

24-02-2023

Increase in the tenure of law commission

Why in Newspapers?

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of the tenure of the **22nd Law Commission** by **one and a half years**. This commission was given the responsibility of **identifying irrelevant laws** and recommending their repeal. According to an official statement, a proposal to this effect was approved in a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.



Quick Issue?

- The Union Cabinet has extended the term of the **22nd Law Commission till August 31, 2024**.
- The **22nd Law Commission was constituted in 2020** for a period of three years.
- The Law Commission is currently considering several important issues including the **implementation of the Uniform Civil Code**.

Historical Background?

- Law Commission is a **non-statutory body** constituted by the **Central Government**. It can be referred as an **ad hoc body**, which is constituted to **serve a specific purpose**.
- The Law Commission **works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- It **aims to suggest reforms in laws** to facilitate access to justice in society and **promote good governance under the rule of law**.
- The terms of reference of the Law Commission include, inter alia, review/repeal of obsolete laws, examination of laws affecting the poor and post-audit for socio-economic legislations, review of the system of judicial administration.
- Its function is to **conduct research in the field of law** with certain specified references.

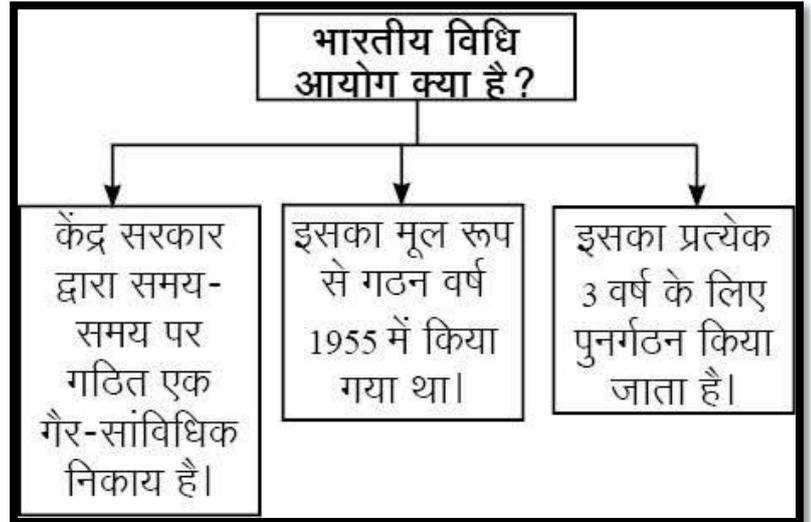
Other Key Facts?

Important recommendations of Law Commission

- The 170th Report of the Law Commission on Electoral Reforms, 1999 suggested simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- The Law Commission in its **262nd report** recommended the **abolition of the death penalty** for all offenses other than offenses relating to terrorism and waging war against the state.



- The commission makes recommendations (in the form of reports) to the government according to its terms of reference.
- The Law Commission has submitted 277 reports so far.
- The first pre-independence Law Commission was established in **1834 by the British Government in India.**
- It was **established by the Charter Act of 1833**, it was headed by Lord Macaulay.
- The **first Law Commission of independent India** was established in the **year 1955**, which was headed by **M. C. Setalvad.**
- Since India's independence, **22 Law Commissions have been constituted so far**, the **current Law Commission (22nd) is headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.**
- Identifying those laws which are not needed or relevant at present and can be repealed immediately. To consider the demand for **Uniform Civil Code.**
- To examine the existing laws in the light of the **Directive Principles of State Policy** and suggest ways of improvement.
- To suggest **such laws that may be necessary to implement the Directive Principles.**
- To suggest necessary laws to achieve the **objectives laid down in the Preamble of the Constitution.**
- Suggesting amendments to **Central Acts of general importance**, so that they can be simplified and anomalies, ambiguities and disparities prevailing in them can be removed.
- To undertake studies and research with a view to bring reforms in the judicial system to eliminate delay in procedures, speedy disposal of cases, reduce the cost of prosecution.
- The **Law Commission consists of four full-time members** including a **full-time Chairman, a Member-Secretary.**
- A **retired judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court** will be the chairman of the commission.
- The Law and Legislative Secretary (Ministry of Law) is an ex-officio member of the Law Commission.
- The number of part-time members shall not exceed five.



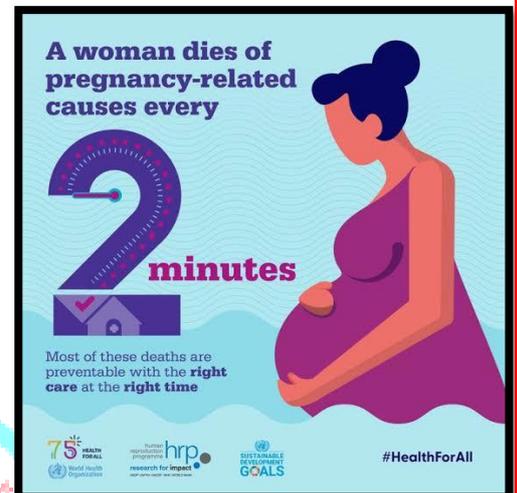
New United Nations (UN) report "Trends in Maternal Mortality"

Why in Newspapers?

The United Nations has presented a report on Thursday in which many shocking revelations have been made. The report said that **despite a drop in maternal mortality rates by a third in 20 years, one woman dies every two minutes from complications during pregnancy.**

Quick Issue?

- The United Nations said in the report that there has been a tremendous decline in the cases of death of women between the years 2000 and 2015.
- **Between 2016 and 2020, the death rate figure remained stable.** At the same time, in some places, the death rate has also increased during this period.



Historical Background?

- In 2020, when the United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** came into force, there were an estimated 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide, down slightly from 309,000 in 2016.
- About **70% of the total maternal deaths** in the year 2020 were observed in **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- The top three sub-regions of the world with **high or very high MMR were found in sub-Saharan Africa**.
- It was observed **754 in West Africa, 539 in Central Africa and 351 in East Africa**.
- At the country level, a similar trend was observed in **South Sudan (1,223), Chad (1,063) and Nigeria (1,047)**, which recorded very high MMRs of over 1,000.
- Nigeria accounted for nearly **one-quarter (28.5%) of the total estimated global maternal deaths in the year of the pandemic**, with approximately 82,000 maternal deaths in 2020.

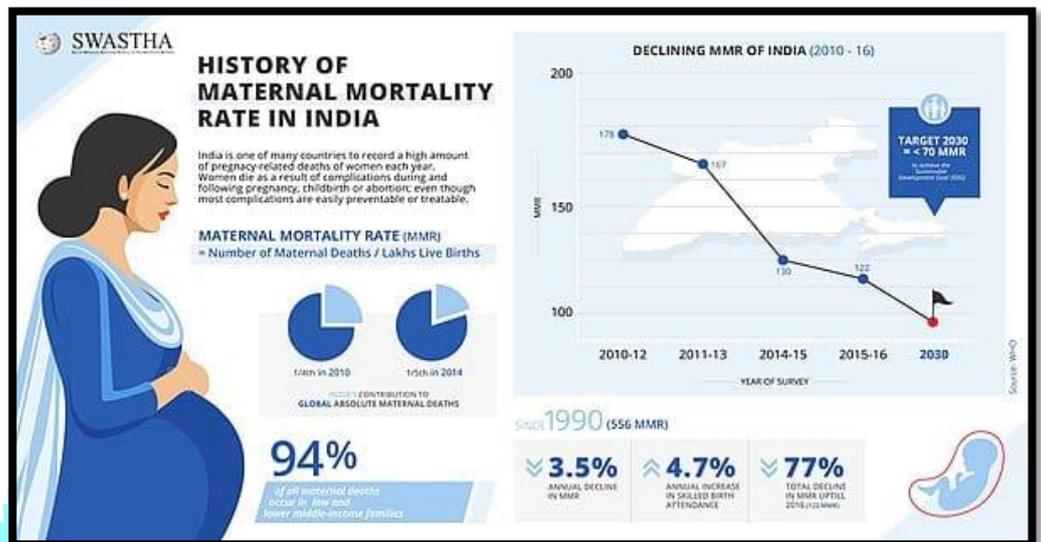
Other Key Facts?

With reference to India

- India had the second highest maternal mortality rate in 2020 after Nigeria with a figure of 24,000.
- However, there has been an overall reduction of 73.5% in MMR in India between 2000 and 2020.
- India's MMR stood at 103 in the year 2020, India was at 384th position at the end of 20th century.
- In comparison, developing countries like Argentina (MMR 45 in 2020), Bhutan (60), Brazil (72), Kyrgyzstan (50) and Philippines (78) have done better than India.

- From 2000 to 2020, the decline in MMR has been stable in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Oceania (except Australia and New Zealand) and West Asia, East and South-East Asia.
- Major causes of maternal death are severe bleeding, **high blood pressure, pregnancy-related infections, complications due to unsafe abortion, and underlying conditions that can harm pregnancy (such as HIV/AIDS and malaria).**
- Of the 1,878 HIV-related indirect maternal deaths reported globally, 1,738 (about 92.5%) occurred in sub-Saharan Africa.

- Roughly **one-third of women do not have four of the eight recommended antenatal check-ups** or do not receive essential postnatal care. In addition,



approximately **270 million women do not have access to modern family planning methods.**

- Risks:** -Disparities related to income, education, race or ethnicity increase the risk for pregnant women living at low risk with limited access to essential maternal care, who are most likely to experience health problems inherent to pregnancy.

News Fatafat (Popular Destinations)

Burkina Faso (Capital: Ouagadougou)

- Burkina Faso has announced **the end of French-led operations in the country.** Here a campaign was being conducted against the militant groups **under the leadership of France.**
- Political Boundaries:**
 - It is a **landlocked country in West Africa.**
- It shares borders with **Mali** to the north and west, **Niger** to the north-east, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and **Ghana** to the south-east and **Togo** to the south.
- Geographical Features:**
 - Terrain:** It is situated on a **broad plateau.** Savanna grassland is the geographical feature here.
 - Highest mountain:** Mount Tenakourou.



- **Major rivers: Black Volta, Red Volta and White Volta.** All these together form the Volta River in Ghana.

Libya (Capital: Tripoli)

- The United Nations has expressed the possibility of death of 73 migrants in the shipwreck off Libya.
- **Political Boundaries:**
 - It is located in **North Africa.**
 - It is bounded by the **Mediterranean Sea to the north, Egypt to the east, Sudan to the southeast, Niger and Chad to the south, and Tunisia and Algeria to the west.**
- **Geographical Features:**
 - To its north-west lies the **Nafsa Plateau** and the **Al-Jifarah (Jifara) plain.**
 - **Akhdar Parvat** (Green Mountain) is located in its north-east.
 - **Sahara plateau** is present on most of its part.
 - There are **no perennial rivers in Libya.** There are many **dry wadis** (seasonal streams) in the **higher areas**, which are **filled by flash floods** during the rainy season.
 - **Highest point:** Bikku Bitti

Myanmar (Capital: Naypyidaw)

- India and Myanmar have discussed **border related issues**, connectivity projects etc in a virtual meeting.
- Myanmar is **located in the western part of mainland Southeast Asia.** It is situated on the **southern edge of the Malay Peninsula.**
- **Political Boundaries:**
 - It shares its **border with China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh and India.**
 - The **Patkai Range, Naga Hills** and form the **Chin Hills** boundary between India and Myanmar.
- **Geographical Features:**
 - **Highest peak:** Mount Khakabo.
 - **Major rivers:** Irrawaddy and Salween (Thanlween).

News Fatafat (Headlines)

Khajuraho Group of Monuments

- The Parrot Lady has been installed in the **Khajuraho Museum.** This statue was returned by Canada to India in **2015.**
 - It is a **12th century statue**, which **belongs to Khajuraho city of Madhya Pradesh.** Khajuraho is famous for its temples related to **erotic art.**
- **Khajuraho Group of Monuments:**
 - This site is included in the **UNESCO World Heritage List.** Originally there was a **group of Hindu and Jain temples here.** Now only 20 temples are left here.



- These temples are built in **Nagara style**. The temples of Khajuraho were built by the rulers of the **Chandela dynasty**. The rule of this dynasty reached its zenith between 950 and 1050 AD.
- The group of temples strike a perfect balance between architecture and sculpture.

Mohiniyattam

- Renowned Mohiniyattam dancer **Kanaka Rele** has passed away.
- **Mohiniyattam** is a classical dance form of Kerala.
- It is performed by women wearing Mohini avatar in **honor of Lord Vishnu**.
- It is a solo dance form. It is traditionally performed by women artists. It presents a sense of drama through dance and singing.
 - **Instruments used:** Maddalam, Mridangam, Veena, Kuzhithalam or cymbals, Edakka etc.
 - Its initial mention is found in sage Bharat Muni's book '**Natyasastra**'.
 - **There are 8 classical dances of India:** Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Sattriya, Mohiniyattam and Manipuri.

United Nations Commission on Social Development (CSocD)

- India has been elected as the **President of the 62nd session of the United Nations CSocD**.
- CSocD was established in **1946**. It is one of the **9 functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
 - It advises **ECOSOC on social policies of a general nature**. Primarily it **advises on all matters** in the social sector not covered by specialized intergovernmental agencies.
 - It **consists of 46 members**. They are **elected for a term of four years**. They are **selected by ECOSOC on the basis of equal geographical distribution**.
 - ECOSOC is **one of the 6 principal organs of the United Nations**. It was established in 1945.

Chandrayaan-3

- **Chandrayaan-3** lander has successfully **completed the critical Electromagnetic Interference/Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMI-EMC) test**.
 - EMI-EMC test is conducted for satellite missions. It is conducted to ensure the **functionality of the satellite sub-systems in the space environment** and to check their compatibility at the expected electromagnetic levels.
- **Chandrayaan-3** is the follow up **mission of Chandrayaan-2**. Its primary objective is to **land a lander and rover on the high ground near the Moon's south pole in 2023**.
 - It has **three major modules**. Their names are **Propulsion Module, Lander Module and Rover**.
 - It will be launched by **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk III** from **Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh**.