

## POPULATION CONTROL

- While there has been a significant rise in India's population, there has also been a sharp decline in India's total fertility rate (TFR).
- In 1950, the TFR was at around 5.9%, and is now 2% (fifth round of the National Family Health Survey, or NFHS)
- India's TFR, 2%, is even lower than the replacement level, signifying a remarkable step in the population control parameters.
- Forced population control measures have not shown promising results in the countries that have implemented them, the most relevant example being India's immediate neighbour, China.
- The one-child policy has proved to be disastrous, causing a demographic imbalance.
- The population of China is aging faster than in any other modern country, owing to the policies of forced population control.
- India needs to adopt population control measures. But the focus should be on strengthening public health infrastructure and raising awareness about the need for population control.
- Any forced control method will impact the rate of aging.
- United Nations data show that there is a projected rise in the population

of older people and a decline in the young population in many countries.

- Although the trend started in rich countries such as Japan, the trend is now visible in developing countries as well, especially in Southeast Asia.

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## Export decline

- A part of the import bill dip was triggered by lower non -oil cargo, signalling slowing domestic demand, but non -oil exports' performance is a greater worry.
- Their share in exports growth has been shrinking since June, with the contraction accelerating for many sectors from September to November engineering goods which drove much of India's record \$422 billion goods exports in 2021-22, contracted 11.3% while textiles fell a steeper 25%
- Services exports and remittance inflows may cushion India's current account deficit from the goods trade imbalance and restrict the economy's external vulnerabilities, but policymakers need to focus on ensuring a soft landing for factories in export-intensive sectors that are also massive employers so that the global gloom does not hit domestic sentiment.
- In recent weeks, the Government belatedly scrapped the export duty

on steel and iron ore, which was hurting engineering exports too, and brought them under a tax refund scheme with thus- far excluded sectors like drugs and chemicals.

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### **Decriminalization and governance**

- Union Government tabled the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2022, (Bill) in the Parliament with the objective of “decriminalizing” 183 offenses across 42 legislations and enhancing the ease of living and doing business in India.

#### **Scope of the Bill**

- The Jan Vishwas Bill either omits penal provisions or replaces them with fines in legislations such as the Air Act, Environment Protection Act, Forest Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Acts, Cinematograph Act, Patents Act, Trade Marks Act, and Information Technology Act amongst several others.
- These are primarily offenses that are regulatory in nature.
- By and large, an examination of the provisions of the Bill reveals that stress has been on the replacement of imprisonment clauses with fines.
- This can hardly be termed as ‘decriminalization’.

#### **Consequences of over criminalization**

- An unprincipled growth of criminal law has long been a cause of concern for scholars of law.
- Such growth is evident from the fact that criminal law is frequently used as a political tool; the act of criminalization often becomes a medium for governments to put across a strong image as opposed to punishing wrongful conduct.
- Governments offer little in the way of justifications to support such decisions.
- This phenomenon has been termed “over criminalisation”.
- The growing number of pending criminal cases shares a direct relationship with the number of criminal laws.
- Similarly, the rise in the prison population is also proof of over-criminalization.

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### **Single cigarette ban**

#### **The story so far:**

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, in its latest report about cancer management, prevention and diagnosis, recommended that the government institute a ban on the sale of single sticks of cigarettes.

- It also recommended that the government increase taxes on all tobacco products and utilize the acquired revenue for cancer prevention and awareness.
- It recommends that the government prohibit the sale of single sticks of cigarettes and suggests the abolition of all designated smoking areas in airports, hotels, and restaurants in addition to encouraging a smoke-free policy in organizations.
- The Committee also found that India has the lowest prices for tobacco products and thus, it must look to increase taxes on them.
- These measures flow from the observation that oral cancer accounts for the highest proportion of cancer cases in the country.
- Additionally, the committee also sought a ban on gutkaiip and pan masala alongside a prohibition on their direct and indirect advertisement
- Single-stick sales, owing to their easier accessibility and affordability, can also work as a disincentive to quit smoking.
- The authority is laid down in a parent act of parliament, known as an 'enabling act' that creates the structure of the law and then delegates powers to others to make more detailed laws in the area.
- Delegated legislation, including rules and regulations formed by the State and Central authorities, should not supplant but supplement the parliamentary statute from which it draws power, the Supreme Court held in a judgment.
- "If a rule goes beyond the rule-making power conferred by the statute, the same has to be declared invalid.
- If a rule supplants any provision for which power has not been conferred, it becomes invalid," a
- A delegated power to legislate by making rules or regulations cannot be exercised so as to bring into existence substantive rights, obligations, or disabilities not contemplated by the provisions of the parent statute.

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### Delegated legislation

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### India's stack

- Delegated legislation is a law made by some person or body other than parliament, but with the permission of parliament.
- What is India Stack?
- India Stack is a set of APIs that allows governments, businesses, startups, and developers to utilize a unique digital Infrastructure to solve India's hard problems towards presence-

less, paperless, and cashless service delivery.

- The Open API team at iSPIRT has been a pro-bono partner in the development, evolution, and evangelization of these APIs and systems.

### Technology layers

- The four distinct technology layers provided are
- Presenceless layer: Where a universal biometric digital identity allows people to participate in any service from anywhere in the country.
- Paperless layer: Where digital records move with an individual's digital identity, eliminating the need for a massive amount of paper collection and storage.
- Cashless layer: Where a single interface to all the country's bank accounts and wallets to democratize payments.
- Consent layer: This allows data to move freely and securely to democratize the market for data.

### APIs included in India Stack

- The following APIs are considered to be a core part of the India Stack.
- Aadhaar Authentication
- Aadhaar e-KYC
- eSign
- Digital Locker
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

- Digital User Consent - still a work in progress.

- The following APIs are also considered to be societal platforms built on similar principles like India Stack:

- GSTN - The Goods and Services Tax Network
- BBPS - The Bharat Bill Payment System
- ETC - Electronic Toll Collection (known under the brand FASTag)

### Utility

- Citizens: Brings millions of Indians into the formal economy by reducing friction.
- Software ecosystem: Fosters innovation to build products for Financial Inclusion, healthcare & educational services at scale.
- Government: This brings a paradigm shift in the way government services are delivered in a transparent, accountable, and leakage-free model.

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### V-shaped recovery

- A V-shaped recovery is characterized by a quick and sustained recovery in measures of economic performance after a sharp economic decline.
- Because of the speed of economic adjustment and recovery in macroeconomic performance, a V-

shaped recovery is a best-case scenario given the recession.

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