

**UNITED NATIONS – UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR-III)**

**MID-TERM REPORT OF INDIA**

May 2020

Submission by



**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
INDIA**



### ***List of Abbreviations***

AHTU	Anti Human Trafficking Unit
AMRUT	Atal Mission For Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
BSK	Baal Shiksha Kendra
CCTV	Closed-circuit Television
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CLC	City Livelihood Centers
CLPR	The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation)
CPHC	Comprehensive Primary Health Care
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAY- NULM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihood Mission
DEPwD	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
DGT	Directorate General of Training
FHTC	Functional Household Tap Connection
FPS	Fair Price Shops
FTSC	Fast Track Special Court
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GoI	Government of India



## UPR-III: Mid-term Report by NHRC India

GPI	Gender Parity Index
HRC	Human Rights Council
ICC	Internal Complaints Committee
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ISFR	India State of Forest Report
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JJM	Jal Jeevan Mission
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
LaQshya	Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative
LGBTQI	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex
MARG	Multiple Action Research Group
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MDM	Mid-Day Meal
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MPV	Mahila Police Volunteers
MSK	Mahila Shakti Kendra
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPHR	National Action Plan on Human Rights
NCERT	National Council for Education, Research and Training
NCLP	National Child Labour Project

NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NFSA	National Food Security Act
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NGRBC	National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIF	National Indicator Framework
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
NSTI	National Skill Training Institute
NVG	National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental & Economic Responsibilities of Business
OSC	One Stop Centres
PISA	Programme for International Students Assessment
PMAY (U)	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)
PMMVY	Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
PMSMA	Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
PWDVA	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
RF	Revolving Fund
RMSA	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan



## UPR-III: Mid-term Report by NHRC India

RPD	Rights of Persons with Disabilities
RTE	Right to Education
SAGY	Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
SC	Scheduled Castes
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMA	State Disaster Management Authority
SEP	Self Employment Programme
SHG	Self Help Group
SHRC	State Human Rights Commission
SOP	Standard Operating Protocol
SSA	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribes
SUMAN	Surakshit Matritva Ashwasan
TE	Teacher Education
UDISE	Unified District Information System for Education
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNGP	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UT	Union Territory
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



## I. Introduction

1. Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a unique mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), is to examine and assess the human rights situation in every UN Member State through peer review mechanism. It has assumed a central role in the advancement and monitoring of human rights, and also has the potential to enhance state accountability towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>1</sup>.
2. The UPR is undertaken in cycles of four and a half years each. India has already completed two cycles and is currently in the third review cycle. The review of India under the third UPR cycle was held on 4 May 2017 and subsequently, the outcome of the Government of India's report was adopted on 21 September 2017. A total of 250 recommendations were made by the UPR Working Group in respect of India, out of which 152 recommendations were accepted and the remaining were noted by the Government of India (GoI).
3. The recommendations accepted by the GoI pertain to a broad range of issues such as acceptance of international norms, poverty alleviation, rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly, marginalized populations, labour, right to health, right to education and promotion of human rights education etc. A preliminary examination of the accepted recommendations suggest that majority of them pertain to the rights of women and children, followed by acceptance of international norms such as Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishments.

## II. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India's role and initiatives in reviewing the implementation of the UPR recommendations:

4. NHRC India (to be henceforward called Commission) was established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, in conformity with the Paris Principles, 1991. It is mandated to protect and promote human rights of all in the country and to make

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<sup>1</sup> Bueno De Mesquita J. (2019). The Universal Periodic Review: A Valuable New Procedure for the Right to Health?. Health and human rights, 21(2), 263–277.



recommendations to the Government to strengthen and uphold the same. While the Commission regularly contributes in each UPR cycle through its submission of the Stakeholders' Report, it also reviews the status of implementation of the recommendations of UPR.

5. In the third UPR cycle, the Commission organized a “Meeting of Stakeholders on Implementation of UPR-III recommendations”<sup>2</sup> in October, 2018, to review the status of implementation of the accepted recommendations. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Union Ministries, State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC), UN agencies in India and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The said meeting reviewed the status of implementation of UPR-III recommendations through discussions on the importance of the UPR process, sharing of initiatives/ plan of actions by the Union Ministries, the cooperative action plan by CSOs, and also training on good practices of UPR.

6. The deliberations of the review meeting held in October 2018 provided the Commission with the status of implementation of UPR-III recommendations and issues to be taken forward with the Government. For instance, taking cognizance of the issues of domestic workers, highlighted with respect to the recommendation to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on domestic workers, the Commission organized a regional conference of human rights of domestic workers<sup>3</sup> in August 2019 to understand the issues of people employed in this profession and concoct a roadmap to safeguard their rights. The recommendations which emanated from the Conference were sent to the Ministry of Labour and Employment for further necessary actions.

7. In the light of the persistent recommendations across the three cycles to adopt a National Action Plan on Human Rights (NAPHR), the Commission constituted a Task Force on NAPHR with representation from various Union Ministries to formulate the same. The first meeting of the Task Force was held in January 2020 to deliberate upon the the issue of inclusion of other Ministries and CSOs to make it a multi-tiered process and to decide upon the main thematic areas of the NAPHR.

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<sup>2</sup> Detailed minutes of the meeting is available at: [https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/Minutes\\_meeting\\_UPR-3\\_26112018.pdf](https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/Minutes_meeting_UPR-3_26112018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Detailed minutes of the meeting is available at: [https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/Minutes\\_Domestic\\_Workers\\_2019.pdf](https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/Minutes_Domestic_Workers_2019.pdf)



### III. Process adopted in preparation of the Mid-term Report: A multi-stakeholder approach

8. As the recommendations of UPR-III span across several Ministries, the NHRC team identified the Ministries responsible for implementation of the 152 accepted recommendations. To gauge the progress made in the implementation of UPR-III recommendations, written inputs on the action taken were also sought from 18 Ministries in the second week of January 2020. Thereafter, to expedite the receipt of inputs, a series of the meetings on the “Status of Implementation of the UPR-III recommendations” were organized by the Commission in groups of 3-4 Ministries under the close supervision of the Hon’ble Chairperson/ Members of the Commission. Five meetings spanning across eighteen Ministries were undertaken in February 2020.

9. To ensure multi-stakeholder participation, the Commission organized a meeting with the CSOs on 4th March 2020 to obtain their views on the recommendations of UPR-III. The said meeting witnessed the presence of twelve participants across ten CSOs including the Convenor and Co-Convenor of the Working Group on Human Rights (India). Further, the meeting was attended by the Members, Secretary General and other senior officers of the Commission.

10. While appreciating the multi-stakeholder approach adopted by the Commission, the representatives from the CSOs expressed hope that such interface between CSOs, Government and the Commission will continue in future. It was suggested that other Commissions in India dealing with the issues of human rights could also be involved in the UPR review meetings. In the course of the meeting, several issues were highlighted, such as, ratification of international human rights instruments, issues in legislations of trafficking and protection against child sexual abuse. Gaps in the implementation of schemes for food security and timely disbursement of wages under schemes for employment. Need for sensitization about rights of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex (LGBTQI+) and non-discrimination against minorities in the society. Issues of displacement, housing rights and its relation with social security and adequate standard of living were also raised. There was a consensus on the necessity of increasing the budgetary allocation for health and nutrition by the GoI and State Governments and directing greater attention to the issue of infant mortality.





#### IV. Status of implementation of the recommendations duly accepted by Government of India

11. After getting written inputs and having detailed deliberations with the Union Ministries of GoI and the CSOs, all the recommendation duly accepted by the GoI have been classified into thirty four themes as under:

- Theme 1: Ratification of Human Rights Treaties and Conventions, Implementing Human Rights Mechanisms, Facilitating UN Special Procedures
- Theme 2: National Plan of Action on Human Rights
- Theme 3: Progress on Sustainable Development Goals
- Theme 4: Reducing Corruption and Increasing Accountability
- Theme 5: Business Compliance to National and International Human Rights Standards
- Theme 6: Environmental Policies and International Commitments
- Theme 7: Housing, Water and Sanitation
- Theme 8: Poverty Eradication
- Theme 9: Food Security and Malnutrition
- Theme 10: Social Security and Labour Rights
- Theme 11: Human Trafficking and Forced Labour
- Theme 12: Child Labour
- Theme 13: Gender Parity and Safety at Workplace
- Theme 14: Health: Public Spending
- Theme 15: Reproductive Health and Sterilization
- Theme 16: Maternal Health and Child Mortality
- Theme 17: Healthcare for Elderly and Other Disadvantaged Groups



- Theme 18: Right to Education for All
- Theme 19: Investment in Education
- Theme 20: Corporal Punishment
- Theme 21: Girl Child Education
- Theme 22: Protection of Rights of the Child and the Juvenile Justice Act
- Theme 23: Sexual Violence Against Children
- Theme 24: Child and Forced Marriages
- Theme 25: Eradicating Malnutrition among Children and Increasing Access to Food, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Theme 26: Gender Discrimination
- Theme 27: Comprehensive National Plan to Combat Persisting Gender Inequality
- Theme 28: Proper Implementation and Incorporation of Gender in Socio-economic Policies
- Theme 29: Training and Capacity Building of Government Officials in Women's Rights
- Theme 30: Sexual Violence Against Women
- Theme 31: Domestic Violence
- Theme 32: Honour Killings
- Theme 33: Persons with Disabilities
- Theme 34: Protection of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Vulnerable Populations

A thematically classified mid-term report showing status of implementation of the recommendations accepted by GoI in UPR-III is given below in a tabular form.



S No <sup>4</sup> .	R. No <sup>5</sup> .	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
<b><i>Theme 1: Ratification of Human Rights Treaties and Conventions, Implementing Human Rights Mechanisms, Facilitating UN Special Procedures</i></b>			
1.	161.41	Ratify the international conventions to which it has committed itself.  (Madagascar)	As the GoI has accepted the recommendations to ratify the Convention against Torture, in the present as well as previous UPR cycles, it remains committed to ratifying the said Convention. Towards this end, the GoI has requested the Law Commission of India to examine and give a comprehensive report covering all aspects of criminal law so that necessary amendments can be made to the India Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedures and Indian Evidence Act. <i>(Source: Ministry of External Affairs)</i>
2.	161.44	Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections.  (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	The GoI selects national candidates for UN Treaty Bodies based on merit as well as previous experience in working with those bodies. As informed by the Ministry of External Affairs, the candidates are generally senior diplomats who either have to be selected by the UN agencies or elected to the concerned position. <i>(Source: Ministry of External Affairs)</i>
3.	161.45	Respond positively to visit requests by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.  (Latvia)	Since the year 2000, eleven mandate holders have visited India. For instance, the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Standard of Living and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation visited in the year 2016 and 2017 respectively. <i>(Source: Ministry of External Affairs)</i>
4.	161.46	Put in place a specific mechanism for implementing previous	As per the Ministry of External Affairs, the GoI interacts with the civil society and other stakeholders regularly to ensure implementation of UPR

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<sup>4</sup> Serial Number

<sup>5</sup> Recommendation Number



		accepted recommendations.  (Uganda)	recommendations. <i>(Source: Ministry of External Affairs)</i>
5.	161.47	Request all necessary technical assistance enabling the Government to meet its international commitments.  (Côte d'Ivoire)	The GoI has been engaging with all stakeholders to meet its international commitments. The inclusion of all stakeholders is to ensure the equitable development, life of dignity, security, empowerment and freedom for all. <i>(Source: Ministry of External Affairs)</i>
<b><i>Theme 2: National Plan of Action on Human Rights</i></b>			
6.	161.62	Adopt a national plan on human rights.  (Kenya)	NHRC India has taken up the task for the preparation of NAPHR. In this regard, it has constituted a Task Force on NAPHR with representation from the Union Ministries for the formulation of the same. The first meeting of the Task Force was held in January 2020.
<b><i>Theme 3: Progress on Sustainable Development Goals</i></b>			
7.	161.85	Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and in the improvement of human development indicators.  (Islamic Republic of Iran)	The GoI has entrusted the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with the task of development of National Indicator Framework (NIF) in consultation with the Ministries and Departments. NIF is a set of 306 national indicators, which enable measurement of the progress towards achieving SDGs and associated targets at the national level until 2030. Based on the NIF, a Baseline Report has also been released <sup>6</sup> .
8.	161.86	Continue efforts in the implementation of sustainable	The following efforts have been made by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in the implementation of sustainable

<sup>6</sup> Baseline Report is available at [http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_reports/SDG\\_Baseline\\_report\\_4.3.2019\\_0.pdf](http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/SDG_Baseline_report_4.3.2019_0.pdf)



		development strategies for the year 2030.  (Sudan)	development strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SDG India Dashboard: A unified data repository of SDG and NIF has been developed and made available on Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's website.</li> <li>- Assistance to states and Union Territories (UTs) for the development of State Indicator Framework. Regular workshops and meetings are already held in this context.</li> <li>- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is also working on the methodology development of global indicators so that data could be prepared.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation)</i></p>
<b>Theme 4: Reducing Corruption and Increasing Accountability</b>			
9.	161.147	Continue efforts to reduce corruption and increase accountability.  (Sudan)	India is largely United Nations Convention against Corruption compliant in adopting a legislative and administrative framework to curb corruption. Some of the notable steps are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018: Clear distinction between collusive and coercive bribery; establishing vicarious liability so that the actual bribe giver gets exposed.</li> <li>- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013: Instrumental in checking big ticket corruption by operating within statutory timelines.</li> <li>- Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Act, 2015: Stringent penalties for non-disclosure of income.</li> <li>- Amendment in Companies Act: Protect the integrity and transparency of the global financial system.</li> <li>- Use of Open Data Standards</li> <li>- Independent expert panel to review the program for public</li> </ul>



			<p>investment in infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open Government Data Platform India<sup>7</sup>: to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications in an open format for public use.</li> <li>- To avoid Conflict of Interest in awarding tenders, nominated individual officers have to declare upfront their private interest in the procurement process.</li> <li>- Diagnostic tool: used by the Competition Commission of India for advanced technology based data analytics for the detection of cartelization in public procurement.</li> <li>- Central Public Procurement Portal<sup>8</sup>, an e-procurement portal of GoI.</li> <li>- Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018: Empowers authorities to attach and confiscate proceeds of crime and properties associated with economic offenders.</li> <li>- Prevention of Money Laundering Act: Facilitates the recovery of assets in accordance with G20 “Key Asset Recovery Principles”.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Source: Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions)</i></p> <p>NHRC believes that ‘right to corruption free system’ is essential for the realization of human rights, in pursuit of which it has taken the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has taken cognizance of complaints on corruption at official levels, in relief disbursement and has taken appropriate actions i.e., issued summons, compensations and demanded reports from concerned authorities. (For example, action was taken against corruption in giving aid to families of victims of farmers’ suicides in Bundelkhand; inquiries into corrupt practices in educational</li> </ul>
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<sup>7</sup> Can be accessed at: [www.data.gov.in](http://www.data.gov.in)

<sup>8</sup> Central Public Procurement Portal can be accessed at: <https://eprocure.gov.in>



			<p>institutions; seeking report on the Central Bureau of Investigation probes into corruption).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has also recommended setting up exclusive fast track courts to deal with cases of corruption, review the existing laws and enforcement mechanisms that deal with the scourge of corruption and remedial improvements/amendments and evolve a system of providing immunity and witness protection to all those who expose cases of corruption.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Theme 5: Business Compliance to National and International Human Rights Standards</i></b>			
10.	161.90	<p>Establish and implement regulations to ensure that the business sector complies with international and national human rights, labor, environment and other standards.</p> <p>(Uganda)</p>	<p>To establish and implement regulations to ensure that the business sector complies with international and national human rights, labor, environment and other standards the GoI formally decided to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights in November 2018. The NAP aims to align Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to SDG goals and update the Annual Business Responsibility Report. In February 2019, it published a draft NAP and thereafter GoI constituted a Working Group consisting of representatives from relevant Ministries, NHRC and Securities and Exchange Board of India, that will inter-alia assess and monitor the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business &amp; Human Rights (UNGPs) framework based on review of the existing laws and policies.</p> <p>Further, with respect to compliance of the business sector, provisions of National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental &amp; Economic Responsibilities of Business (NVGs), 2011 encourage economic, environment and social responsibility of businesses. In 2019, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs formulated and issued National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) which is an improvement over the existing NVGs, and are a means of nudging businesses to contribute towards wider development goals while seeking to maximize their profits. The</p>



			<p>NGRBC is dovetailed with the UNGPs and the ‘Protect’, ‘Respect’ and ‘Remedy’ framework.</p> <p>The expenditure under CSR, as per 2009 CSR Guidelines and Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, has seen an increasing trend (approximately 18,000 companies are complying). <i>(Source: Ministry of Corporate Affairs)</i></p> <p>NHRC has constituted a Core group on Business, Environment and Human Rights to deliberate upon the issues of business and human rights. Some important recommendations made in the course of National Seminars, Conferences and Core Group meetings on issues of business and human rights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of NAP on Business and Human Rights, in conformity with the UN Guiding Principles, to protect against the adverse impact on human rights by business enterprises.</li> <li>- Development of an accreditation/rating mechanism for all the Public Sector Undertakings to ensure protection and promotion of human rights.</li> <li>- Development of self-regulating mechanism by business entities to ensure the protection of human rights of all their workers.</li> <li>- The companies need to adopt/use 'Self Assessment Tool', developed by a team of representatives from the Industry Federations/organisations and facilitated by the NHRC, to self evaluate their commitment to human rights, and identify the needs/gaps for further improvement.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission has also entrusted a study on the functioning of the Indian industry to understand the prevailing practices and knowledge about the CSR and business ethics.</p>
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***Theme 6: Environmental Policies and International Commitments***

11.	161.91	Continue its efforts in relation to	India is committed to continue implementing its international commitments
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		its environmental policies.  (State of Palestine)	<p>to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement of 2015. The NDC submitted are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To reduce the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level.</li> <li>- To achieve about 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with the help of transfer of technology and lower cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund.</li> <li>- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.</li> </ul> <p>Following are some of the initiatives to enforce environmental policies and increase the growth of forest cover in the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage of reduction in emission intensity of GDP: An emission intensity reduction of 21% between 2005 and 2014 has been achieved</li> <li>- Percentage of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources: 23.3% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources (as on January, 2020).</li> <li>- Hectares of additional forest &amp; tree cover over baseline levels: The current assessment as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019, shows an increase of 3976 sq. km (1.29%) of tree cover and 5188 sq. km (0.65%) of forest and tree cover put together, of the national level as compared to the previous assessments i.e. ISFR, 2017.</li> <li>- The National Action Plan on Climate Change is a comprehensive mission with 8 core missions in the areas of Solar energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Himalayan Ecosystem, Green Mission, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change.</li> <li>- Implementation of National Environment Policy and programs</li> </ul>
12.	161.92	Provide access to clean and modern energy to all its people and develop climate-friendly green cities.  (United Arab Emirates)	
13.	161.93	Continue implementing its international commitments to achieve its nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement of 2015.  (United Arab Emirates)	
14.	161.94	Continue its efforts to effectively enforce its environmental policies and further increase the growth of forest cover in the country.  (Brunei Darussalam)	



			<p>therein involving inter-alia conservation of biodiversity and wildlife, conservation of forests, mangroves and coral reefs, combating pollution and environmental impact assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per data available with Central Electricity Authority, the percentage of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources as on Jan 2020 is 23.3%.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)</i></p> <p>NHRC has played a key role in keeping a watchful eye on the problem of pollution; rehabilitation of people displaced by mega projects and related issues. It has repeatedly called for sustainable development based on inter-generational equity, which is necessary for a proper balance between human rights and development. For instance, taking suo moto cognizance of pollution of River Ganga, the Commission issued notices to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, calling for action taken reports towards reduction of the same.</p>
<b>Theme 7: Housing, Water and Sanitation</b>			
15.	161.155	<p>Implement a human rights-based, holistic approach to ensure access to adequate housing as well as to adequate water and sanitation, including for marginalized groups, Dalits, scheduled castes, the homeless, the landless, scheduled tribes, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and women.</p> <p>(Germany)</p>	<p>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission' PMAY (U) of GoI, popularly known as Housing for All, was launched on 25th June 2015. Under this scheme, 103 lakh houses have been sanctioned as on 31.01.2020, as against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 crore. PMAY (U) has a mandatory provision for the female head of the family to be the owner or co-owner of the house under this Mission. The scheme synergizes Public, Private &amp; Peoples Partnership; however, its prime movers are the beneficiaries who have invested their lives savings and efforts to fulfil the dreams of owning a house wholeheartedly. This enthusiastic participation has resulted in the delivery of 32 lakh houses already. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p>



16.	161.156	<p>Expand the Housing for All scheme to realize the right to adequate housing for vulnerable people and eliminate homelessness by 2030.</p> <p>(South Africa)</p>	<p>Poverty alleviation scheme namely “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM)’ is a Centrally sponsored scheme under implementation since Financial Year (FY) 2014-2015. It covers all Statutory Towns. The Mission aims to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor through building of social capital, a three tiered community structure (self-help groups, area level and city level federations), providing market relevant skill training and placement under Skill India Mission. Financial inclusion of the urban poor, and support for their micro-enterprises through subsidized credit, creating shelters for the urban homeless with adequate infrastructure and services, addressing livelihood concerns of urban street vendors are also the important aims of this scheme. As on 25.11.2019, under the mission: 4.75 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed involving about 45 lakh urban poor; 2.96 lakh SHGs have been given Revolving Fund (RF); 10.14 lakh candidates have been skill trained; 5.53 lakh employed; 9.9 lakh loans disbursed through banks under Self Employment Programme (SEP); more than 350 City Livelihood Centers (CLCs) functioning; more than 11.56 lakh street vendors identified and over 9 lakh given ID cards; 2,052 shelters for urban homeless sanctioned out of which 1342 have been made functional. The urban component named as Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p> <p>‘AMRUT Scheme’ (Atal Mission For Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) was launched in June 2015. The Mission aims at providing basic services (e.g. water supply, sewerage, urban transport etc.) to households and build amenities in cities which will improve the quality of life for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged is a national priority. The Priority zone of the Mission is water supply followed by sewerage. Under this scheme 65 lakh households have been provided water tap connections, 42 lakh households have been provided sewer connections.</p>
17.	161.157	<p>Continue the Housing for All policy led by the Government to eradicate by 2030 the problem of homelessness, in conformity with Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>(Algeria)</p>	
18.	161.170	<p>Continue to increase access to safe and sustainable drinking water in rural areas and to improve sanitation coverage, especially for women and girls.</p> <p>(Singapore)</p>	



			<p>More than 300 sewerage/fecal sludge treatment plants are in progress/completed and 1390 green spaces and parks have been developed. Regarding water supply, Rs. 39,011 crore worth of water supply projects have been approved, and 1,260 projects worth Rs. 38,385 crore has been grounded. Regarding Sewage and Septage, Rs. 32,456 crore worth of sewerage projects has been approved and 712 projects worth Rs. 29,583 crore worth of projects have been grounded. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p> <p>To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage, the GoI launched the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 with two Sub-Missions namely the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin/Rural) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). Under 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) scheme', 1037 cities have become Open Defecation Free. Individual toilets constructed since 2010-2014 is 61 Lakhs (under construction 4.6 Lakhs) and Community toilets since 2010-14 – 5.79 Lakhs (under construction 33,000). Further, 96% urban wards have 100% door to door collection of municipal solid waste and 74% urban wards have 100% segregation of municipal solid waste. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p> <p>To improve the 'ease of living' of the rural population and enable every rural household to have potable drinking water on regular basis in adequate quantity, GoI has launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in August 2019 by restructuring and subsuming the existing programmes. In this programme, highest priority is accorded to water quality affected areas. The outlay of JJM is \$ 51 billion. The Mission aims for universal coverage of all the rural households of the country by 2024. The goal of JJM is to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) at service level of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) adhering to the prescribed quality and provided regularly inter alia including for marginalized groups, Scheduled Castes (SCs), the homeless, the landless, Scheduled Tribes (STs), religious and ethnic</p>
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			<p>minorities, persons with disabilities and women. <i>(Source: Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)</i></p> <p>The GoI has decided to provide FHTC to every rural Household by 2024 @ Rs 3.6 lakh crore with Rs 2.08 cr central share. Regarding the status of water supply, 81.22% habitations are fully covered with 40 lpcd (lakh per capita per day) or more (population: 75.54%), 15.54% habitations are partially covered (&lt;40 lpcd) (population: 19.69%), 3.77% habitations are affected with water quality and National Water Quality Sub-Mission is under implementation for addressing the water quality issues. As per the new JJM approach, 17.86 crore houses are targeted to be covered. Priority is given to quality affected, drought prone and Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages. There is separate fund allocation criteria for water supply to SC/ST population. <i>(Source: Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)</i></p> <p>National Water Quality Sub-Mission is being implemented since March, 2017 to provide safe drinking water to identified 27,544 Arsenic/ Fluoride affected rural habitations by March, 2021. <i>(Source: Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)</i></p>
<b>Theme 8: Poverty Eradication</b>			
19.	161.161	<p>Continue studying the possibility of a universal basic income as a way to further reduce poverty levels with a view to possibly phasing out the existing social protection system, in full consultation with all stakeholders.</p> <p>(Haiti)</p>	<p>This matter is under examination and active consideration of the GoI</p>



20.	161.162	Continuously improve its endeavors to eradicate poverty in the country.  (Indonesia)	<p>PMAY (U) of GoI, popularly known as Housing for All, was launched on 25th June 2015. Under this scheme, 103 lakh houses so far have been sanctioned as on 31.01.2020. The Mission provides Central Assistance to the implementing agencies through States/UTs and Central Nodal Agencies for providing houses to all eligible families/ beneficiaries against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 crore. In continuation to the Government's efforts towards the empowerment of women from Economically Weaker Section and Lower Income Group, PMAY (U) has a mandatory provision for the female head of the family to be the owner or co-owner of the house under this Mission. (Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</p> <p>DAY-NULM is a Centrally sponsored scheme under implementation since FY 2014-15. It covers all Statutory Towns. The Mission aims to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor through building social capital, through a three tiered community structure (self- help groups, area level and city level federations), providing market relevant skill training and placement under Skill India Mission. Financial inclusion of the urban poor, and support for their micro-enterprises through subsidized credit, creating shelters for the urban homeless with adequate infrastructure and services, addressing livelihood concerns of urban street vendors are also the important aims of this scheme. As on 25.11.2019, under the mission, 4.75 lakh SHGs have been formed involving about 45 lakh urban poor; 2.96 lakh SHGs given RF; 10.14 lakh candidates skill trained; 5.53 lakh employed; 9.9 lakh loans disbursed through banks under SEP; more than 350 CLCs functioning, more than 11.56 lakh street vendors identified and over 9 lakh given identity cards; 2,052 shelters for urban homeless sanctioned; 1,342 made functional. As far as funding is concerned, Rs 4,570 Crore (including Rs 2,783 as Central Share). The Urban component named as Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty</p>
21.	161.163	Continue its efforts towards socioeconomic development and poverty eradication.  (Islam Republic of Iran)	
22.	161.164	Further strengthen its efforts towards socioeconomic development and poverty eradication.  (Myanmar)	
23.	161.165	Continue efforts to realize social and economic development and eradicate poverty.  (Saudi Arabia)	
24.	161.166	Continue efforts to reduce poverty, improve the well-being of the people, protect and enforce the rights of vulnerable groups of the population.  (Uzbekistan)	



25.	161.168	<p>Continue its fight against poverty, lack of adequate food, safe water and sanitation, while paying special attention to the need to introduce a child rights-based approach in all policies.</p> <p>(Bulgaria)</p>	<p>Alleviation. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p> <p>In order to improve the 'ease of living' of rural population and to enable every rural household have potable drinking water on regular basis in adequate quantity, GoI has launched JJM in August 2019 by restructuring and subsuming the existing programmes. In this programme, highest priority is accorded to water quality affected areas. The outlay of JJM is \$ 51 billion. The Mission aims for universal coverage of all the rural households of the country by 2024. The goal of JJM is to provide FHTC at service level of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) adhering to the prescribed quality and provided regularly inter alia including for marginalized groups, SCs, the homeless, the landless, STs, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and women. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p>
26.	161.169	<p>Continue national efforts to realize social and economic development and eradicate poverty, and achieve comprehensive sustainable development for all.</p> <p>(Egypt)</p>	<p>In order to fight against poverty, lack of adequate food, safe water and sanitation while paying special attention to introduce a child rights based approach, the GoI devised a scheme where Pregnant and lactating mothers are entitled to get cash benefit of not less than Rs.6000 to compensate for the period of wage loss and also act as a supplement of nutrition.</p> <p>The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme has also been introduced which is administered by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide adequate nutrition and eradicate the problem of malnutrition among growing children. Post National Food Security Act (NFSA), the implementation of Public Distribution System has also been more transparent and more effective in terms of high coverage of entitlements and increased credibility of ration cards. <i>(Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)</i></p> <p>A meeting of the Core Group on Right to Food was held on June 6, 2017 in the Commission. The meeting was chaired by Shri S.C.Sinha, the then</p>



			<p>Member, NHRC. An overview of the implementation of NFSA in Odisha, Delhi, Bihar and Chattisgarh was also given in the said meeting. It was suggested by the Commission that all the State Representatives should carry out the survey, form teams and identify individuals who are eligible under NFSA 2013 and try to bring them under the coverage of NFSA. Further, a National Conference on “Implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 in relation to Children &amp; Lactating Mothers and Pregnant Women” was held on 27.10.2017 at New Delhi. After intensive deliberations, recommendations were made regarding the better implementation of Nutritional Support to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers and Children up to 6 years and for effective implementation of MDM Schemes.</p> <p>In order to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, the GoI launched the ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ on 2nd October 2014, with two Sub-Missions– the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin/Rural) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). Under ‘Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) scheme’, 1037 cities have become Open Defecation Free. Individual toilets constructed since 2010-2014 is 61 Lakhs (under construction 4.6 Lakhs) and Community toilets since 2010-14 – 5.79 Lakhs (Under construction 33,000). Further, 96% urban wards have 100% Door to Door Collection of Municipal Solid Waste and 74% urban wards have 100% Segregation of Municipal Solid Waste. <i>(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation)</i></p> <p>To improve 'ease of living' of rural population and to enable every rural household to have potable drinking water on a regular basis in adequate quantity, GoI has launched JJM in August 2019 by restructuring and subsuming the existing programmes. In this programme, highest priority is accorded to water quality affected areas. The outlay of JJM is \$ 51 billion. The Mission aims for universal coverage of all the rural households of the country by 2024. The goal of JJM is to provide FHTC at the service level of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) adhering to the prescribed quality and</p>
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			provided regularly inter alia including for marginalized groups, SCs, the homeless, the landless, STs, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and women. (Source: Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)
<b>Theme 9: Food Security and Malnutrition</b>			
27.	161.153	<p>Continue strengthening efforts aimed at promoting food security and eradicate all forms of malnutrition, in particular among children under the age of 5.</p> <p>(Libya)</p>	<p>GoI started the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, in order to promote food security and eradicate all forms of malnutrition. It is one of the public distribution system schemes in India implemented since the year 2000. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure food security and create a hunger-free India. The scheme covers the poorest of the poor households who are entitled to get 35 Kg of food grains per family per month. Another category is Priority Households; under this, every person is entitled to get 5 Kg of food grains per month. Its targeted beneficiaries are 25 million poorest families<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>The GoI has been in continuous efforts to meet the prevailing challenges related to food security. Towards this end, it enacted the NFSA in 2013 to provide food, nutritional security and facilitate access to quality food at reasonable prices. The Act constitutes guiding principles where the children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to receive nutritious meal free of cost in Anganwadi Centres. The annual allocation of food grain under NFSA and other welfare schemes is about 610 Lakh Metric Tons. The stock of food grains in the Central Pool as on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 was 741.41 lakh tons consisting of 275.81 lakh tons of rice and 465.60 lakh tons of wheat<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>NHRC has been emphasizing on the proper implementation of the NFSA, 2013 and also the flagship schemes namely, the Integrated Child</p>

<sup>9</sup> More details at: <https://pradhanmantriyojana.co.in/antyodaya-anna-yojana/>

<sup>10</sup> More details at: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191101>



			<p>Development Services (ICDS) and the MDM Scheme. It has also been urging its Special Rapporteurs to provide feedback on the status of implementation of these schemes as well as the food security legislation in the States. The Special Rapporteur, West Zone, NHRC, visited Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu to assess the status of human rights and thereafter, the Commission recommended the State Government to ensure that families of malnourished children are tracked and their income levels are carefully monitored and linked with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA). The Special Rapporteur, North East Zone, NHRC, also visited the North Sikkim district of Sikkim to review the implementation of the Flagship Programmes of GoI. Thereafter, Commission recommended the state government to ensure that adequate funds are available to the Anganwadi Centres to meet the needs of the children.</p>
28.	161.154	<p>Continue its programmes for the promotion of socioeconomic development, with a particular focus on the country's rights-based approach to food security targeting the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>(Sri Lanka)</p>	<p>Currently, the NFSA is being implemented in all 36 States/UTs and it covers approximately 800 million (75% rural and 50% urban) of the population of India in order to promote socio-economic development and adopt a rights-based approach. Through the advent of the Act, the GoI has endeavored to shift from a welfare to a rights-based approach. It is to be noted that in the UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli, NFSA is being implemented in cash mode under which cash equivalent of subsidy is transferred directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiary. Annually, through 5.34 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPS) around 55 million tonnes of food grains is distributed. <i>(Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)</i></p> <p>To make the system more transparent, digitisation of all ration cards and data of beneficiaries has been undertaken. There is end-to-end computerisation of all the Targetted Public Distribution Systems operations. 23.4 crore ration cards has been digitised so far. 34 States/UTs have also been allotted food grains online. Online Grievance Redressal Mechanism</p>



			<p>and toll-free helpline numbers have also been set up in 36 States/UTs. 4.7 lakhs out of 5.35 FPSs are automated in 28 States/UTs. (Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)</p> <p>A research study titled “Agrarian Crisis and Farmers’ Suicide - An Empirical Study of the Endemic States - Issues and Concerns” was undertaken by NHRC in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development &amp; Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad. The study aimed to assess the measures taken by the Government to prevent the incidence of farmers’ suicides and ensure that the affected families obtain the ideal rehabilitation benefits with minimum bureaucratic hassles.</p> <p>NHRC has also organized various visits through its Special Rapporteurs to assess the situation of socio economic development at state level. The Special Rapporteur, North Zone during his visit to Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh inspected seven Anganwadi Centres in the district. Government there had created ‘Mega Call Centre’ for monitoring the service delivery for the services provided on the ‘Village health and nutrition day’. The Commission recommended to the State Government to go digital and obtain and store the data electronically and reduce the number of registers used. Similarly in the Central Zone, NHRC, visited FPS in Lucknow and Ghaziabad districts in Uttar Pradesh in January 2018. The Commission recommended that a monthly review should be carried out by District Magistrate and State Supply Department as the district units are not keeping an eye on bogus/ghost cards (ration cards). The Commission also recommended improving internet services tremendously to ensure proper functioning of electronic point of sale (e-PoS) machines and timely delivery of ration to the beneficiaries. The Special Rapporteur, South Zone, NHRC, visited FPS in Thoothukudi and Virudhanagar districts of Tamil Nadu to review the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013. The Commission recommended to the State Government that there should be a compartmentalized ceiling on the type of grains and that type should be</p>
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			such, which is required and used by the people of the locality.
<b><i>Theme 10: Social Security and Labour Rights</i></b>			
29.	161.160	Continue efforts and measures aimed at enhancing social security and labour policies, and expand the development model in rural areas.  (Egypt)	The GoI has taken steps to codify the existing Central labour laws into four codes which amalgamates, simplifies, and rationalizes the relevant positions in the existing Central labour legislations. The Code on Wages, which was passed in August 2019, ensures minimum wages and timely payment of wages. The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019 ensures formalization of jobs through mandatory appointment letter, free of cost annual health check-up for employees to be provided by the employers and also flexibility in overtime hours with the consent of workers. The Code on Industrial Relations was introduced in the Lok Sabha in November 2019. The Social Security Code was introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2019.
30.	161.171	Carry on its efforts and action in the promotion of social security and labour policy.  (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
31.	161.174	Accelerate the process of consolidating existing labour laws to, inter alia, promote the right to equal opportunities for work and at work, as well as to achieve occupational safety. (Zimbabwe)	
<b><i>Theme 11: Human Trafficking and Forced Labour</i></b>			
32.	161.117	Continue with relevant consultations and adopt a law on combating trafficking in persons.  (Belarus)	The GoI launched “Ujjawala: A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation Scheme” in 2007 to combat trafficking of women and children. The Scheme aims to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, facilitate the



33.	161.118	Continue the consultation process with all concerned parties to elaborate a new draft of the law against trafficking in persons.  (Cuba)	rescue of victims and placing them in safe custody, provide rehabilitation services by providing basic amenities/needs, facilitate the reintegration of victims into the family and society, and facilitate the repatriation of cross border victims. The Scheme is being implemented mainly through Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The budget provision of Rs. 30 crore has been kept for FY 2019-20. A total of 256 Ujjawala projects are functioning in the country including 136 Ujjawala homes having 5395 beneficiaries till date.
34.	161.119	Continue and redouble its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and modern slavery, including through better law enforcement to end impunity for human traffickers and through initiatives aimed at destigmatizing and rehabilitating victims of trafficking.  (Liechtenstein)	In 2013, the GoI established a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. An amount of Rs. 4357.62 crore has been provided under the Fund for 2019-20. An Empowered Committee of Officers has been constituted for reviewing and monitoring of various proposals to be funded from the Fund. It has recently approved setting-up of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of the country at cost of Rs. 100 crore. The AHTUs will provide counselling and support to the victims. <i>(Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development)</i>
35.	161.120	Continue to implement measures to stop the flow of trafficking in persons.  (Holy See)	With respect to forced labour, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 mandates eradication of all forms of forced or bonded labour. Further, there is a Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers, 2016 under which financial assistance to the tune of:
36.	161.121	Strengthen the national mechanisms to combat human trafficking and support victims and their rehabilitation.  (Lebanon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rs 1 lakh is provided to each adult male bonded labour,</li> <li>- Rs 2 lakhs provided to children including orphans rescued from different forms of forced child labour and women,</li> <li>- Rs 3 lakhs in case of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization</li> </ul>
37.	161.122	Accelerate efforts towards	NHRC has been emphasizing on combating human trafficking in persons



		combating human trafficking, particularly by protecting and rehabilitating victims.  (Philippines)	<p>and providing support to the victims of human trafficking by constituting a Core Group on Trafficking, Women and Children in November 2016. The Members of the Core Group included experts on the subject representing Central Government, Police, Research Institutes, NGOs and CSOs. The Core Group drafted a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Guidelines for Combating Trafficking of Persons in India. The SOP on Combating Trafficking of Persons in India was released by the Commission in December 2017. The SOP provides step-by-step guidance to anti-trafficking professionals and other stakeholders involved in identification, rescue, investigation, rehabilitation, reintegration of victims of trafficking and the prosecution of the accused. This document is a user-friendly tool that guides state and non-state anti-trafficking actors through distinct but interconnected steps to ensure full protection and assistance to the trafficked persons. The SOP is conceived as a working tool for law enforcement, practitioners and specialists of governmental, non governmental and civil society organisations engaged in combating trafficking in persons.</p> <p>NHRC has also organized various visits through its Special Rapporteurs and Monitors to assess the situation of socio economic development at ground level. The Special Monitor on thematic area of trafficking visited Manipur state in August 2019 and submitted a report on the international human trafficking racket in North-East India. The Government there has exposed one of the biggest rackets of inter-country trafficking and rescued 179 Nepalese victims. The Commission has recommended the State Government to expedite the development of a SOP and increase capacity-building activities for government officials.</p>
38.	161.123	Continue combating human trafficking.  (Senegal)	
39.	161.124	Continue efforts to improve social services that provide support to victims of human trafficking, forced labour and those who have been sexually exploited.  (Maldives)	
40.	161.125	Continue improving the national legislative framework on the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.  (Ukraine)	
<b>Theme 12: Child Labour</b>			
41.	161.38	Ratify the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour	The Conventions No. 138 and 182 have been ratified by the GoI in June 2017. Article 24 of the Constitution of India clearly states that “No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or



		Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization.  (Slovenia)	<p>mine or employed in any hazardous employment”.</p> <p>The Indian legislations to combat child labour are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Child Labour (Prohibition &amp; Regulation) (CLPR) Act, 1986</li> <li>- National Child Labour Project (NCLP): scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work.</li> <li>- Children in the age group of 5-8 found engaging in child labour years get directly linked to the formal school education system under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme.</li> <li>- The children between 9-14 years of age are enrolled in Special Training Centers under NCLP wherein they are imparted formal/non-formal bridge education for period upto two years before mainstreaming them in SSA Schools in age appropriate class.</li> <li>- The adolescents (14-18 years) withdrawn from hazardous work are linked to skill training centers for vocational handholding.</li> <li>- MDM and health check-up facilities are also provided.</li> </ul> <p>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a statutory body, while dealing with the cases of complaints relating to child labour observed that there are considerable delays in rescue operations and rehabilitation of victims due to involvement of multiple authorities set up under various Acts and is developing SOP on ‘Rescue &amp; Rehabilitation of Children Involved in Child Labour’. A National Consultation to discuss various aspects of the SOP and to mark the World Day Against Child Labour was held in June, 2019. The draft of SOP has been published on the website of Ministry of Women and Child Development and comments and inputs have been invited. Further, Member (Child Labour), NCPCR held a meeting in August, 2019 with the objective to establish collaboration for elimination of child labour, and as an outcome of the meeting, NCPCR is working on finalising a proposal of a pilot project for elimination of child</p>
42.	161.40	Consider acceding to the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).  (Uruguay)	
43.	161.229	Continue strengthening national strategies to combat child labour.  (Brazil)	
44.	161.231	Continue strengthening institutions to protect children and adolescent girls and boys, with a view to eradicating child labour, sexual exploitation and the practice of child marriage.  (Chile)	
45.	161.236	Increase efforts to improve the rights of the child, notably through the effective application of the prohibition of child labour, as well as the rights of women.  (France)	



46.	161.237	<p>Establish a monitoring mechanism to oversee the effective implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, the National Child Labour Policy and the Accessible India Campaign to prevent exploitation of children and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>(Thailand)</p>	<p>labour in five aspirational districts with high incidence of child labour.</p> <p>NHRC took the task of dealing with the problem of child labour in the country, starting with those employed in hazardous industries. In order to provide suitable remedies, it made an assessment of the existing situation in those parts of the country where child labour was prevalent, in particular hazardous industries like the glass-work and carpet making industries in Uttar Pradesh; the beedi, match-sticks and fireworks industries in Tamil Nadu; silk reeling and twisting industry in Karnataka; slate-pencil making industry in Madhya Pradesh and the road building and construction industry in Gujarat.</p> <p>The Commission receives a lot of complaints on the subject of child labour and takes cognizance of the same and conducts rescue and rehabilitation operations. Despite various legislations prohibiting child labour and functioning of NCLP set up by the GoI with the goal of ending child labour in the country, the Commission evolved an integrated programme, involving the coordinated efforts of a number of Central Ministries, the State governments, NGOs and other stakeholders, and called for expeditious and effective implementation of this programme.</p> <p>NHRC in its 'A Comparative Study on The United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child (UNCRC) &amp; Indian Legislations, Judgements &amp; Schemes' recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribution amount should be created in CLPR Act as provided under Bonded Labour Abolition Act;</li> <li>- A check list be prepared so as to ensure that when a child is rescued, all the legal provisions are invoked;</li> <li>- Children below the age of 14 years may be allowed to work only in the nuclear family enterprises and entertainment industry in a manner conducive to their growth, development and safety and with</li> </ul>
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			<p>all prescribed legal safeguards including Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Labour and Employment should review and update the list of “Hazardous occupations and processes” at regular intervals, based on the emerging global commitments and trends;</li> <li>- To ensure the protection available to the children below the age of 14 years under Article 21A and Article 23 of the Constitution of India, monitoring mechanism in Child and adolescent labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 should be developed at the State level by making necessary provision in the Rules/Regulation.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Theme 13: Gender Parity and Safety at Workplace</i></b>			
47.	161.194	<p>Continue its efforts to ensure women’s equal participation in the workforce and generate employment opportunities for women in rural areas.</p> <p>(State of Palestine)</p>	<p>To ensure women’s equal participation in the workforce and generating employment opportunities for women, GoI has the Code on Wages which prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature.</p> <p>For the safety of women in the workforce, the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019, permits women to work beyond 7 P.M. and before 6 A.M. after obtaining their due consent in any establishment relating to factories, mines, plantation, beedi or cigar or both and building and other construction work which ensures safety, holidays, working hours or any other conditions. Women in the workforce are also eligible for availing paid maternity leave of 26 weeks.</p>
48.	161.205	<p>Continue strengthening institutions to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, in particular sexual violence, and adopt specific measures to achieve gender equality in the labour market.</p> <p>(Chile)</p>	<p>To curb sexual harassment of women at workplace, the GoI enacted Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention Prohibition and Redressal) Act in 2013 which obliges every employer to create safe working environments for their women employees. It obliges workplaces with more than 10 employees to set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to look into the complaints of sexual harassment. Further, in cases where the</p>



			workplace has less than 10 employees or the ICC cannot redress the case, the Local Complaints Committee, established in every district, has to be referred.
<b><i>Theme 14: Health: Public Spending</i></b>			
49.	161.175	Increased public spending on health sector in accordance with 2017 National Health Policy and strengthening health facilities.  (Kazakhstan)	National Health Policy (NHP), 2017 specifies the allocation of major proportion of resources (up to two thirds or more) to primary care. The NHP states that the increase in health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP would be an indicator of increase in the public in the health expenditure.
<b><i>Theme 15: Reproductive Health and Sterilization</i></b>			
50.	161.102	Prohibit forced sterilization in line with requests by the Special Rapporteurs on torture, violence against women, and the right to health, and in line with the National Population Policy.  (Iceland)	A comprehensive range of family planning services is provided under the National Family Planning Programme. It is provided free of cost across all public health facilities to all beneficiaries desirous of availing family planning services based on the informed choice of the client and their reproductive rights.  Following actions have been taken to emphasize quality family planning services and improve contraceptive access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The State/District Quality Assurance Committees have been formed for strengthening and monitoring family planning services in all states.</li> <li>- The camp approach for sterilization has been discontinued in all districts of India. Key programmatic measures with guidelines were issued to the States in June 2016 for ensuring quality sterilisation services including phasing out of camp-based sterilizations. This was in accordance with the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.</li> </ul>
51.	161.103	Take concrete steps to prevent coercive, unsafe and abusive sterilization and create greater accountability for these practices, including A/HRC/36/10 17 ensuring free and full consent prior to conducting the procedure and compliance with international	



		standards.  (Sweden)	Monitoring of Hon'ble Supreme Court guidelines includes functionality of State/District Quality Assurance Committee, sterilization death audit reports. The GoI undertakes extensive monitoring through Supportive Supervisory in all the States regularly.
52.	161.179	Continue furthering the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women by immediately putting an end to camp-based sterilization operations in accordance with the Supreme Court order of 14 September 2016, by ensuring all women access to counseling on and access to the full range of modern contraceptives in a voluntary, safe and quality manner, and by providing comprehensive sexuality education.  (Finland)	<p>The GoI also ensures adherence to the manual on Standards and Quality Assurance in Family Planning which serves as Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for sterilization services for program managers and service providers. Comprehensive regional review workshops are regularly conducted across all the States.</p> <p>GoI, with its mandate to ensure welfare and empowerment of women, took up the critical issue of non-coverage of sterilisation/birth control treatment and procedure expenses in regular health insurance policies/ products with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, and National Health Authority, requesting them to take up this issue for their due consideration.</p> <p>The GoI also implements Family Planning Logistic Management and Information System wherein a dedicated software is used to ensure smooth forecasting, procurement and distribution of family planning commodities across all the levels of health facilities. It has been operationalised and used by all the States to submit their annual demand for contraceptives.</p> <p>The GoI has been strengthening demand generation activities through a 360 degree media campaign. The first phase was launched in 2016 and the second phase (comprising of commercials, posters and hoardings, radio show and dedicated Family Planning website) was launched in 2017. The media campaign was successfully disseminated across the country. Regular Information, Education and Communication activities are undertaken by the</p>



			<p>States. Every year, the World Population Day and the Vasectomy Fortnight is observed to increase awareness and generate demand for family planning services. The Total Fertility Rate has declined from 3.2 in 1999 to 2.2 in 2017</p> <p>With respect to reproductive health, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), 2017 provides cash incentive amounting to Rs. 5,000 in three instalments directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of the pregnant women and lactating mother. The beneficiary also receives another Rs.1000 under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). All women, pregnant for the first time, are entitled to benefits under this Scheme. The Budget allocation for the FY 2019-20 under PMMVY is Rs. 2500 crore, out of which Rs. 1667.27 crore has been released. So far, maternity benefits amounting to Rs. 4938.29 crore has been released to 1,21,13,044 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Government has also launched Poshan Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission, for a time-frame of three years commencing from 2017-18, to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time-bound manner during the three years with fixed targets.</p> <p>The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on 12 April, 2005 to bring a dramatic improvement in the health system and the health status of the people, especially those who live in the rural areas of the country. The Mission gives special focus on 18 states which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. Under NRHM, a programme named Reproductive and Child Health Programme is being implemented to promote institutional deliveries and make skilled attendance available at birth to reduce maternal and infant mortality and save women and newborn from pregnancy-related deaths.</p>
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			<p>The Commission entrusted a research project titled ‘Country Assessment/National Inquiry on Human Rights in the Context of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Well-being’ to two Delhi-based organizations namely, Partners for Law in Development and Sama- Resource Group for Women and Health. The main objectives of the research study were to cover the domestic/national laws, policies and existing gaps pertaining to the sexual and reproductive health rights as in accordance with international standards.</p> <p>NHRC has been working with Multiple Action Research Group (MARG), a non- profit organization, to publish booklets on various human rights issues. A booklet titled Reproductive Rights is under formulation for creating awareness about the said issues and is yet to be published.</p>
<b><i>Theme 16: Maternal Health and Child Mortality</i></b>			
53.	161.180	<p>Redouble efforts in maternal health, sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive contraceptive services.</p> <p>(Columbia)</p>	<p>The National Family Planning Programme provides a comprehensive range of family planning services free of cost across all public health facilities to all beneficiaries desirous of availing family planning services through informed choice in line with their reproductive rights.</p> <p>Further, a host of new initiatives have been launched to redouble efforts in maternal health to increase access and availability of quality healthcare services and reducing maternal mortality and morbidities. For instance, the Surakshit Matritva Ashwasan (SUMAN), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya), dedicated Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Wings, Obstetric Intensive Care Units etc.</p>
54.	161.177	<p>Take steps towards improving access to health, specially access to maternal health and to adequate obstetric delivery services so as to reduce maternal and child mortality.</p> <p>(Zimbabwe)</p>	<p>Following are some of the initiatives/ schemes to reduce maternal mortality and improve Maternal Health various:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JSY, 2005: a cash entitlement scheme to promote institutional</li> </ul>



			<p>delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram, 2011: entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery, including for Caesarean Section.</li> <li>- MCH Wings at District Hospitals/ District Women's Hospitals for providing quality obstetric and neonatal care.</li> <li>- Maternal Death Review both at community and facility levels, has been institutionalized enabling identification of socio-economic determinants and medical causes, including gaps in the health system, to improve system responsiveness.</li> <li>- Anemia Mukh Bharat: aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies for tackling anaemia.</li> <li>- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) doctors have been trained in Anaesthesia Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including C-section skills to overcome the shortage of specialists in these disciplines, particularly in rural areas.</li> <li>- Skill Labs with skill stations to enhance training quality and build competency in key skill areas for various cadres of service providers have been set up in the States.</li> <li>- An advisory has been sent to State Governments, Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India and other organisations to undertake caesarean section audits and curbing unnecessary caesarean sections.</li> <li>- PMSMA: to improve quality of Antenatal Care. A fixed day Antenatal care strategy has been implemented to reach out to all pregnant women in the country on the 9<sup>th</sup> of every month.</li> <li>- LaQshya: A targeted approach to strengthen key processes related to the Labour rooms and maternity operation theatres to achieve time-bound targets and ensure desired outcomes of significantly reduced maternal mortality and morbidity.</li> <li>- Midwifery: The GoI has taken a policy decision to roll out</li> </ul>
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			<p>Midwifery Services to improve the quality of care and ensure respectful care to pregnant women and newborn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SUMAN: aimed to provide assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility in order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths and morbidities and provide a positive birthing experience.</li> <li>- Mother and Child Protection Card, jointly developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is being used by all States as a tool for monitoring and improving the quality of MCH and nutrition interventions.</li> <li>- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds has been approved by the Union Cabinet. It is for.</li> </ul> <p>India's Maternal Mortality Ratio is 122 (Sample Registration System 2015-17) and the pace of decline since 1990 has been 78%, which is higher than the global decline of 45%.</p>
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***Theme 17: Healthcare for Elderly and Other Disadvantaged Groups***

55.	161.176	Continue to provide health services for elderly under the National Program for health care of the Elderly.  (Columbia)	The National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly is an articulation of the Government's commitments to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, National Policy on Older Persons adopted in 1999 and Section 20 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 providing for medical care of Senior Citizen. The programme is State oriented and is being implemented since 2010 with the objectives to provide dedicated health care services to the senior citizens (60 years of age or above) at primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities. Additionally, geriatric care is included in the range of services that will be provided under the 'Health and Wellness Centres' spread across the
56.	161.178	Continue its effort to ensure that universal health care scheme cover disadvantaged groups,	



		including persons with disabilities and persons living in remote rural areas, who still face obstacles in accessing basic healthcare services.  (Lao People's Democratic Republic)	country.  The primary vehicle to strengthen public health systems in the States to move towards universal healthcare is the National Health Mission which subsumes both National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission. Further, as part of Ayushman Bharat, the Government is supporting the States for strengthening Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres as Health and Wellness Centres for provision of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC). Additionally, Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, the world's largest insurance scheme fully financed by the Government, is also a part of Ayushman Bharat which aims at providing health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to cover poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries).
<b><i>Theme 18: Right to Education for All</i></b>			
57.	161.63	Expand the scope of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act and promote human rights education in the school curriculum.  (Slovakia)	The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, entitles all children between the ages of 6-14 years for free and compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education.  In accordance with the RTE Act, the new integrated Samagra Shiksha Scheme <sup>11</sup> envisages 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. Its aim is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage. Under the said scheme, a wide spectrum of interventions are being approved to improve the teaching/learning outcomes, such as:
58.	161.182	Continue its efforts to ensure that all children have access to education at all levels and all	

<sup>11</sup>The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is an integrated scheme subsuming the three Schemes i.e. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE)





		categories.  (Lao People's Democratic Republic)	provision of free text books; free uniforms for all girl SC/ST students; Learning Enhancement Programme/ Remedial Teaching; National Achievement Survey; participation in Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA); Performance Grading Index; Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan.
59.	161.183	Continue to take steps to provide inclusive and quality education for all.  (Myanmar)	Under the 'Equity' component of Samagra Shiksha, State specific projects for varied interventions is emphasized for enhancing access, retention and quality by promoting enrollment drives, motivational camps, gender sensitization modules etc. in the SC/ST communities.
60.	161.184	Continue its efforts in implementing its comprehensive policies to ensure quality education for all children.  (Qatar)	The Government's initiatives towards attaining universal education is well reflected in statistics which states that schooling facility is available in 97.27% at primary level, 96.82% at upper primary level, 91.49% at secondary level and 68.36% at senior secondary level (as per Annual Work Plan and Budget 2019-20).
61.	161.185	Promote children's right to education, especially education on climate change adaptation and mitigation.  (Vietnam)	Further, to track the progress made in expansion of the scope of the right to free and compulsory education, Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+), Performance Grading Index for Learning Outcomes, Project monitoring system, Shagun repository and National Achievement Survey are carried out. The achievements recorded therein are as under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary level education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of Out of School children was 134.6 lakh in 2005 which has come down to 60.64 lakh in 2015 (<i>Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development</i>).</li> <li>- Annual Dropout Rate at primary level has come down from 9.11% in 2009-10 to 3.51% as per UDISE 2017- 18.</li> <li>- Transition rate from primary to upper primary has gone up from 83.53% in 2009-10 to 90.78% as per UDISE 2017- 18.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
62.	161.186	Step up its efforts to carry out the second phase of its Education for All programmes to focus on providing affordable and quality secondary education in the country.  (Brunei Darussalam)	



63.	161.189	<p>Continue to ensure access to education for all, especially children of scheduled castes and tribes.</p> <p>(Holy See)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary level education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total Enrollment Ratio (TER) has increased from 3.07 crore in 2009-10 to 3.85 crore in 2017-18.</li> <li>- Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) increased from 62.90% in 2009-10 to 79.28% (2017-18). 5 States/UTs of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura recorded a GER of over 100%.</li> <li>- Total number of Secondary Schools/Sections (Classes IX-X) in the country has increased from 1,22,208 in 2009-10 to 2,58,908 in 2017-18.</li> <li>- Out of 88,994 approved Information Communication Technology interventions coverage to senior secondary and secondary schools, 59,689 are functional.</li> <li>- Vocational Education is functional in 9,735 schools out of approved 11,434 schools.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>As a step towards ensuring quality preschool education, a total of 313 Anganwadi Centres have been developed as Baal Shiksha Kendra (BSK) across Madhya Pradesh with good child friendly facilities and care. These centres are International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certified. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy and the same has been approved and notified by the GoI on 12th October 2013. The Policy lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for survival, growth and development of child with focus on care and early learning for every child. The service is provided through Anganwadi Centres.</p> <p>With respect to human rights education, the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has already included human rights education component in the social science subjects. Further, the examination</p>
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			<p>of the first draft of New Education Policy prepared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development reveals promotions of the the concepts of social justice, legal measures against social discrimination, citizenship education, peace education, character building, legal and constitutional literacy etc. through all the subject areas.</p> <p>NHRC, which strongly believes that children must be taught about human rights, has worked closely on this with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the NCERT and the National Council for Teacher Education, while sensitizing the State Councils for Education and Training about their responsibilities in the preparation of textbooks. Several recommendations have been made by the Commission in this matter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Need for substantial hike in the financial allocation to education</li><li>- Adequate focus should be given to crafts and vocational training</li><li>- Local Government bodies should strive to ensure participation and involvement of parents, local management committees, communities, non-governmental organisations, etc. in this regard</li><li>- The scheme of para-teachers need to be abolished altogether and fully qualified and trained teachers need to be recruited</li><li>- Every child should be taught in the first language/mother tongue at least for the first two years, during which the child should be helped to learn in the prescribed medium of instructions in the State. The Three Language Policy should be strictly implemented</li><li>- The existing norm of teacher-pupil ratio of 1:40 in primary schools and 1:35 in upper-primary schools should be maintained throughout. However, as a long term goal, efforts should be made to reach a ratio of 1:20/25</li></ul> <p>The Commission has also entrusted research studies seeking to analyze the syllabus prescribed in schools in order to ascertain how much of a human rights-centric approach does each State Board have and what are the best practices that may be adopted to be able to raise children sensitive to the</p>
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			<p>needs of other fellow beings.</p> <p>NHRC also facilitated the process of developing syllabus and curriculum guidelines of human rights education for the teachers of schools up to secondary level called the 'Module on Human Rights Education for Teaching Professionals Imparting Education in Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary Levels'. The Module is designed keeping in mind that while teachers will know why there are human rights, they will be informed about the genesis and basic tenets of human rights, and how to infuse human rights components in the subject of study to inspire students to acquire knowledge and capacity from rights-based perspectives.</p>																
<b>Theme 19: Investment in Education</b>																			
64.	161.181	Increase the government expenditure in the field of education.  (Iraq)	Allocation and expenditure under the erstwhile SSA/Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA)/Teacher Education (TE) and Samagra Shiksha for last 3 years is given below:																
65.	161.187	Increase investment in universal, mandatory and free education by giving priority to measures to eradicate discrimination and exclusion that affect girls, children with disabilities, Dalits and marginalized persons.  (Mexico)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Budget Estimates</th> <th>Revised Estimates</th> <th>Central Share Released</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017-18 (SSA+RMSA+TE)</td> <td>27810.00</td> <td>28016.54</td> <td>28014.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018- 19</td> <td>30891.81</td> <td>30780.81</td> <td>29349.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019- 20</td> <td>36322.00</td> <td>36274.40</td> <td>25856.22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development</i></p>	Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Central Share Released	2017-18 (SSA+RMSA+TE)	27810.00	28016.54	28014.46	2018- 19	30891.81	30780.81	29349.10	2019- 20	36322.00	36274.40	25856.22
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<b>Theme 20: Corporal Punishment</b>																			
66.	161.233	Introduce legislation to prohibit	The RTE Act prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment, and																



		corporal punishment of children in the home and in all other settings, including as a sentence under traditional forms of justice.  (Liechtenstein)	makes it a punishable offence. Under Section 17 of the Act, whoever subjects a child to physical punishment or mental harassment is liable to disciplinary action under service rules applicable to such person. State Governments and UT administrations have been advised that the process of grievance redressal is widely disseminated so that parents, community and others are aware of the provisions to address instances of punishment and discrimination. An advisory dated 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2014 was issued under Section 35(1) of the RTE Act, 2009 for the elimination of corporal punishment in schools. Further, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which is the primary legislation for ensuring the safety, security, dignity and wellbeing of children, acknowledges several new forms of offences committed against children, which were not adequately covered under any other existing law, such as, sale and procurement of children for any purpose including illegal adoption, corporal punishment in child care institutions, use of children by militant groups, offences against disabled children and, kidnapping and abduction of children, etc. Corporal punishment is specifically prohibited in Section 82 of the said Act.
67.	161.234	Introduce comprehensive and continuous public education, awareness-raising and social mobilization programmes on the harmful effects of corporal punishment  (Liechtenstein)	
68.	161.235	Establish a database of all cases of violence against children and explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children under 18 years of age in all settings.  (Zambia)	NCPCR has issued guidelines in 2012 for eliminating corporal punishments against children. Under these, every school is required to develop a mechanism and frame clear cut protocols to address grievances of students. Drop boxes are to be placed where the aggrieved person may drop his complaint and anonymity is to be maintained to protect privacy. Every school has also been directed to constitute a 'Corporal Punishment Monitoring Cell' consisting of two teachers, two parents, one doctor, one lawyer (nominated by District Legal Services Authority), counsellor, an independent child rights activist of that area and two senior students from that school. <i>(Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development)</i>
<b>Theme 21: Girl Child Education</b>			
69.	161.188	Accept more efforts to increase	Investments made so far have paid off in expanding reach and coverage to



		girls' secondary education, including ensuring that schools are girl-friendly in all parameters.  (Kyrgystan)	include more girls in the education system and upgrade their performance. Some of the education indicators such as Gender Parity Index (GPI), GER, Net Enrolment Rate (NER) and Transition Rate are given below:  <b>Gender Parity Index (GPI)</b>																																																																	
70.	161.202	Continue and strengthen measures to prevent and repress offences and violence against women and girls, including through early childhood education, awareness-raising and enhancing effective mechanisms of reparation.  (Vietnam)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>GPI</th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Upper Primary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>UDISE 2014-15</b></td> <td>0.93</td> <td>0.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>UDISE 2017-18</b></td> <td>1.02</td> <td>1.11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: UDISE 2014-15 &amp; 2017-18 is provisional</i></p> <p><b>Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>GER</th> <th></th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Upper Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> <th>Higher</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2"><b>UDISE 2014-15</b></td> <td>National</td> <td>100.08</td> <td>91.24</td> <td>78.51</td> <td>54.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls</td> <td>101.43</td> <td>95.29</td> <td>78.94</td> <td>53.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2"><b>UDISE 2017-18</b></td> <td>National</td> <td>94.2</td> <td>90.8</td> <td>79.3</td> <td>56.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls</td> <td>95.4</td> <td>95.8</td> <td>80.5</td> <td>57.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: UDISE 2014-15 &amp; 2017-18 is provisional</i></p> <p><b>Net Enrolment Rate (NER)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>NER</th> <th></th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Upper Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> <th>Higher</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2"><b>UDISE 2014-15</b></td> <td>National</td> <td>87.41</td> <td>72.48</td> <td>48.46</td> <td>32.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls</td> <td>88.72</td> <td>75.79</td> <td>48.87</td> <td>32.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2"><b>UDISE 2017-18</b></td> <td>National</td> <td>84.31</td> <td>74.37</td> <td>53.40</td> <td>33.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls</td> <td>85.53</td> <td>78.55</td> <td>54.52</td> <td>33.85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: UDISE 2014-15 &amp; 2017-18 is provisional</i></p>	GPI	Primary	Upper Primary	<b>UDISE 2014-15</b>	0.93	0.95	<b>UDISE 2017-18</b>	1.02	1.11	GER		Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher	<b>UDISE 2014-15</b>	National	100.08	91.24	78.51	54.21	Girls	101.43	95.29	78.94	53.81	<b>UDISE 2017-18</b>	National	94.2	90.8	79.3	56.5	Girls	95.4	95.8	80.5	57.0	NER		Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher	<b>UDISE 2014-15</b>	National	87.41	72.48	48.46	32.68	Girls	88.72	75.79	48.87	32.82	<b>UDISE 2017-18</b>	National	84.31	74.37	53.40	33.29	Girls	85.53	78.55	54.52	33.85
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71.	161.244	Ensure that girls with disabilities are afforded the same right to education as all children.  (Australia)																																																																		



<b>Transition Rate</b>				
<b>Transition Rate</b>		<b>Primary to Upper Primary</b>	<b>Elementary to Secondary</b>	<b>Secondary to Higher</b>
<b>UDISE 2014-15</b>	National	89.74	91.58	67.70
	Girls	89.99	89.28	67.82
<b>UDISE 2017-18</b>	National	90.8	89.2	67.1
	Girls	91.1	87.5	67.6

*Source: UDISE 2017-18 is provisional*

As part of the initiatives to ensure greater participation of girls and bridge gender gap in education, Samagra Shiksha has targeted interventions for girls which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood, provision of free textbooks and uniforms for girls upto class VIII, provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools, teachers’ sensitization programs to promote girls’ participation, provision of self defence training, construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/ hilly areas/ in areas with difficult terrains.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme (Celebrate Girl Child, Enable her Education) was launched on 22nd January, 2015. The Scheme is a tri-ministerial initiative of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development, with a focus on awareness and advocacy campaign for changing mindsets, multi-sectoral action in select districts, enabling girls’ education and effective enforcement of Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act.

Other provisions to advance girl child education:

- Provision of sanitary pad vending machine and incinerators to promote girl enrollment and retention in the school education.



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgradation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas from class 6-8 to 6-12</li> <li>- Enhanced commitment to 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' through special focused projects</li> </ul> <p>As per Amendment of 2012, the RTE Act mandates that a child with multiple and/or severe disabilities has the right to opt for home based education. Further, there is a dedicated inclusive education component for the education of girl children with special needs as part of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme. Through the component, children with special needs are provided support via specific student-oriented interventions like identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transport and escort allowance, braille books and large print books, a stipend for girls with special needs, corrective surgeries, uniform and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their educational requirements in regular schools. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. NCERT has also developed an audio version of textbooks and tactile map books as well as non-textbooks reading material like Barkhaa series and videos with sign language. There are 3 major legal frameworks which support the implementation of Samagra Shiksha in an inclusive manner, this includes RTE Act, 2009; Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act, 2016 and National Trust Act, 1999. <i>(Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development)</i></p>
<b><i>Theme 22: Protection of Rights of the Child and the Juvenile Justice Act</i></b>			
72.	161.226	Accelerate work on the protection of the rights of children and women in particular.  (Turkey)	The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 was enacted by the GoI and came into force in January 2016. It is the primary law for children in need of care & protection and children in conflict with law. 'Best Interest of Child' is the paramount consideration in matters regarding children and the same has been enshrined in the Act. It mandates a framework of institutional and non-





73.	161.238	<p>Take all appropriate measures in the implementation of the 2015 Juvenile Justice Act to give children aged 18 years and below an opportunity for rehabilitation.</p> <p>(Botswana)</p>	<p>institutional care and stipulates roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders at the Centre, State and District levels. Rehabilitation and mainstreaming are the primary objectives of the Act while mandating a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposal of matters.</p> <p>The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body established in March 2007, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, to protect, promote and defend child rights in India. Some of the important functions of NCPCR is to examine and review the safeguards provided by law for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation; inquire into violation of child rights; look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalised and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures; study treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities on child rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children; undertake and promote research in the field of child rights; spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society.</p> <p>NHRC has constituted a Core Group on Children which meets annually to review the existing government policies, laws, rules, order, etc. relating to children and to make recommendations to concerned ministries for their better implementation.</p> <p>The Commission has also prepared ‘A Comparative Study on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) &amp; Indian Legislations, Judgements &amp; Schemes’. The Commission has found gaps in policies as compared to obligations of India under the UNCRC and made recommendations for filling them.</p>
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<b>Theme 23: Sexual Violence Against Children</b>			
74.	161.201	Take additional serious measures to eliminate violence against women and children, including sexual violence.  (Kyrgystan)	To deal with child abuse cases, the GoI enacted a special law i.e. 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012'. The Act protects all the children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. After the amendments in the said legislation in 2019, the punishments under the Act have been made more stringent and a definition to the term 'Child Pornography' has been added with punishments prescribed for it. Further, to facilitate reporting of offences/ complaint, the POCSO e-Box was launched in August, 2016. POCSO e-Box is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has also requested the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Principal Secretaries of Department of School Education of all States/UTs to take necessary action for awareness and sensitisation in schools on the issue of child safety and prevention of child sexual abuse followed by subsequent reminders. NCERT has published the Childline Helpline number-1098 and reference to POCSO e-box in every textbook published by them. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has also directed all the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan across the country to display awareness content on POCSO on their notice boards or any other prominent place in the schools. School Safety Pledges are also being taken in schools with appropriate messages on child safety and prevention of child sexual abuse.
75.	161.202	Continue and strengthen measures to prevent and repress offences and violence against women and girls, including through early childhood education, awareness-raising and enhancing effective mechanisms of reparation.  (Vietnam)	
76.	161.214	Strengthen legislation to combat sexual offences against children and women.  (Timor-Leste)	
77.	161.216	Implement the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act to increase the protection of children from sexual abuse.  (Kenya)	
78.	161.230	Continue to take all necessary	



		<p>measures to enhance the effectiveness of the protection of children, in particular in cases of sexual violence against children.</p> <p>(Portugal)</p>	<p>Development is conducting various courses for sensitisation of personnel. States and UTs have been advised by the Ministry of Home Affairs to send officers for these courses and for timely completion of Investigations of POCSO cases.</p> <p>Department of Justice has formulated Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme under which a total of 1023 courts are to be set up. Out of these courts, exclusive POCSO Courts in 389 Districts will be set up, where number of pending cases under POCSO exceeds 100. Further, it has also been decided to set up remaining 634 FTSCs as per need and pendency for rape, as well as POCSO Act cases.</p> <p>The National Database on Sexual Offenders, a central database of ‘sexual offenders’ in the country has been created by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This is an online database of sexual offenders in the country, which is being maintained by National Crimes Records Bureau.</p>
79.	161.231	<p>Continue strengthening institutions to protect children and adolescent girls and boys, with a view to eradicating child labour, sexual exploitation and the practice of child marriage.</p> <p>(Chile)</p>	<p>The National Database on Sexual Offenders, a central database of ‘sexual offenders’ in the country has been created by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This is an online database of sexual offenders in the country, which is being maintained by National Crimes Records Bureau.</p>
80.	161.232	<p>Develop specific guidelines for protection and support for victims of child sexual abuse and their families undergoing trial.</p> <p>(Slovakia)</p>	<p>A National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal<sup>12</sup> was launched on 20th September, 2018, which allowed citizens to report online content pertaining to Child Pornography/ Child Sexual Abuse Material or sexually explicit content such as Rape/Gang-Rape.</p> <p>NHRC in its ‘A Comparative Study on The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) &amp; Indian Legislations, Judgements &amp; Schemes’ recommended that a proviso should be added to the provisions of the POCSO Act which prescribe punishments and procedure for trial to ensure that child accused is not dealt at par with the adult perpetrator.</p>

<sup>12</sup> Can be accessed at: [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)



<b>Theme 24: Child and Forced Marriages</b>			
81.	161.60	Continue efforts to eradicate child and forced marriage.  (Peru)	India is a party to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW).
82.	161.217	Ensure that legislation defining the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 is enforced at all levels, everywhere in the country.  (Iceland)	<p>The GoI has a legislation which prohibits child marriage called 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006'. The Act provides for prevention of child marriages; protection of rights of children forced into child marriages; prosecution of offenders; and appointment of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers. The 2006 Act enhanced the punishment for male adults marrying a child including for persons performing, abetting, promoting, attending or participating in a child marriage, with rigorous imprisonment of two years and a fine up to Rs. 1 lakh. Further, the prevention of child marriage and protection of the girl child is a prominent subject of the National Plan of Action for Children, 2016.</p> <p>Ministry of Women and Child Development has requested State Governments to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorities i.e. Police, Child Protection Service functionaries etc. to invoke appropriate provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012 in cases related to child marriages.</p> <p>Some of the sincere efforts of Ministry towards prevention of child marriage include communications with the State Governments requesting them to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on special festivals which are traditional days for such marriages. To educate people about the issue of child marriage, awareness has been created through advertisements in the press and electronic media. Further, platforms such as the International Women's Day and the National Girl Child Day are used to create awareness on issues related to women and to bring to the such as</p>
83.	161.218	Step up its efforts to eradicate child marriage and so-called "honour crimes."  (Israel)	
84.	161.219	Step up efforts to combat and eliminate child, early and forced marriages.  (Sierra Leone)	
85.	161.220	Adopt legislative measures and policies to prevent early or forced marriages.  (Honduras)	
86.	161.221	Continue and intensify the actions	



		to prohibit child marriage.  (Gabon)	child marriage to the centre stage.  NHRC organized a Regional Conference on Child Marriage in January, 2018 in Bhubaneswar. The objective of this Regional Conference was to spread awareness about the menace of child marriage, which is not only against the law but also a violation of the child’s human rights. In the Conference, all the stakeholders deliberated upon the areas of vital concerns, challenges and measures to prevent child marriages. Various recommendations emerged after panel discussions that were sent to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The major ones were:
87.	161.231	Continue strengthening institutions to protect children and adolescent girls and boys, with a view to eradicating child labour, sexual exploitation and the practice of child marriage.  (Chile)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- States should design the State Strategic Plan and Action plan to address the menace of child marriage;</li> <li>- inclusion of child related laws in schools’ curricula,</li> <li>- inclusion of mandatory reporting of the child marriage in the Act;</li> <li>- establishment of dedicated children’s courts, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Thereafter, the Commission organized a National Conference Child Marriage in 2018 which saw participation from 10 States. The major recommendations that emerged were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to make all marriages below 16 years age to be ‘void’ and between 16-18 years to be ‘voidable’ through amendment of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006;</li> <li>- the term ‘Compulsory education’ under RTE Act, 2009 Act may be extended up to the age of 18 years and completion of Senior Secondary Education i.e. till Class 12 instead of 14 years and completion of elementary education at present;</li> <li>- need for the GoI to undertake an in-depth research to understand the underlying causes of social and cultural factors contributing to child marriage and develop a uniform Common Minimum Programme at the national level and the State Governments to follow up the messages specific to each state to combat child marriage; registration of marriages to be made compulsory, etc.</li> </ul>



<b>Theme 25: Eradicating Malnutrition among Children and Increasing Access to Food, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation</b>			
88.	161.153	<p>Continue strengthening efforts aimed at promoting food security and eradicate all forms of malnutrition, in particular among children under the age of 5.</p> <p>(Libya)</p>	<p>Anganwadi Services (Umbrella ICDS Scheme) is a Centrally sponsored scheme implemented by States/UTs and one of the objectives of the Scheme is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years.</p> <p>In pursuance of the provisions contained in the NFSA, 2013, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has notified the Supplementary Nutrition (under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017 to regulate the entitlement specified under provisions of the said Act for every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition) for 300 days in a year, as per the nutritional standards specified. In case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of food grains or meals to entitled persons, there is a provision to receive food security allowance from the concerned State Government as prescribed by the Central Government.</p>
89.	161.168	<p>Continue its fight against poverty, lack of adequate food, safe water and sanitation, while paying special attention to the need to introduce a child rights-based approach in all policies.</p> <p>(Bulgaria)</p>	<p>The GoI launched the Poshan Abhiyaan on 18th December, 2017 for a time-frame of three years commencing from 2017-18 with an overall budget of Rs. 9046 crores. The goal of the scheme is to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time-bound manner during three years with fixed targets.</p> <p>The Mid-Day Meal Scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development was started to enhance enrollment, retention, attendance and simultaneously improve nutritional levels among children. It continues to be one of the most successful schemes of the GoI.</p> <p>In the year 2019, the month of September was celebrated as Rashtriya</p>
90.	161.238	<p>Take all appropriate measures in the implementation of the 2015 Juvenile Justice Act to give children aged 18 years and below an opportunity for rehabilitation.</p> <p>(Botswana)</p>	



			<p>Poshan Maah across the country. The main focus during the month was on the first 1,000 days of a child, diarrhoea prevention, <i>paushtik aahaar</i> [nutritious food], WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and anaemia prevention. The aim was to address the malnutrition related challenges and create awareness on holistic nutrition with a focus on children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.</p> <p>Food and Nutrition Board is a technical wing of the Ministry of Women and Child Development with a countrywide set-up. It was recognised by the Planning Commission as one of the key players to reduce the malnutrition level in the country and one of its functions is campaigning on prevention and control of malnutrition at all levels including Infant and Young Child Nutrition</p> <p>The current Country Programme Action Plan 2018-22 was signed between the Ministry of Women and Child Development and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in January 2018 with an estimated budget is 651 million dollars. The Country Programme's target is to contribute to national flagship programmes and thrust areas and strategies, taking into account India's Vision 2030, GoI's priorities and global priorities such as SDGs. The New Country Programme mainly focuses on eight inter-related programme outcomes: (i) reduction of child and maternal mortality; (ii) reduction of under-nutrition in the first 1,000 days of life and adolescent girls; (iii) safe and sustainable water sanitation and hygiene services; (iv) learning of all girls and boys; (v) protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation; (vi) inclusive social policy; (vii) partnerships and child rights; and (viii) programme effectiveness equity, the programme contributes to national flagship efforts so that the poorest of the poor, across caste, class and gender have access to quality care, protection and services.</p>
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<b>Theme 26: Gender Discrimination</b>			
91.	161.193	Redouble efforts on ensuring gender equality and take measures to prevent gender discrimination.  (Timor-Leste)	The GoI has been active in ensuring the protection of law to women. It is making efforts to ensure optimum implementation of laws addressing the discrimination against women. SDGs have taken the centre stage in defining the developmental priorities. Women empowerment is widely recognised as the precondition for achieving the several targets of the SDGs like poverty eradication, inequality, good health, decent work and economic growth.
92.	161.197	Improve the enforcement of the legal provisions prohibiting harmful and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular child marriages, dowry-related murders and honour killings, and ensure that all women, without discrimination, have access to public services.  (Czechia)	Recognising the need to address the social evil of dowry, among others, the Dowry Prohibition Act was enacted in 1961. By encouraging the implementation of this Act, the Government is working hard to bring an end to the practice of dowry. The Act defines dowry and penalises the giving, taking or abetting the giving and taking of dowry. It also lays down a built-in implementation mechanism in the form of Dowry Prohibition Officers to ensure effective enforcement of the law. Multi-sectoral advocacy has been carried out to positively influence the mindsets of people and discourage them from giving and taking dowry.
93.	161.213	Redouble its efforts to enforce its legal provisions prohibiting harmful and discriminatory practices that violate the rights of women and girls.  (Liechtenstein)	The Government has also been taking pro-active measures to eliminate the practice of child marriage. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 has been enacted to punish those who promote, perform and abet child marriages. The States/UTs from time to time are being regularly requested to monitor the effective implementation of the Act. To educate people about the issue of child marriage, awareness has been created through advertisements in the press and electronic media. <i>(Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development)</i>
94.	161.215	Enhance activities aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, which particularly affects women from lower castes.	Recently, the Government has passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, thereby criminalizing the practice of instant Triple Talaq . The Bill makes declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, a cognizable offence with up to three years of imprisonment





		(Kyrgyzstan)	<p>with a fine. Muslim woman, against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children and is also entitled to seek custody of her minor children.</p> <p>NHRC is in the process of forming a sub-committee on CEDAW to monitor implementation of core international human rights treaties.</p> <p>NHRC has entrusted MARG, a non-profit organization based in Delhi with pan India work interventions, with a project to develop 27 booklets on various human rights issues. Two booklets titled Domestic Violence (Dowry) and Sexual Violence (Acid Attack) have been published to spread human rights awareness about the said challenges faced by women in India.</p>
<b><i>Theme 27: Comprehensive National Plan to Combat Persisting Gender Inequality</i></b>			
95.	161.69	<p>Adopt a comprehensive national plan on inclusion in order to combat persisting inequality, paying particular attention to persons in vulnerable situations such as women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities.</p> <p>(Honduras)</p>	<p>The GoI, in order to adopt a comprehensive national plan on inclusion of women, had adopted the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in 2001. The objectives of this Policy include: providing equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic spheres, strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process, building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations among others. The said policy was re-formulated and submitted to Cabinet in 2016, in view of the socio-economic, political, and scientific changes witnessed across the country in the past few decades. Presently, the revised draft is under consideration by the Government.</p>
<b><i>Theme 28: Proper Implementation and Incorporation of Gender in Socio-economic Policies</i></b>			
96.	161.159	Ensure that the implementation of	Gender equality has been an important aspect in India since the framing of



		<p>a set of socioeconomic policies, such as the Stand-Up India scheme, is targeted, accountable and transparent, so that their benefits reach all sections of society.</p> <p>(Singapore)</p>	<p>the Indian Constitution where it found its place in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) of the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats for women in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.</p> <p>The Women's Reservation Bill, i.e. the Constitution 108th Amendment Bill 2008, proposes to reserve a minimum of 33% seats for women in Parliament, and in State Legislative Assemblies. Similar Bills were introduced in 1996, 1998 and 1999, all of which lapsed after the dissolution of the respective Lok Sabhas. The 2008 Bill has not yet been converted into an Act. The Government has, however, shown commitment in giving reservation to women in Parliament.</p>
97.	161.190	<p>Strengthen the integration of the gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of policies.</p> <p>(Colombia)</p>	<p>GoI has been emphasizing on the inclusion of women in socio-economic policies by adopting powerful tool of Gender Budgeting in 2005-06 to ensure that barriers to development were identified and addressed through policy and budgetary interventions. In order to mainstream gender budgeting across Ministries and Departments, it mandated the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells.</p>
98.	161.192	<p>Continue incorporating the gender perspective in the design and implementation of policies, and guarantee that the development agenda pays equal attention to the concerns of women.</p> <p>(Cuba)</p>	<p>The Government implemented National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [later renamed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)] in 2005 to ensure enhancement of livelihood security of households in rural India. The Act provides at least 100 days of wage employment to every household in rural India where adult members are engaged in manual labour work. The women participation rate has been 56% in FY 2016-17, 53% in FY 2017-18 and 53% in 2018-19 (as on 07.12.2018) which has been above the statutory requirement of 1/3rd women</p>
99.	161.194	<p>Continue its efforts to ensure women's equal participation in the workforce and generate employment opportunities for women in rural areas.</p> <p>(State of Palestine)</p>	



100.	161.222	<p>Strengthen the adoption of socioeconomic programmes which promote the empowerment of women and their participation in public and political life.</p> <p>(Angola)</p>	<p>participation under MGNREGA<sup>13</sup>.</p> <p>Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme was approved in November 2017 as a Centrally sponsored scheme to empower rural women through community participation. It aims to provide an interface for rural women to approach the Government for availing their entitlements and also empowering them through training and capacity building. MSK Scheme has been approved for implementation in 32 States/UTs. State Resource Centres for Women are functional in 27 States/UTs to provide technical support to respective Departments of Women and Child Development/Social Welfare on issues related to women. At the district level, a District Level Centre for Women is now functional in 174 districts in 19 States/UTs.</p> <p>The Indian Companies Act (Amendment), 2013 implemented by the Government makes comprehensive provisions to govern all listed and unlisted companies in the country. It empowers shareholders and gives high value for Corporate Governance. The second Proviso of Section 149 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 prescribes for every listed company and every public company having paid-up share capital of not less than Rs. 100 Crore or turnover of Rs. 300 crore or more to appoint at least one woman board of director. The board of directors of a company is the vital governing body which is responsible for stable, highly efficient and profitable running of the concerned company, and safe guarding of the interests and progress of the company and its stakeholders. This provision has been included in the Act so as to promote the involvement of women in the top levels of the corporate world and give a better chance to women to show their prowess at such a level.</p>
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<sup>13</sup> See more at: [pib.gov.in](http://pib.gov.in)



			<p>Stand Up India Scheme adopted by the Government facilitates bank loans between 10 lakh and 1 crore to atleast one SC or ST borrower and at least one women per bank branch for setting up a green field enterprise. In case of non-individual enterprises, at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or woman entrepreneur. The Stand Up India Portal was launched to provide information to a potential borrower on various kinds of handholding support available from different agencies and also provides a window to get in touch with banks to avail loans. (Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development)</p> <p>The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 which was enacted to constitute the NHRC, the SHRC and the Human Rights Courts for the protection of human rights, has also created scope for greater participation of women through its 2019 amendment. The previous Act provided for two persons having knowledge of human rights to be appointed as Members of the NHRC. The new Act amends this to allow three Members to be appointed, of which at least one will be a woman. However, no such reservation of women member has been made for SHRC.</p> <p>NHRC organized a regional conference on the topic ‘Integrating Women’s Development with Nation’s Development: Role of Stakeholders’ in collaboration with National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad, India on 17th January 2020. The said Conference highlighted the critical issue of women’s absence from socio-economic policies and its impact on national development. The Commission, through this Conference, recommended that there is a need for mainstreaming women’s participation and development into the overarching national growth.</p>
<b>Theme 29: Training and Capacity Building of Government Officials in Women’s Rights</b>			
101.	161.67	Provide systematic training on women’s rights to all law	National Centre of Gender Training Planning and Research was established as an autonomous body in 1998 to deliver gender training and understanding



		enforcement personnel, medical staff and judicial officials.  (Belgium)	of the conceptual and analytical gender relations framework.  In continuous efforts to provide systematic training on women's rights to all public officials, the GoI through the National Gender Centre, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, has been organising gender sensitization programmes for government officers including District Magistrates, and officers from Judiciary Services. Further, the GoI has also been training of Elected Women Representatives in panchayats to empower them to govern their villages effectively and develop into grassroots change makers.
102.	161.68	Strengthen capacity-building with regard to human rights for civil servants involved in the protection of women and girl and boy victims of violence and sexual abuse.  (Mexico)	NHRC has organized two gender sensitization programmes in the year 2017 and 2019 for its Officers and Staff. The training in the year 2017 and 2019 was in collaboration with Asia Pacific Forum and Jagori respectively. The objectives of the training were to expand skills and competencies of NHRC staff to integrate gender analysis within their work and undertake specialized projects for promoting and protecting women and girls' human rights.
<b><i>Theme 30: Sexual Violence Against Women</i></b>			
103.	161.198	Step up efforts for comprehensive protection of women and girls, in particular against sexual violence.  (Greece)	To facilitate access to an integrated range of services including police, medical, legal, psychological support and temporary shelter to women affected by violence, the GoI has established One Stop Centres (OSCs) across the country. The Scheme is funded through Nirbhaya Fund. So far, 728 OSCs have been approved for 724 districts of the country. As of now, 623 OSCs are operational across 37 States and UTs. These centres have offered support to over 2.4 lakh women as on 31st December, 2019. OSCs are also being integrated with women helpline and other existing services to provide the best possible access and support to women. The Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline. being implemented since April 2015,
104.	161.199	Combat violence against women through effective legislation and law enforcement measures.  (China)	



105.	161.200	<p>Take more effective measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, as they continue to be subjected to widespread violence, discrimination and exploitation.</p> <p>(Japan)</p>	<p>is intended to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence through referral service (linking with appropriate authority such as the police). So far, the women helpline has become operational in 32 States/UTs and handled more than 47.86 lakh calls.</p> <p>The Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) Scheme is being implemented by the Government. MPVs are envisaged to act as a link between police and the community and facilitate women in distress. MPVs serve as a public-police interface in order to fight crime against women and report incidents of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment and violence faced by women in public spaces.</p>
106.	161.201	<p>Take additional serious measures to eliminate violence against women and children, including sexual violence.</p> <p>(Kyrgystan)</p>	<p>The Government is also implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme to provide institutional support for rehabilitation of women victims of unfortunate circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity. The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security to the victims of difficult circumstances such as widows, destitute women and aged women. Under this Scheme, assistance is provided to eligible organisations for undertaking above activities. As on date, a total of 417 Swadhar Grehs are functioning in the country benefiting 12,890 women. The budget provision of Rs. 50 crore has been kept in FY 2019-20.</p>
107.	161.202	<p>Continue and strengthen measures to prevent and repress offences and violence against women and girls, including through early childhood education, awareness-raising and enhancing effective mechanisms of reparation.</p> <p>(Vietnam)</p>	<p>Working Women Hostel Scheme, launched by the Government, aims to provide safe and affordable accommodation to working women. These hostels have Daycare facility too for the children of jail inmates. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided for construction/running of Hostel in rented premises for working women. Since its inception in 1972-73, 962 hostels have been sanctioned all over the country for the benefit of about 73,307 working women. In the FY 2019-20, a budgetary allocation of Rs.</p>
108.	161.204	<p>Continue its efforts to promote the empowerment of women and to combat violence against women, in line with the recommendations of the Verma Committee.</p>	



		(Brazil)	165 crore was made for the construction of working women’s hostel across the country, out of which, Rs. 26.33 crore (approx.) have been released and 10 new hostels have been sanctioned as on 31st December, 2019.
109.	161.205	Continue strengthening institutions to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, in particular sexual violence, and adopt specific measures to achieve gender equality in the labour market.	To bridge the gaps in the existing infrastructure for safe of women, the Safe City Projects are comprehensive and integrated projects developed by the Government. The total approved cost is Rs. 2,919.55 crore. The projects are targeted to complete in 3 years, by FY 2021- 22.
		(Chile)	Emergency Response Support System is a pan-India, single, internationally recognised number, i.e. 112, for various emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress. It has been operationalised in 28 States/ UTs. The approved cost of the project is Rs. 321.69 crore.
110.	161.214	Strengthen legislation to combat sexual offences against children and women.	Closed-circuit Television (CCTV) and Monitoring rooms are also being installed at 983 major railway stations to provide 24x7 security to women passengers at stations and inside the trains. A total of 236 Stations have been provided with CCTV system.
		(Timor-Leste)	Delhi Police (National Capital Territory) is undertaking a project for modernisation of Special Police Unit for Women and Children and Special Police Unit for North East Region and Police Station Crime Against Women Cell by including facilities for counselling, mediation and gender sensitisation etc. The total cost of the project is Rs. 23.53 crore. Delhi Police has also been allocated an amount of Rs. 10.20 crore for undertaking activities such as holding Camps for Self Defence Training in School/Colleges, Publicity in mass media, procurement of essential items/equipment to enhance the capability of women police force for imparting training, procurement of cyber equipments and making short films/pamphlets on women safety for distribution.



			<p>The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 was enacted by the Government to ensure safe workspaces for women and build an enabling environment that respects women's right to equality of status and opportunity. The Act covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protects them against sexual harassment at all workplaces whether organised or unorganised. Students, apprentices, labourers, domestic workers and even women visiting an office or a workplace are included in the Act.</p> <p>She-Box is an online Complaint Management System launched by the Government for lodging complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace. It provides a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.</p> <p>NHRC considers sexual violence against women a grave violation of human rights of women and in this regard it undertakes various activities to prevent the same. It organised a One Day Meeting on 'One Stop Centers' on 26th September 2017. The objective of the meeting was to review the status of implementation of OSC Scheme, assess the existing ground situation, receive inputs from all the stakeholders and sharing of the best practices.</p> <p>Further, the Commission also organized a One-Day workshop on 'Sexual Harassment at Workplace' in the Commission on 28 March 2018. The objective of the Workshop was to provide a platform for a free and fair expression of views on significant human rights issues, from a diverse cross section of the stakeholders, to dwell deep into the problem, to analyze the underlying reasons/ causes, and to find possible solutions so as to make meaningful recommendations to the concerned stakeholders, including the government.</p>
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			<p>The Commission also initiated a study titled ‘Interrogating Violence against Women from the Other Side: An Exploratory Study into the World of Perpetrators’ in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi. The objective of the research was to gain insight into the perceptions of male perpetrators accused of crimes against women and girls in Delhi to arrive at some inferences on the intersections between gender, violence, crime and social transformation with a particular focus on urban India.</p>
<b><i>Theme 31: Domestic Violence</i></b>			
111.	161.207	<p>Punish domestic violence, as well as promote awareness-raising campaigns on gender violence, including “honour” crimes.</p> <p>(Spain)</p>	<p>GoI enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), in 2005 to prevent domestic violence and provide immediate and emergency relief in case of such situations irrespective of the status of a woman’s relationship with the respondent. A media campaign in this regard was rolled out over television, radio and online media in 2018.</p>
112.	161.208	<p>Reinforce the legal framework for the prevention of violence against women, including running a national awareness campaign and ensuring comprehensive investigation and prosecution in cases of domestic violence.</p> <p>(Italy)</p>	<p>Further, the concerned Ministry has requested all State Governments/UTs to appoint a sufficient number of Protection Officers having independent charge, allocate a separate budget for the smooth functioning of these Protection Officers, training and capacity building of Police, Judiciary, Medical Officers, service providers and create mass awareness around the PWDVA. A Training Programme for Police Officials, ICDS Functionaries and NGOs was organised at Regional Centre, Indore with the main objectives to create awareness about the provisions of PWDVA and roles and responsibilities of Police Officials and other stakeholders.</p>
113.	161.210	<p>Strengthen the protection of women’s rights in accordance with the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and</p>	<p>NHRC organized an inaugural 'Street Theatre Festival and Award Scheme-2018' to recognize, encourage and promote the creative methods (street plays etc.) of the Indian citizens in order to build awareness about the protection and promotion of human rights. The inaugural run of the</p>



		other relevant laws.  (Republic of Korea)	competition encouraged college theatre groups and registered theatre groups of Delhi-National Capital Region to come forward with their Hindi street plays on the issues of bonded and child labour, women & children's rights, domestic violence, rights of elderly persons, disabled rights, right to healthcare, issues of fundamental freedoms, etc.
114.	161.211	Ensure effective implementation of the law on the protection of women against domestic violence.  (Gabon)	
<b><i>Theme 32: Honour Killings</i></b>			
115.	161.59	Consider introducing laws to specifically prevent and prosecute “honour” killings and prosecute those that order or sanction violence against women.  (Namibia)	The GoI in its efforts to prevent honour killings has taken several remedial and punitive measures. In pursuance of Supreme Court’s judgement, Shakti Vahini versus Union of India and others in Writ Petition (C) No.231 of 2010, GoI has issued a comprehensive advisory on 31st May, 2018 to all State Governments and UT Administrations to take/implement preventive, remedial and punitive measures to address the issues relating to ‘honour crimes’. Punitive measures include initiation of departmental/ disciplinary action against police officials, creation of special cells in every district along with a 24-hour helpline and trial of the cases before the designated Court/ Fast Track Court earmarked for the purpose.  NHRC also has a grievance redressal mechanism wherein it registers and takes Suo Moto Cognizance of cases of human rights violations. In this regard, the Commission takes cognizance of honour killing cases every year and according takes necessary action.
116.	161.218	Step up its efforts to eradicate child marriage and so-called “honour crimes”.  (Israel)	
<b><i>Theme 33: Persons with Disabilities</i></b>			
117.	161.69	Adopt a comprehensive national plan on inclusion in order to combat persisting inequality,	To ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act, 2016 enumerates various rights and entitlements such as right to equality and non-



		<p>paying particular attention to persons in vulnerable situations such as women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities.</p> <p>(Honduras)</p>	<p>discrimination, community life, protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment, protection and safety during situations of risks, reproductive rights, access to justice, legal capacity etc.</p> <p>Section 6-8 of the said Act specifically provides for protection from cruelty and inhuman treatment, abuse, violence and exploitation, and equal protection and safety in situation of risks, arms conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. Further, to protect persons with disabilities from vulnerable situations such as disasters, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) have been mandated by the RPD Act to take appropriate measures to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster management activities for their safety and protection. It is also incumbent upon the NDMA and SDMA to maintain a record of persons with disabilities in the districts and take suitable measures to inform such persons of any situations of risk to enhance disaster preparedness. Further, after any situations of risk, the authorities engaged in reconstruction activities are mandated to undertake activities in consultation with the concerned State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities for the accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities. <i>(Source: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)</i></p>
118.	161.242	<p>Take holistic measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>(China)</p>	
119.	161.70	<p>Strengthen the national framework to reduce all kinds of discrimination.</p> <p>(Iraq)</p>	<p>The RPD Act 2016 is premised on the principle of equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities. As per the provisions of the Act, no person with disability shall be discriminated on the ground of disability. <i>(Source: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)</i></p>
120.	161.237	<p>Establish a monitoring mechanism to oversee the effective implementation of the Child</p>	<p>Accessible India Campaign, which is in fulfilment of the obligation under Section 40-46 of the RPD Act, already has a monitoring mechanism to oversee its implementation. Further, the Chief Commissioner and State</p>



		Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, the National Child Labour Policy and the Accessible India Campaign to prevent exploitation of children and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.  (Thailand)	Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities are empowered to monitor the implementation of the Act which also includes barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities. <i>(Source: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)</i>  To examine the status of accessibility in the country, the NHRC had sought a status report of the Accessible India Campaign from the DEPwD. As per the data provided by DEPwD, 35 international and 55 domestic airports have been made accessible with minimum accessible features. 709 railway stations have been provided with short term facilities. 95 websites of Central Government and 337 websites of State Government have also been made live and accessible. Further, the Commission recommended the DEPwD to dedicate substantial fund for the implementation of provisions of accessibility in the RPD Act.
121.	161.243	Continue policies aimed at ensuring the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities and access to resources and services under the Accessible India Campaign.  (Colombia)	
122.	161.239	Continue efforts to promote opportunities for persons with disabilities to benefit from development gains.  (Libya)	The RPD Act, 2016 mandates the Government to frame and review schemes and programmes in favour of persons with disabilities to promote education, skill development and employment, social security, health, rehabilitation, recreation and sports activities for mainstreaming them into the society and also ensure that they are equally benefitted from the developmental programmes of the Government. The Act also mandates 5% reservation for persons with disabilities in Government and Government-aided higher education institutions and also 4% reservation in Government jobs. <i>(Source: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)</i>
123.	161.240	Continue efforts aimed at improving the access of persons with disabilities to education, vocational training and health care.	Section 16-18 of the RPD Act obligates government and the local



		(Oman)	
124.	161.241	Expand the integration of persons with disabilities into programmes and plans for sustainable development.  (Qatar)	<p>authorities to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities. It enumerates specific measures to promote and facilitate inclusive education for children in schools and adults in adult education programmes. Additionally, as per Amendment of 2012, the RTE Act mandates that a child with multiple and/or severe disabilities has the right to opt for home based education. There is a dedicated inclusive education component for the education of girl children with disabilities as part of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme. Through the component, children with disabilities are provided support via specific student-oriented interventions like identification and assessment camps, provision of aids, appliances and assistive devices, transport and escort allowance, braille books and large print books, a stipend for girls with special needs, corrective surgeries, uniform and teaching-learning materials etc. in order to appropriately address their educational requirements in regular schools. Further, individualized support is also provided through therapeutic interventions at the block level. NCERT has also developed an audio version of textbooks and tactile map books as well as non-textbooks reading material like Barkhaa series and videos with sign language. <i>(Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development)</i></p> <p>To institutionalize the access to vocational training, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has identified the eligibility criteria for persons with benchmark disabilities in 137 trades under the Craftsman Training Scheme. The same has been implemented across all National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) under the Directorate General of Training (DGT). <i>(Source: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)</i></p> <p>Further, to ensure infrastructural accessibility to the NSTIs, the DGT has been directed to make the institutes barrier free for persons with disabilities under the Accessible India Campaign. <i>(Source: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)</i></p>



			<p>GoI has established 21 National Career Service Centers for Differently Abled out of which, one Centre at Vadodara has been set up exclusively for women with disabilities. These centers evaluate the residual capacities of persons with disabilities and provide them non formal skill training with a view to integrate them in the economic mainstream and make them productive citizens of the country.</p>
125.	161.244	<p>Ensure that girls with disabilities are afforded the same right to education as all children.</p> <p>(Australia)</p>	<p>The RPD Act, 2016 mandates that every child with benchmark disability (with disability 40% or more) between the ages of 6 to 18 years shall have the right to free education in a neighbourhood school or a special school of their choice. The provisions of the Act are equally applicable to girls with disabilities. <i>(Source: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)</i></p> <p>NHRC in its meeting of the Core Group held in January 2020 recommended to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to ensure holistic inclusion of children with disabilities in Draft National Education Policy and its harmonization with the RPD Act 2016. For instance, the section on recruitment of teacher and teacher requirement planning needs to be harmonized with Section 17 of RPD Act which mandates the government to employ teachers trained in braille, sign language and teaching children with intellectual disabilities. The section on ensuring adequate physical infrastructure, facilities and learning resources should also ensure that such infrastructures are accessible as per the Harmonized Guidelines formulated by the Government as per Section 40 of the RPD Act. This recommendation further emphasized the need for equal access to education of children with disabilities.</p>
<b><i>Theme 34: Protection of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Vulnerable Populations</i></b>			
126.	161.72	<p>Ensure that laws are fully and consistently enforced to provide adequate protections for</p>	<p>The major social, educational and cultural safeguards provided to the SC, ST and vulnerable populations by the Constitution of India are as under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Article 15(4): Special provisions for the advancement of other</li> </ul>



		<p>members of religious minorities, scheduled castes, tribes and other vulnerable populations.</p> <p>(United States of America)</p>	<p>backward classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Article 19(5): Special provisions for the protection of the interests of STs</li> <li>- Article 29: Protection of Interests of Minorities</li> <li>- Article 46: Promotion of educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the SCs and STs, and protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation</li> <li>- The Constitutional framework that safeguards the interests of STs regarding land has been enshrined in the Fifth Schedule (Article 244(1) for Scheduled Area other than North East) and the Sixth Schedule (Article 244(2) and 275(1) for the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram) of the Constitution.</li> <li>- The parameters taken into consideration for scheduling communities under Article 342 of the Constitution are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Indications of Primitive traits</li> <li>o Distinctive culture</li> <li>o Geographical isolation</li> <li>o Shyness of contact with the community at large</li> <li>o Backwardness</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A noteworthy legislation is the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 which provides the following to the STs and forest dwellers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual Rights: Self- cultivation and Habitation</li> <li>- Community Rights: Grazing, Fishing and Water bodies, Habitat Rights for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Traditional Seasonal Resource access of Nomadic and Pastoral community, access to biodiversity, community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge, traditional customary rights</li> <li>- Community Forest Resource Rights: Right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource for sustainable use</li> </ul>
127.	161.75	<p>Adopt laws and implement policies to suppress all forms of de facto discrimination against any person or group.</p> <p>(Guatemala)</p>	
128.	161.83	<p>Take the necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, notably through the training of State officials.</p> <p>(France)</p>	



		<p>To prevent offences of atrocities against the members of the SC and ST, the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act enacted in 1989. The data in this regard is maintained and published by the National Crime Records Bureau.</p> <p>To ensure effective implementation of these legislations, bodies such as the National Commission for SCs and National Commission for STs were provided constitutional status. They look after the implementation of key statutes like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. These bodies also take up complaints and recommend relief to victims. <i>(Inputs from Ministry of Tribal Affairs)</i></p> <p>NHRC conducted open hearing and camp sitting of its three Benches in vulnerable parts of the country, to hear complaints, mainly on atrocities and grievances of the people belonging to SC and ST. Some of the notable issues taken up by the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation of women who were sexually assaulted</li> <li>- Review of women shelter homes</li> <li>- Abolition of Manual Scavenging</li> <li>- Housing for poor/ displaced tribals</li> <li>- Silicosis prevention, detection, relief and rehabilitation</li> <li>- Basic amenities for women workers in the textile and garment industries</li> <li>- Release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers</li> </ul> <p>Expressing concern over the inefficiencies in implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989 and the Rules of 1995, NHRC has periodically sought reports from State Governments, warned State of coercive action for not submitting the action taken reports in connection with violation of human rights of SCs, STs and minorities.</p>
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