



DAILY NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS

THE HINDU

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**Topic: GS1/GS2 - Violence on
Women**



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Daily News Paper

Gender Justice

Context:-

- Nearly seven years after the Nirbhaya tragedy shocked India and the world at large, a 19-year-old, who was allegedly raped in 2017 by a local MLA in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district, is battling for her life.
- Despite the increased focus on women's rights, nothing changes on the ground. Till such crimes continue with impunity and patriarchal mindsets don't change, as a diverse and plural society, India would have failed the girl, and every woman.

Violence on Women in India Through their Lifecycle:-

- There is violence even before birth of a girl child. India has one of the highest incidences of female foeticide.
 - As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) data, the sex ratio at birth (SRB) has been dropping continuously since Census 2011, coming down from 909 girls per thousand boys in 2011-2013 to 896 girls in 2015-2017 which shows about 5% of girls are 'eliminated' before they are born, despite the promises of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

- As a young child, a girl is part of an incontrovertible landscape where there has been **a 336% rise in sexual crimes against children in the last decade.**
- As a young woman, she is in the most unsafe country in the world, according to **a recent Thomson Reuters Foundation survey,** which recorded **around 40,000 rapes a year.**
 - She is subject to the **routine threats of honour killing and trafficking.**
- As a widow or single mother, she is **ostracised in a patriarchal society.**
- Indian women do the **most unpaid domestic work of any country globally, next to Kazakhstan.**

Reasons for this cauldron of sexual misconduct:-

- In the Unnao case, **muscle, money power and the right political alignment** weighed heavily against the girl.
- The insensitivity, reluctance, and hostility of the police, legal and medical fraternity, coupled with the fact that most assaulters are known to the victim, makes an increasingly **intimidating environment** in which to move forward with justice. Courts in the country are severely back-logged. For eg:
 - Case Study: As for crimes against women, U.P. has a high rate, not least because many are reported, unlike in some other States.

- According to NCRB data of 2016, of the 38,947 cases of rape reported, the second highest was from U.P. (4,816). As for all crimes against women, Uttar Pradesh reported 14.5% (49,262 out of 3,38,954 cases) of the total.
- The bare branches of a skewed sex ratio, poverty, unemployment, confusing sociocultural signals (due to interplay of traditional culture with modern values) spread by social media and connectivity are all incendiary matchsticks to an already marginalised, frustrated and pathologically vulnerable brain.
- It is the insidious caste, capitalistic and political environment, one that pivots itself on the narratives of patriarchal cultural hegemony to excoriate women, that brings about their subjugation, for selfish gain.

Way Ahead:-

- we as a nation, have perhaps become inured by contagion, to sexual crimes against women. **So often do we encounter the horrific act in our consciousness that it has escaped our conscience.**
- Imparting healthy sex education in schools, providing means by which socially and emotionally marginalised men are given the opportunity to be identified and rehabilitate themselves, is paramount, before it leads to further