



Operation AAHT

For Prelims: Railway Protection Force, Operation AAHT, National Crime Records Bureau, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

For Mains: Human Trafficking in India, Issues related to women, Issues related to children.

Why in News?

Recently, the **Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking.**

- As part of “**Operation AAHT**”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- The **National Crime Records Bureau** registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.

What is Operation AAHT?

- The Indian Railways, which transported over 23 million passengers each day (pre-pandemic), is the largest, fastest and most reliable carrier for suspects who trafficked scores of women and children.
- Under **Operation AAHT**, the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to **collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, the identity of carriers/agents, kingpins** etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.
- Under this, the RPF could act as a **bridge cutting across States** to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.
- Also, **cyber cells** would start patrolling the web/social media to look for digital footprints of Human Trafficking and the focus would be more on trains originating from districts bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

What is Human Trafficking?

- Human trafficking, also called trafficking in persons, form of modern-day slavery involving the illegal transport of individuals by force or deception for the purpose of labour, sexual exploitation, or activities in which others benefit financially.
 - Human Trafficking, especially of women and children, for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, domestic servitude, organ transplant, drug peddling, etc is an **organised crime and the most abominable violation of human rights.**
- There is a popular understanding that trafficking is happening a lot more between countries but a report by UNODC highlights that close to **60% of trafficking happens internally in countries.**
- **Situation in India:** The **most affected state presently is West Bengal** followed by Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING in INDIA

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Involves recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion/deception, for the purpose of exploitation.

NCRB 2018:

5264

Cases reported

64%

Females

48%

Below 18



MOST SUSCEPTIBLE

To fall victim to such malpractices are the economically disadvantaged, and people belonging to the SC, ST, AND OBC CATEGORIES



CAUSES

Poverty, social or cultural practice, and migration, porous nature of borders, corrupt Government officials, the involvement of international organised criminal groups or networks etc.



AFTER EFFECTS

Mental and Physical ailments such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, HIV, AIDS, STDS, TB



RELEVANT LAWS

- Article 23 and 24 of the Constitution of India.
- Sections in IPC such as 366A, 366B, 370 and 374.
- The Juvenile Justice Act
- Information Technology (IT) Act
- Immoral Traffic Act
- Prevention of Child Labour Act
- Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act

CHALLENGES

- Inadequate understanding & bad implementation of laws
- No regulation of social media
- Inadequate data



[Source: TH](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/operation-aaht>

