



## Issue of Urban Finance and 16th Finance Commission

**For Prelims:** [74th Amendments of the Constitution](#), [Directive Principles of State Policy](#), [Reserve Bank of India](#), [Geographical Information System](#), [Finance Commission](#)

**For Mains:** [Financial Paucity faced by Urban Local Bodies](#), [Measures for Empowerment of Urban Local Government](#).

**Source:** [TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, developments concerning the [16th Finance Commission \(FC\)](#) in India highlight critical issues regarding [fiscal decentralisation](#), particularly **focusing on urban areas** and their financial sustainability within the [federal structure](#).

- The World Bank has estimated that USD 840 billion is **needed for basic urban infrastructure** in the next decade.

### What are the Financial Sustainability Issues with the Urban Areas?

- **Urbanisation Challenges:** India's urban areas, which contribute **66% of India's GDP and about 90% of total government revenues** face immense infrastructure and financial challenges.
  - Despite being crucial economic hubs, **cities receive inadequate fiscal support** with [intergovernmental transfers \(IGTs\)](#) constituting **only 0.5% of GDP** impacting their ability to provide essential services and maintain infrastructure.
- **Financial Devolution Issues:** The devolution of funds to [Urban Local Bodies \(ULBs\)](#) is significantly lower than other developing nations.
  - For instance, **South Africa** allocates 2.6%, Mexico 1.6%, the Philippines 2.5%, and Brazil 5.1% of their GDPs to their cities.
  - This shortfall **affects urban productivity and quality of life**, exacerbated by the introduction of the [Goods and Service Tax \(GST\)](#), which has reduced **ULBs' own tax revenues**.
- **Draining Resources:** An [RBI survey](#) of 221 municipal corporations (2020-21) revealed that **more than 70%** of these corporations saw a **decline in revenues** while in contrast, their expenditure rose by almost 71.2%.
  - The RBI report also highlights the **limited coverage of property tax** and its failure in shoring up municipal corporation revenues.
  - As per the [OECD](#), India has the **world's lowest property tax collection rate (property tax to GDP ratio)**.
- **Decline in Grants:** Experts argue that **GST not only ended octroi** but also **severely impacted the businesses** of many small entrepreneurs, resulting in a **significant decline in tax revenue** for urban local bodies.
  - Previously **almost 55% of the total revenue** expenditure of urban centres was met by octroi which has now significantly reduced.

#### ▪ Other Issues:

- **Census Data Concerns:** The absence of **updated census data (since 2011)** poses a challenge in accurately assessing the urban population and its needs.
  - This outdated data **affects evidence-based fiscal devolution** planning, crucial for addressing the dynamic urbanisation trends, including migration to Tier-2 and 3 cities.
- **Policy Distortions:** Parallel agencies and schemes, such as **MP/MLA Local Area Development Funds**, undermine the financial autonomy of local governments, distorting the **intended federal structure** and complicating urban governance and service delivery.
- **Lesser Functional Autonomy:** During the **pandemic**, the leaders at national, state and district level were seen taking a call on **disaster mitigation strategies**, however, the **heads of municipal corporations were not included in this group**.
  - The **old approach** of treating local governments as adjuncts of State governments continues to **dominate the policy paradigm**.
- **Structural Issues:** Some of the urban local governments do not have **basic infrastructure and human resources**. While in some states regular elections are not conducted for the local bodies. This affects their functioning and delivery of services.

### What are the Major Terms of Reference for the 16th Finance Commission?

#### ▪ About:

- The **Finance Commission in India** is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution.
  - Its primary function is to recommend the **distribution of financial resources** between the central government and the state governments.
- The **Fifteenth Finance Commission** was constituted in 2017. It made recommendations **covering the period of six years** commencing on 1st April, 2020 through its Interim and Final Reports.
  - The recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission are **valid up to the financial year 2025-26**.

#### ▪ Terms of Reference:

- **Division of Tax Proceeds:** Recommending the distribution of taxes between the Union Government and the States under Chapter I of the **Constitution**.
  - This includes the allocation of shares among the States from these tax proceeds.
- **Principles for Grants-in-Aid:** Establishing the principles governing **grants-in-aid** to the States from the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
  - This encompasses determining the amounts to be provided to the States as grants-in-aid, specifically under **Article 275** of the Constitution.
- **Enhancing State Funds for Local Bodies:** Identifying measures to enhance the Consolidated Fund of a State.
  - This is aimed at supplementing the resources available to **Panchayats and Municipalities** within the State, based on recommendations made by the State's own Finance Commission.
- **Evaluation of Disaster Management Financing:** The Commission may review the current financing structures related to Disaster Management initiatives.
  - This involves examining the funds created under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, and presenting suitable recommendations for improvements or alterations.

### Assam Government Makes Appointment to State Finance Commission

- The **Government of Assam** has constituted the **Seventh Assam State Finance Commission** with **Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita (Retd)** as its **Chairman** and six other members.
- The State Finance Commission (SFC), formed by the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments**, aims to **streamline fiscal relations** at the state and sub-state levels in India, with appointments governed by **Article 243-I and 243-Y** of the Indian Constitution.
  - **Article 243 I:** Mandates State Governor to **constitute a Finance Commission every five years**.
  - **Article 243Y:** Finance Commission constituted under article 243 I shall also **review the financial position of the Municipalities** and make recommendations to the Governor.

## What are the Steps Needed for Better Urban Finance?

- **Strengthening Municipal Revenue:** All [Finance Commissions](#) have recognised the need to augment property tax revenue to improve municipal finances. For example:
  - The 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission encouraged the use of the [Geographical Information System](#) (GIS) and digitisation to improve property tax administration.
  - The [14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission](#) recommended that municipalities be enabled to levy [vacant land tax](#).
- **Modernise Tax Administration:** Outdated systems lead to inefficiencies and leakages. Local bodies can **implement digital platforms for property tax** assessment, e-filing, and online payments.
  - This **improves transparency**, convenience for citizens, and boosts collection rates.
- **Explore User Charges for Specific Services:** Instead of a blanket tax structure, some services can have user charges. This can **apply to parking, waste collection** for bulk generators, or recreation facilities.
  - The key is to ensure the fees are fair and reflect the cost of providing the service. Cities like Bengaluru have successfully implemented [user charges for solid waste management](#).
- **Strategic Property Management:** Local bodies often hold **underutilised properties**. These can be monetised through [public-private partnerships \(PPP\)](#) for developing commercial spaces, markets, or parking lots.
  - This generates rental income and economic activity within the local body's jurisdiction. The [World Bank](#) recommends PPPs as a tool for local governments to access financing and expertise for infrastructure development.
- **Promote Local Businesses and Economic Development:** A thriving local economy translates to **higher tax revenue for local bodies**. Initiatives can include streamlining business licenses, offering tax breaks for startups, or creating innovation hubs.
  - The city of Austin, Texas, in the US, is known for its supportive environment for entrepreneurs, leading to a booming local economy .
- **Explore Social Stock Exchange (SSE):** These exchanges **allow social enterprises**, which focus on **social impact alongside profit generation**, to raise capital. Local bodies can explore the feasibility of creating an SSE or partnering with an existing one.
  - This could **attract investment towards initiatives** that address local social needs while generating revenue for the local body.
- **Implement Value Capture Mechanisms:** This involves capturing a portion of the increased value of private properties **resulting from public infrastructure projects**.
  - **Hong Kong** is a prime example of a city that **effectively uses land value** capture for infrastructure projects.

## Conclusion

The ongoing **work of the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission is pivotal in addressing these challenges** by revisiting fiscal devolution principles, updating methodologies based on current urbanisation dynamics, and recommending substantial increases in IGTs to urban areas.

- The implications of these recommendations will be **far-reaching, impacting India's economic growth trajectory**, social equity goals, and environmental sustainability efforts in its urban centers.
- Effective implementation will require **concerted efforts from Union and State governments** to align policies and ensure sustainable urban development in the country.

Read more: [16<sup>th</sup> FC](#)

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Q. Can enhanced devolution of funds by the 16th Finance Commission effectively address the systemic

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. Consider the following: (2023)**

1. Demographic performance
2. Forest and ecology
3. Governance reforms
4. Stable government
5. Tax and fiscal efforts

**For the horizontal tax devolution, the Fifteenth Finance Commission used how many of the above as criteria other than population area and income distance?**

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

**Ans: (b)**

**Q. According to the Constitution of India, it is the duty of the President of India to cause to be laid before the Parliament which of the following? (2012)**

1. The Recommendations of the Union Finance Commission
2. The Report of the Public Accounts Committee
3. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
4. The Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, which of the following statements is correct? (2011)**

- (a) It encourages the inflow of foreign capital for infrastructure development
- (b) It facilitates the proper distribution of finances among the Public Sector Undertakings
- (c) It ensures transparency in financial administration
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above are correct in this context

Ans: (d)

## Santhal Hul of 1855

**For Prelims:** Santhal Hul of 1855, Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876, Diku, Tribal Revolts, [Munda Rebellion](#)

**For Mains:** Tribal revolts in colonial India, Tribal land rights and colonial policies, Modern Indian history

[Source: IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Santhal Hul of 1855** was commemorated on **30th June 2024**, marking a pivotal peasant revolt against British colonial oppression.

- This uprising led to the enactment of the **Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876** and the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908**, crucial in preserving tribal land rights and cultural autonomy in India.

### What is the Santhal Hul of 1855?

- **Historical Background:** The Santhal Hul of 1855 was one of the earliest peasant uprisings against British colonial rule in India. **Led by four brothers - Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu - along with sisters Phulo and Jhano**, the revolt began on 30th June 1855.
  - The revolt targeted not only the British but also **upper castes, zamindars, darogas, and moneylenders, collectively termed 'diku'**.
  - It aimed to protect the economic, cultural, and religious rights of the Santhal community.
- **Genesis of the Uprising:**
  - In 1832, certain areas were designated as **'Santhal Pargana' or 'Damin-i-Koh'**, which includes present-day Sahibganj, Godda, Dumka, Deoghar, Pakur, and parts of Jamtara, in present-day Jharkhand.
    - The area was given to the Santhals who were displaced from various regions under the Bengal Presidency.
  - The Santhals were promised **settlement and agriculture in Damin-i-Koh**, but instead they faced repressive land-grabbing and begari (bonded labour).
    - Two systems of bonded labour emerged in Santhal territory, known as **kamioti and harwahi**.
      - Under kamioti, the **borrower had to work for the lender until the loan was repaid**, while under harwahi, the borrower had to provide **personal services and plough the lender's field as needed**. The terms of the bond were so strict that it was nearly impossible for the Santhal to repay the loan in their lifetime.
- **Guerrilla Warfare and Suppression:**
  - The Murmu brothers led around 60,000 Santhals in [guerrilla warfare](#) against the East India Company. Despite fierce resistance lasting six months, the revolt was crushed in January 1856 with severe casualties and devastation.
    - More than 15,000 Santhals lost their lives, and over 10,000 villages were destroyed.
    - The Hul highlighted early resistance against British colonial rule and remains a

symbol of tribal resilience.

- **Impact:** The uprising led to the enactment of the **Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876 (SPT Act)** prohibits transfer of Adivasi lands to non-Adivasis, allows land inheritance only within the community and preserves Santhals' right to self-govern their land.

## Santhal Tribe

- It is the **third largest scheduled tribe in India after the Gonds and Bhils**, known for their calm and peaceful nature. They originally led a **nomadic life but settled in Chota Nagpur plateau** and migrated to Santhal Parganas in Bihar and Odisha.
  - They are located in Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, and are involved in cultivation, industrial labour, mining, and quarrying.
- They follow an autonomous tribal religion and worship nature at sacred groves. Their language is **Santhali** and they have their own script called '**OL chiki**' is recognised as one of the **scheduled languages in the Eighth Schedule**.
- Their artforms like **Phuta Katcha pattern saree and dress are popular**. They celebrate various festivals and rituals related to agriculture and worship. Santhal houses, known as '**Olah**', are easily recognizable due to their large, neat, and attractive appearance, adorned with multi-coloured paintings on the exterior walls.

## What are the Other Tribal Revolts in Chota Nagpur Region?

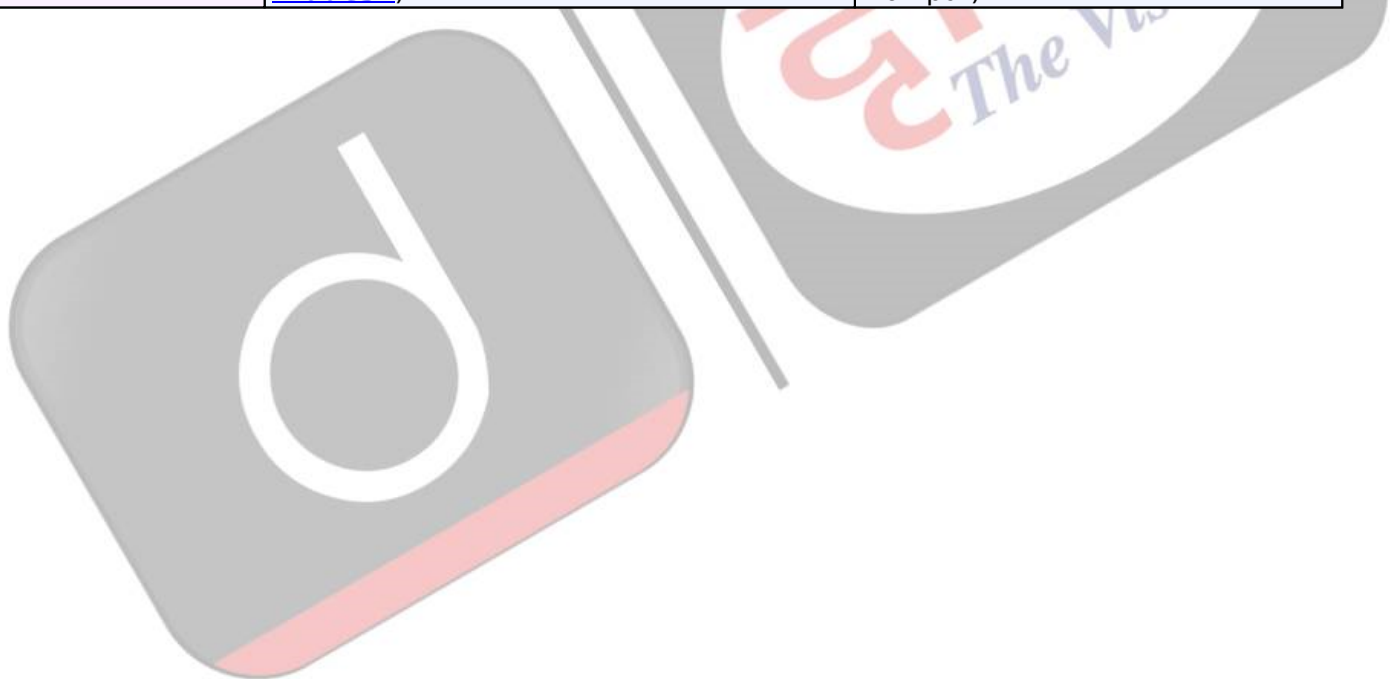
- **Munda Rebellion:** The [Munda Ulgulan \(rebellion\)](#) was a significant tribal revolt during Indian Independence, highlighting the tribal people's ability to raise their voice against exploitation.
  - The Munda tribe in Chota Nagpur, Jharkhand, primarily engaged in agriculture, faced oppression from British colonists, zamindars, and missionaries. Their land was seized, and they were forced to work as labourers.
  - **Birsa Munda spearheaded the movement**, striving to reclaim the tribe's lost land and rights.
  - The **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, (CNT Act)** enacted by the British in 1908 as a result of the **Birsa Movement**, allows land transfers within the same caste and certain geographical areas with the approval of the District Collector.
    - This Act also restricts the sale of Adivasi and Dalit land, while allowing land transfers between Adivasi individuals from the same police station and Dalits in the same district.
- **Tana Bhagat Movement:** Started in April 1914 under the leadership of **Jatra Bhagat**, aiming to stop the evil practices in the **Oraon community of Chotanagpur** and oppose the exploitation by Zamindars.
  - The movement promoted **non-violence, influenced by Mahatma Gandhi**. As a result of the movement, animal sacrifices were stopped and drinking alcohol was prohibited.
- **Chuar Uprising:** **Chuar Uprising took place in the region between Chota Nagpur and the plains of Bengal from 1767 to 1802, led by Durjan Singh. The tribes rebelled and used guerrilla tactics in response to the British taking away their land.**
- **Tamar Revolt:** It was an uprising by the **Oraon tribes** of Tamar in the Chotanagpur region between 1789 and 1832, led by **Bhola Nath Sahay**.
  - The tribes revolted against the faulty alignment system implemented by the British government, which had failed to secure the land rights of the tenants, causing unrest among the Tamar tribes in 1789.

## Tribal Revolts in Colonial India

- Tribal revolts in colonial India were diverse and multifaceted, reflecting deep-seated **grievances against British colonial policies and their impact on tribal communities.**
- These movements, categorized into **mainland and frontier tribal revolts**, spanned from the late 18th century to the eve of Indian independence, influencing regional dynamics and challenging British authority.

Aspect	Mainland Tribal Revolts	Frontier Tribal Revolts
<b>Geographical Focus</b>	Central and west-central India.	Northeast region of India
<b>Characteristics</b>	Agrarian and forest-based; focused on land and forest policies.	Political autonomy and cultural preservation; less impacted by land settlement policies.
<b>Causes</b>	Land revenue settlements, Forest policies, Influx of outsiders, and Christian missionaries	Political autonomy, Control over land and forests, and De-sanskritization movements
<b>Goals</b>	Local autonomy, cultural preservation	Political autonomy, independence
<b>Cultural Resistance</b>	Aimed at preserving tribal identities and customs	Resisted cultural influences, particularly Sanskritisation
<b>Impact</b>	Contributed to regional identity and autonomy movements	Focused on preserving indigenous practices and political autonomy
<b>Examples of Movements</b>	Pahariya Rebellion (1778, RajMahal Hills), Chuar Uprising (1776, Midnapore and Bankura), Khond Uprisings (1837-56 and 1914), Koya Revolts (1879-80, Eastern Godavari tract of Andhra Pradesh), and <b>Rampa Revolts (1922-1924, Andhra Pradesh)</b>	Ahom Revolt (1828, Assam), Singphos' Rebellion (early 1830, Assam), Kukis' Revolt (1817-19, Manipur), Naga movement (1905-31; Manipur), and Zeliangsong Movement (1920s; Manipur)

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# MAJOR TRIBAL REVOLTS IN INDIA

TRIBE (REVOLT)	REGION	YEAR	LEADER/S
Pahariya	Rajmahal Hills	1778	Raja Jagannath
Chuar (Jungle Mahal Rebellion)	Jungle Mahal (b/w Chota Nagpur & Bengal plains)	1798	Durjan/Durjol Singh, Madhab Singh, Raja Mohan Singh, Lachman Singh
Oraon and Munda (Tamar Revolt)	Tamar (Chhotanagpur)	1798; 1914-15	Bholanath Sahay/Singh (1798) Jatra Bhagat, Balram Bhagat (1914-15)
Ho and Munda	Singhbhum and Ranchi (Chhotanagpur region)	1820-37; 1890s	Raja of Parahat (Ho) Birsa Munda (1890s)
Ahom	Assam	1828-30	Gomdhar Konwar
Khasi	Hilly region b/w Jaintia and Garo hills	1830s	Nunklow ruler - Tirath Singh
Kol	Chhotanagpur (Ranchi, Singhbhum, Hazaribagh, Palamau)	1831	Buddho Bhagat
Santhals	Rajmahal Hills	1833; 1855-56	Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu
Khond	Orissa, Andhra Pradesh	1837-56	Chakra Bisnoi
Koya	Eastern Godavari track (Andhra) Rampa (Andhra)	1879-80; 1886 1916; 22-24	Tomma Sora, Raja Anantayyar Alluri Sitarama Raju (Rampa revolt)
Bhil	Western Ghats, Khandesh (MH), south Rajasthan	1817-19; 25; 31; 46 & 1913	Govind Guru (1913 Mangarh Massacre)
Gond	Adilabad (Telangana)	1940	Komrum Bheem

## Drishti Mains Question:

**Q.** Tribal revolts in colonial India reflected deep-seated grievances against British colonial policies. Discuss this statement with reference to examples from mainland and frontier regions.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q.** With reference to the history of India, 'Ulgulan' or 'the Great Tumult' is led by? (2020)

1. Bakshi Jagabandhu
2. Alluri Sitaramaraju
3. Sidhu & Kanhu Murmu
4. Birsa Munda

**Ans: (d)**

**Q2.** After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what were the measures taken by the colonial government? (2018)

1. The territories called 'Santhal Parganas' were created.



2. It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

Q. Which amongst the following provided a common factor for tribal insurrection in India in the 19th century? ( 2011)

- (a) Introduction of a new system of land revenue and taxation- of tribal products
- (b) Influence of foreign religious missionaries in tribal areas
- (c) Rise of a large number of money lenders, traders and revenue farmers as middlemen in tribal areas.
- (d) The complete disruption of the old agrarian order of the tribal communities

Ans: (d)

## Sampoornata Abhiyan

Source: PIB

[NITI Aayog](#) has launched a 3-month 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' campaign from 4th-30th September 2024.

- It aims to achieve **saturation in 6 identified indicators** in **Aspirational Districts** and 6 indicators in **Aspirational Blocks**.
- Aspirational Districts/Blocks are those districts/blocks in India, that are **affected by poor socio-economic indicators**.

### Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

Programme	Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)	Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)
Launched	2018	2023
Aim	To quickly and effectively transform <b>112 districts</b> across the country	For saturation of essential government services in <b>500 Blocks (329 Districts)</b> across the country
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Health &amp; Nutrition</li><li>▪ Education</li><li>▪ Agriculture &amp; Water Resources</li><li>▪ Financial Inclusion &amp; Skill Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Health &amp; Nutrition</li><li>▪ Education</li><li>▪ Agriculture and Allied Services</li><li>▪ Basic Infrastructure</li><li>▪ Social Development</li></ul>

	▪ Infrastructure	
<b>Number of Indicators</b>	81	40

Read more: [Aspirational Blocks Programme](#).

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## Comprehensive Immunisation Schedule for Women

Source: [TH](#)

The **Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI)** has introduced a comprehensive **immunisation schedule for women** aimed at increasing awareness and uptake of adult vaccines across India. This initiative aims to improve women's health quality, recognizing that **women spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men**.

- This initiative marks a significant step in addressing [vaccine-preventable diseases \(VPDs\)](#) among women.
  - VPDs are caused by **bacteria or viruses** and can be prevented with vaccines. They can result in long-term illness, hospitalisation, and death. Examples of VPDs include **chickenpox**, diphtheria, and [poliovirus infection](#).
- The Government of India has initiated two major efforts to **increase immunisation coverage in the country**.
  - The [Universal Immunization Programme \(UIP\)](#) provides free immunisation against **12 vaccine-preventable diseases, including 9 nationally targeted diseases** such as [Diphtheria](#), [Pertussis](#), [Tetanus](#), [Polio](#), [Measles](#), [Rubella](#), severe [Childhood Tuberculosis](#), [Hepatitis B](#), and [Meningitis & Pneumonia](#) caused by *Haemophilus influenzae type B*.
  - Additionally, [Mission Indradhanush](#) was launched in 2014 to reach children who missed their vaccinations under the UIP. It has reached over **2.53 crore children and 68 lakh pregnant women** with life-saving vaccines through its **four phases**.
- FOGSI supports Obstetrics and Gynecology practitioners in India by promoting healthcare services, reproductive rights, and reducing [maternal mortality](#).

Read more: [WHO Report on Global Immunisation](#), [Exploring the Durability of Modern Vaccines](#)

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## 248th Independence Day of US

Source: [IE](#)

Recently, the US has celebrated its **248th anniversary** of its **Independence Day** on the **4<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

- The US was declared as a sovereign nation after the adoption of the **Declaration of Independence** by the **Second Continental Congress** on **4th July 1776**.
  - This day marked the separation of British **colonies from Great Britain**.
- The struggle for independence began in 1775 when the 13 American colonies sought freedom from British rule under **King George III**.
  - This conflict sparked the **American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)**, fueled by the **colonies desire for self-governance** and freedom from oppressive British policies.

- The American colonies voted to declare independence on **2nd July 1776**, two days before the Declaration was approved and 12 of the 13 colonies officially decided to sever political ties with Great Britain.
- Causes of the American Revolutionary War included **British trade restrictions** hindering economic development, the **ban on westward expansion**, **influence of Enlightenment thinkers**, **British attempts to tax the colonies**, **lack of representation in British Parliament**, and **harsh measures like the Coercive Acts** intensifying colonial discontent.

Read more: [244th Independence Day of USA](#)

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## Pride Month

Source: IE

### Why in News?

**Pride Month, celebrated every June**, is a time of reflection, celebration, and advocacy for the [LGBTQ+ community](#). Its origins trace back to the Stonewall Uprising of 1969.

- Over the decades, Pride Month has evolved from a single day of remembrance to a month-long celebration recognised globally.

### Why is Pride Month Celebrated in June?

- Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Uprising of 1969(New York), a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ rights movement.
- In 1999, [President Bill Clinton](#) declared June as **“Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.”** Subsequent presidents, including Barack Obama and Joe Biden, have continued this tradition, recognising June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

### What were the Stonewall Riots?

- **Riots:** In the **1960s, homosexuality was illegal and solicitation was a punishable** offence in the US. LGBTQ people sought acceptance and community in places like the Stonewall Inn, a refuge for the LGBTQ community in Greenwich Village, New York.
  - On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1969, New York police raided the Stonewall Inn for selling alcohol without a licence, sparking rage among the LGBTQ community and leading to six days of riots.
  - The riots are seen as a turning point in the LGBTQ community's struggle for rights and recognition.
  - **Marsha P. Johnson**, a transgender sex worker, played a key role in the riots and is now seen as a significant figure in the LGBTQ community.
- **Post Riots:** After Stonewall, activists organised a march to commemorate its anniversary with the theme **"gay pride" to celebrate the community's sense of pride** and unity in their sexual and gender identities.
  - The celebration of Pride **expanded to a month-long event and gained official recognition**, becoming a call for visibility and unity within the LGBTQ community.
  - The celebration of Pride in America was adopted worldwide, with regional variations to make the movement more inclusive.
- **Impact of the Riots: The riots at Stonewall were a movement against police brutality and discrimination faced by queer people for decades. The riots gave public visibility to non-conventional gender identities and sexual orientations, and Pride Month now represents fearless identity and proud unity.**

## LGBTQIA+ Rights in the United States

- The US Supreme Court ruled that all states allow **same-sex marriages and recognize those performed out of state.**
- There is **no federal law specifically prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation** or gender identity.
  - However, the US Supreme Court's ruling implies that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is a form of sex discrimination, which is prohibited under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

## LGBTQIA+ Rights in India

- In 1994, **voting rights were legally granted** to individuals identifying as a third sex.
- In 2014, the **Supreme Court of India** ruled that transgender people should be treated as a **third gender category.**
- In 2017, the LGBTQIA+ community in India was given the **freedom to express their sexual orientation**, protected by the **Right to Privacy.**
- **The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** to provide for the protection of rights and welfare of transgender people.
- **Same-sex marriage is not expressly recognised as a fundamental or constitutional right under the Indian Constitution**, but it provides **some limited recognition** to cohabiting same-sex couples.
  - The SC has held that the **right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 of the Constitution**, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are entitled to the full range of constitutional rights, including equal protection under the law.