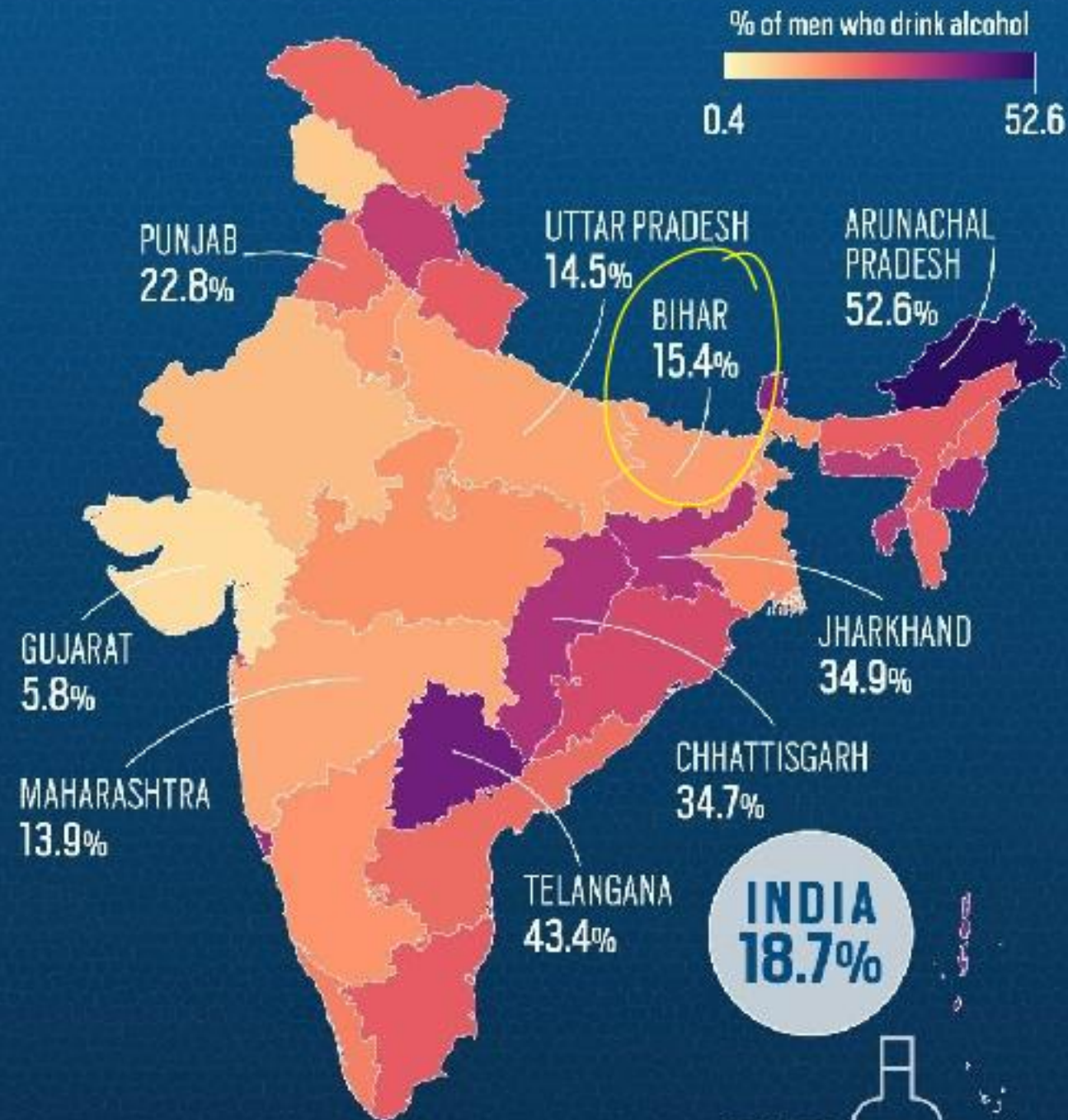
Gujarat Prohibition Act, 1949: Gujarat adopted the prohibition policy in 1960 and subsequently chose to enforce it with greater rigidity, but also made processes easier for foreign tourists and visitors to get liquor permits. In 2011, the Act was renamed as Gujarat Prohibition Act. In 2017, the Gujarat Prohibition (Amendment) Act was passed with provision of up to ten years jail for manufacturing, purchase, sale and transportation of liquor in the dry state.

Bihar Prohibition Act, 2016: The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act was brought into effect in 2016. Over 3.5 lakh people have been arrested under the stringent prohibition law since 2016 leading to crowded jails and clogged courts.

Other States: Alcohol prohibition in India is in force in the states of Mizoram, Nagaland as well as in the union territory of Lakshadweep.

women safety

1 IN EVERY 6 MEN IN BIHAR DRINK ALCOHOL



Note: Men of age 15 years and above
Source: National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-2021)



12-13 cr



LEGAL DRINKING AGE IN INDIA

18 YEARS 21 YEARS 23 YEARS 25 YEARS

DELHI	21
HARYANA	25
PUNJAB	25
CHANDIGARH (UT)	25
UTTAR PRADESH	21
UTTARAKHAND	21
HIMACHAL PRADESH	18
RAJASTHAN	18
JAMMU & KASHMIR	21
LADAKH	21
MAHARASHTRA	
For beer/wine	21
For hard liquor	25
MADHYA PRADESH	21
SIKKIM	18
MEGHALAYA	18
WEST BENGAL	21
KERALA	23

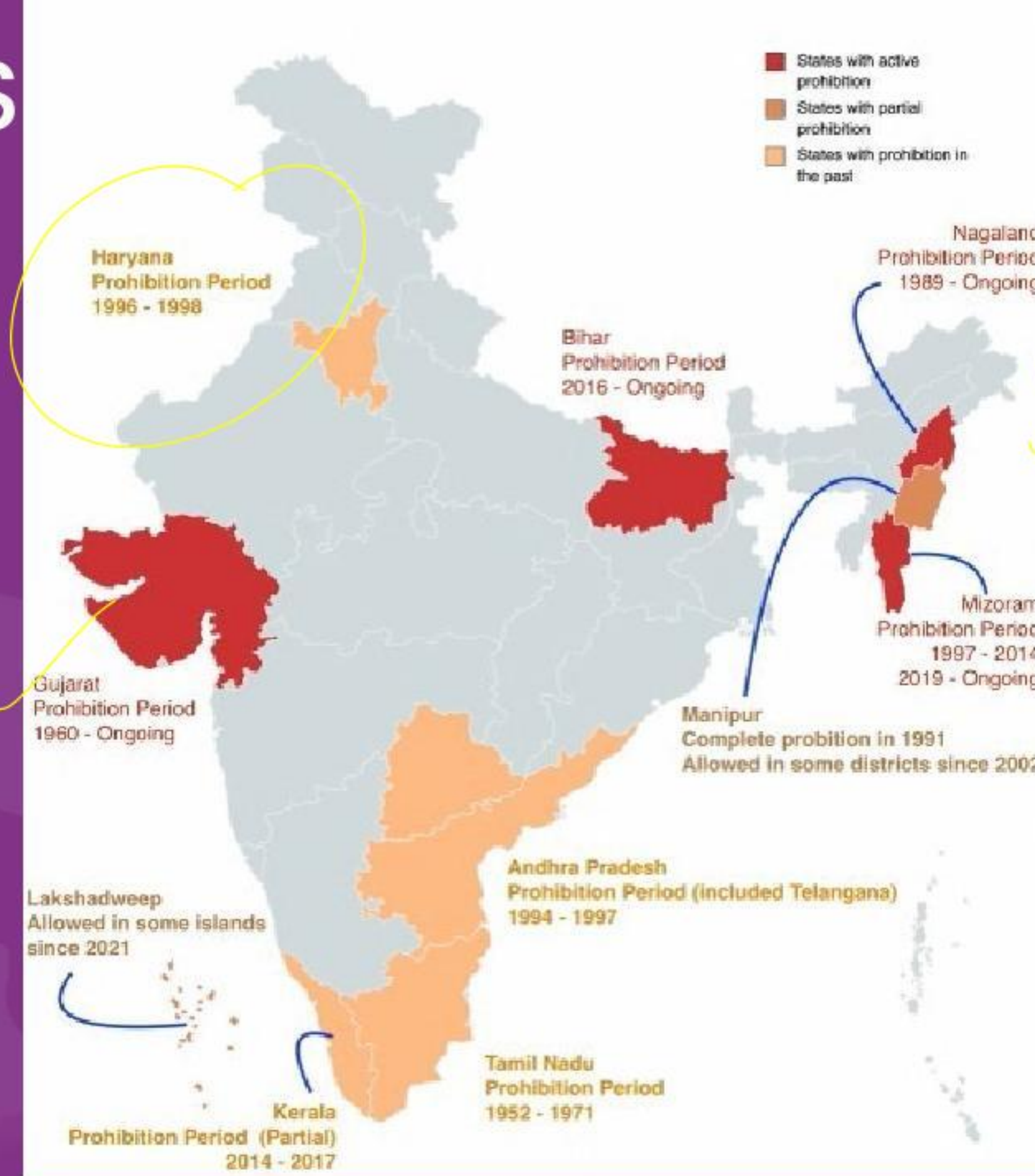


DELHI
Legal drinking age reduced from 25 to 21 years in March 2021



WHERE YOU CAN'T BUY LIQUOR
Gujarat, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura
Ban on sales

Delhi
Haryana



Arguments against prohibition

- **The Right of Privacy:** Right to privacy has been held as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in several judgments since 2017.
- **Aggravate the Sense of Violence**
- **Loss of Revenue**
- **Source of Employment:** Today, the Indian Made Foreign Liquors (IMFL) industry contributes over 1 lakh crore in taxes every year. It supports the livelihood of lakhs of farming families and provides direct and indirect employment to lakhs of workers employed in the industry.

Arguments in favour of prohibition

- Impact on Livelihoods ✓
- Discourage Regular Consumption ✓
- As the prohibition is mentioned in the State List under Schedule Seven, it is the duty of the state to make provisions related to prohibition. ✓

Way ahead

- What is required is an informed and constructive dialogue on the causes and effects.
- Drinking age should be made uniform across the country and no person below that should be permitted to buy alcohol.
- Tough laws should be made against drunken behaviour in public, domestic violence under influence, and drinking and driving.



Practice Question

Over the decades, prohibition has seldom worked to curb down consumption. Elaborate.



Pandemic

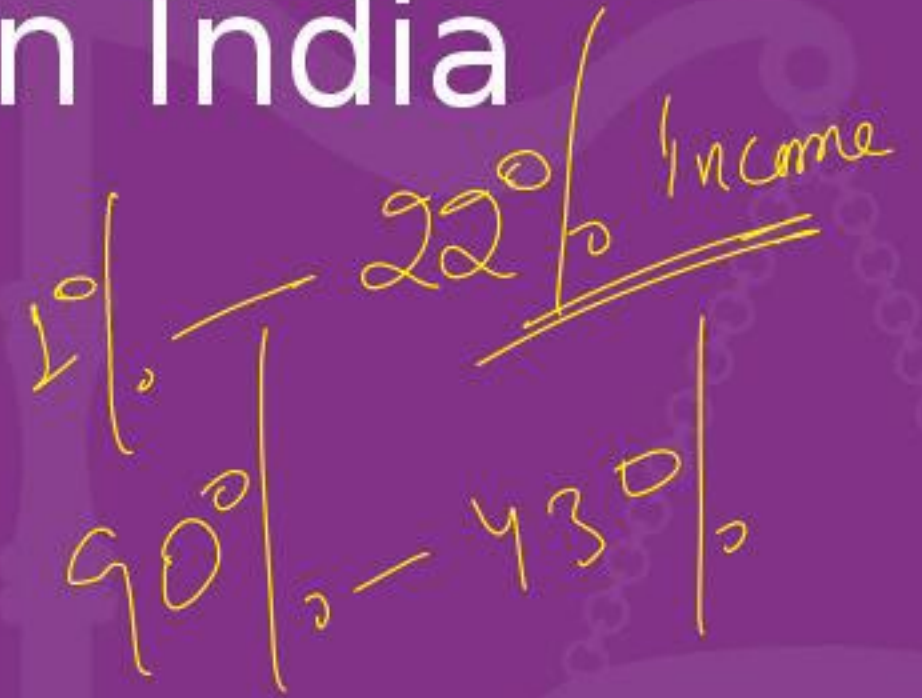
How the pandemic has worsened inequality in India

● Ishan Bakshi writes: It has adversely affected chances of social mobility. This could combine with already high levels of inequality of opportunities and precipitate greater demands for income redistribution.

- India's household surveys tend to massively underreport consumption, income and wealth.
- Moreover, it's hard to dispute the notion that Covid-19 has deepened existing faultlines, exacerbating entrenched inequalities.
- The rise in the fortunes of the very rich during this period, when juxtaposed against the misery of the millions of migrant workers who had to walk back to their villages, is a stark reminder of the extent of economic disparities.
- All this is highlighted in the World Inequality Report (2022).

Socio-Economic inequality in India

- By and large, the discourse on inequality in India tends to centre around disparities in consumption, income, and wealth. However, the country is also marked by high levels of inequalities in “opportunities”.
- **Factors Affecting Inequality in Opportunities:** An individual's class of origin, his/her household of birth, who his/her parents are, tend to have a significant bearing on his/her educational attainment, employment and income prospects, and as a consequence, his/her class of destination.
- **India-Specific-Findings of World Inequality Report:** India is now among the most unequal countries in the world. In India, the top 10% of the population earns 57% of the national income. Within the top 10%, the very elite top 1% earns 22%. In comparison, the share of the bottom 50% in national income has declined to 13%. The female labour income share is equal to 18% which is significantly lower than the average in Asia [21%, excluding China].

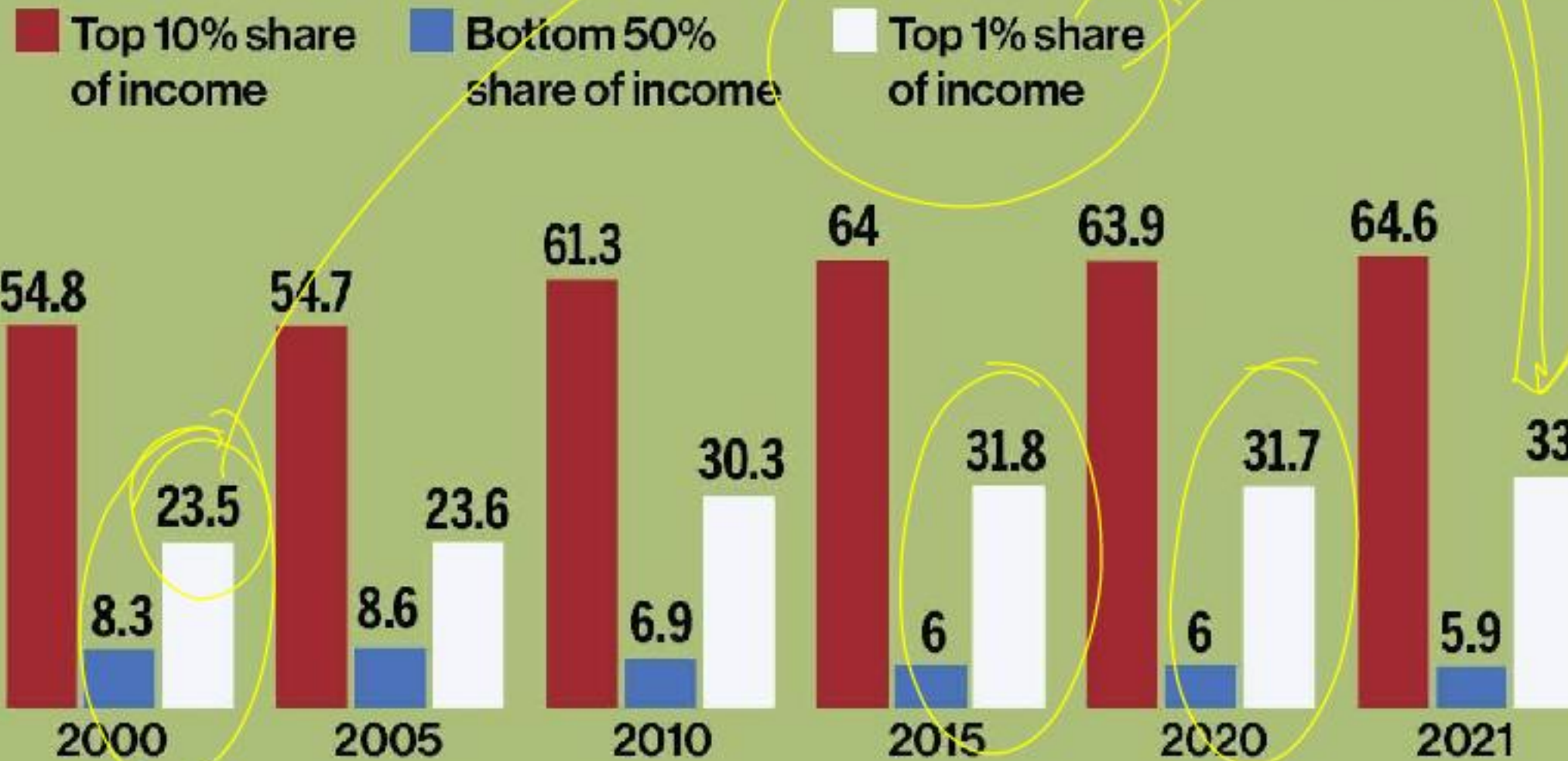


- **Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic:** Covid has led to a worsening of education inequalities, induced labour market scarring, and exacerbated income inequality which in turn, is quite likely to depress social mobility.
- **Impact on Education:** The ASER 2021 attests the fact that extended closure of schools and the shift to online modes of education has widened the learning gaps between children from poor and affluent households.
- **Impact on Jobs:** Since the onset of the pandemic, there has been a decline in labour force participation in India, specially among the women labour-force. In the same period, the unemployment rate has risen from 7.5% to 8.6% which implies that among those looking for jobs, those unable to find jobs, perhaps even at lower wages, have risen. Among the people with jobs, more are increasingly being employed as casual wage labour.

Pratham H40

BusinessToday.In

WEALTH INEQUALITY, INDIA 2000-2021



Note: wealth= total value of non-financial and financial assets held by households

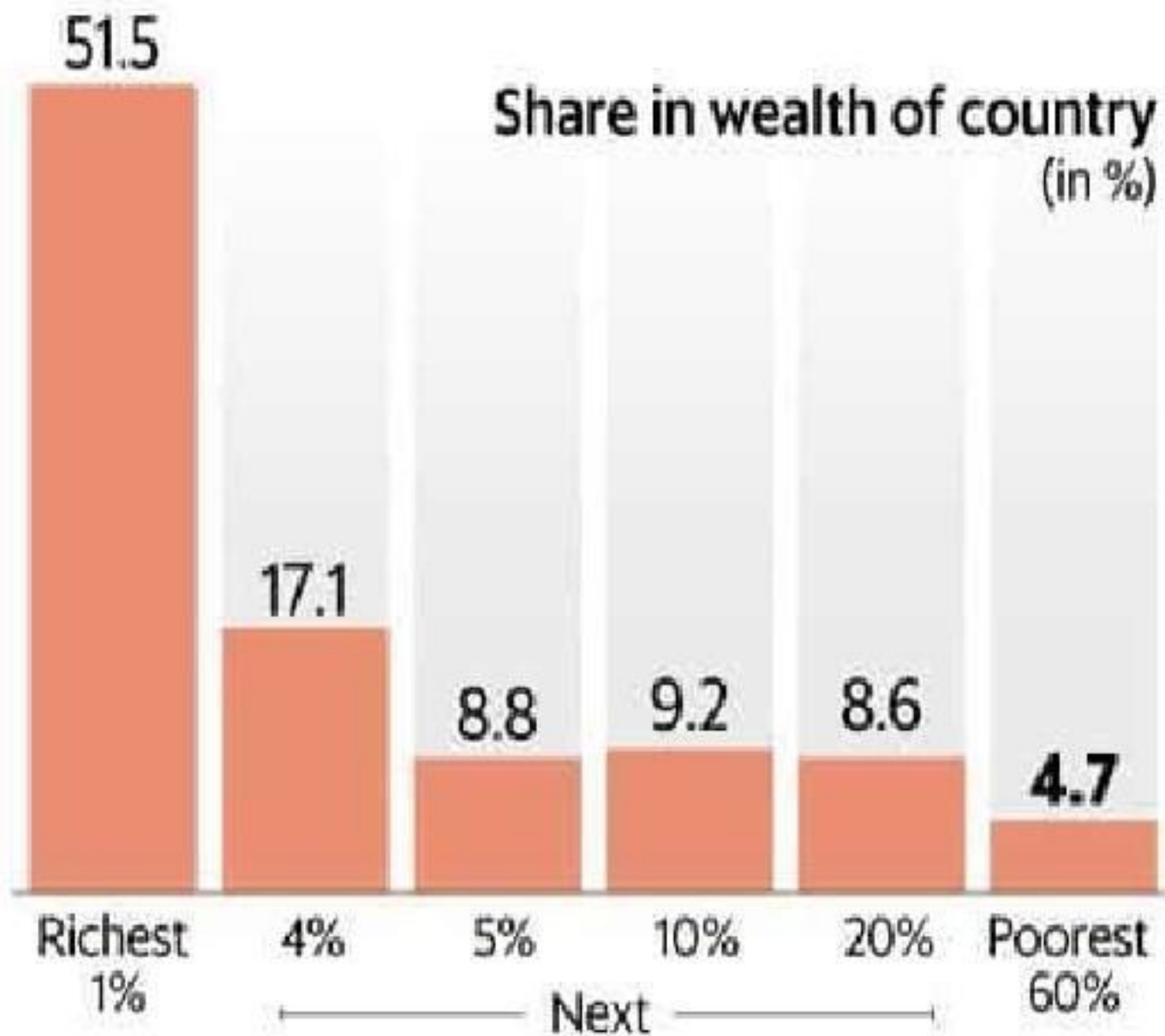
Source: World Inequality Database

Chart 1

The Indian plutocracy

The richest 10% have 77.4% of national wealth; the poorest 60% have 4.7%.

Source: Credit Suisse



Where to go from here?

- **Nordic Economic Model:** To make the current redistribution of wealth more equitable, the current neo-liberal model can be replaced by the 'Nordic Economic Model.' This Model consists of effective welfare safety nets for all, corruption-free governance, the fundamental right to quality education & healthcare, high taxes for the rich, etc.
- **Political Empowerment**
- **Redistribution of Wealth:** The World Inequality Report, 2022 suggests levying a modest progressive wealth tax on multimillionaires. Given the large volume of wealth concentration, modest progressive taxes can generate significant revenues for governments. A global effective wealth tax rate of 1.2% for wealth over \$1 million could generate revenues of 2.1% of global income.





BYJU'S
EXAM PREP

IAS

Where to go from here?

- **Increasing the Reach of Basic Necessities:** By ensuring universal access to public funded high quality services like Public health and education, social security benefits, employment guarantee schemes, inequality can be reduced to a great extent.
- **Employment Generation:** The hindrance in the growth of manufacturing sectors like Textile, Clothing, automobiles, consumer goods etc. is an important reason for rising inequalities. Labor-intensive manufacturing has the potential to absorb millions of people who are leaving farming while the service sector tends to benefit the urban middle class.
- **Mitigating Wage Inequalities:** The International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommends that a minimum wage floor should be set in a manner that balances the needs of workers and their families with broader economic factors.



Where to go from here?

- **Promoting Civil Society:** Providing a greater voice to traditionally oppressed and suppressed groups, including by enabling civil society groups like unions and association within these groups. SCs and STs should be motivated to become entrepreneurs, schemes like Stand up India need to be expanded to widen its reach by increasing funding.
- **Imbibing Gender Equality:** There is a need to remove barriers to women's full inclusion in the economy, including through access to the labor market, property rights and targeted credit and investments. Encouraging more women to become entrepreneurs will provide a long-term solution.

Gender Pay Gap



Practice Question

The Nordic Economic model can be the answer India is looking for, to solve its socio-economic inequalities. Discuss.



Thank you!

