

FINDER

06th
March
2026



FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

Transforming representation into real change by 2029

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues

Mains: General Studies - 1
Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues

1. Background

- The **Women's Reservation Act** will reserve **one-third of Lok Sabha seats for women** by 2029, creating the **most gender-representative Parliament in India's history**.
- However, **representation alone may not change policy** unless women's issues are recognised and politically prioritised beforehand.
- One major neglected issue is the **absence of a gender-sensitive elder care policy framework** in India.

2. Key Challenges

- Rapid ageing population:** Over **100 million Indians** are already **above 60 years**, projected to exceed **250 million by 2040**.
- Gender disadvantage in ageing:** Women live **4-5 years longer than men** but often have lower savings, broken work histories, limited assets, and weak care support.
- Existing schemes such as the **National Policy for Older Persons (1999)** and the **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme** address ageing mainly through poverty and health concerns.
- These policies do not adequately recognise the **gender-specific challenges** faced by ageing women.
- Health burden:** A **2023 Alzheimer's & Dementia study** estimates **8.8 million Indians** above 60 living with dementia.

- The number is expected to **nearly double by 2036**, with women disproportionately affected.
- Policy invisibility:** Parliamentary records show **very few questions, Bills, or committee discussions** on ageing women.

3. Emerging Examples

- In January 2026, **Maharashtra launched menopause clinics** in 580 government facilities.
- Within five weeks, **over 31,000 women accessed the services**, demonstrating latent demand when issues are recognised by the state.

4. Way Forward

- Integrate **gender-sensitive elder care** into political agendas before the 2029 elections.
- Improve **age- and gender-disaggregated census data** to guide policymaking.
- Ensure **transparent budgeting** for elder care services.
- Political parties should **incorporate dignified ageing and elder care infrastructure** into candidate agendas and manifestos.

Protecting women's rights amid conflict and instability

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues

1. Context

- International Women's Day is observed on March 8** to promote women's rights and gender equality.
- It **originated from early 20th-century labour movements** advocating for women's rights and better working conditions.

- It was **officially recognised by the United Nations in 1977.**

2. International Women’s Day 2026: Rights, Justice and Action

- The **United Nations theme for International Women’s Day 2026 is “Rights, Justice, Action: For All Women and Girls.”**
- The **theme comes at a time of wars, conflicts,** and economic problems worldwide.
- **Women and children suffer the most during conflicts,** facing displacement and loss of livelihoods.
- **Violence against women increases in war,** including sexual violence.
- Women are **often left out of peace talks and rebuilding efforts.**

3. Women, Peace and Security: Promises vs Reality

- In 2000, the **United Nations Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1325** on Women, Peace and Security.
- Many countries created national action plans, but implementation remains weak.
- The **UN Secretary-General Report on Women, Peace and Security 2025** says the **world has the highest number of conflicts since 1946.**
- Around **676 million women live within 50 km of conflict zones,** facing serious risks.
- Women **remain underrepresented in peace talks, with 7% negotiators and 14% mediators globally.**

4. From Rights to Action

- **Ensure equal participation of women in peace talks** and decision-making processes.
- **Women’s groups and global organisations should move beyond slogans** to practical action.
- **Protect women and children in conflict zones** from violence and sexual exploitation.
- **Provide food, education, healthcare, financial and emotional support** to affected women.
- **Treat women’s rights as a shared global responsibility,** not just a symbolic issue highlighted on International Women’s Day.

As nicotine pouches spread, calls for regulations, ban get louder

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

1. Context

- Oral nicotine pouches are **emerging as a new public health concern** due to their high addictive potential.
- **Tamil Nadu Directorate of Drugs Control issued a public alert** and served notices to dealers selling them online.
- These **pouches are not approved in India, and their safety, efficacy, and quality are not established.**

2. Nicotine Pouches: What They Are & How They Work

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **nicotine pouches are small microfiber pouches containing nicotine, flavourings and other ingredients.**
- They are placed between the lip and gum.
- The **powder dissolves in the mouth, so spitting is not required.**
- Nicotine **enters the bloodstream through buccal absorption (through the gums and mouth lining).**

3. Dangers of Nicotine Pouches

- Nicotine pouches are **highly addictive, especially for youth.**
- Flavours and design attract users, including adults.
- They are **easily available online, raising concerns over illegal sales.**
- They may cause **health risks like cardiovascular and gum problems.**

4. Way Forward

- **Strengthen regulations to control the sale and distribution** of nicotine pouches.
- **Amend State public health laws** to control their entry and sale.
- **Monitor online platforms** to stop illegal sales.
- **Limit high nicotine content** to reduce health risks.

The legality of U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

1. Legality of the Use of Force (UN Charter)

- The **UN Charter (1945)** aims to maintain **international peace and security** and prevent war.
- **Article 2(4)** prohibits states from using force against the **territorial integrity or political independence** of another state.
- The **UN Security Council** is the only body authorised to permit the **use of force against a member state in response to breaches of international peace**.
- **Article 51** allows force only in **self-defence after an actual armed attack**.
- The U.S. and Israel justified the strike as **"anticipatory self-defence"**, claiming an **imminent threat** from Iran.
- However, many scholars argue that **international law does not recognise self-defence against a hypothetical future attack**.

2. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Protection of Civilians

- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, mainly derived from the **Geneva Conventions (1949)**, regulates **how wars are fought**.
- IHL protects **civilians, prisoners of war, and the wounded and sick**.
- Attacks on **civilian objects such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship** are prohibited.

- The **Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 38)** requires states to protect **children during armed conflict**.
- The **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)** defines **intentional attacks on civilians or educational institutions as war crimes**.

3. Core Principles of IHL in Military Operations

IHL operations must follow four key principles:

- **Distinction**- Military forces must distinguish between **combatants and civilians** and between **military targets and civilian objects**.
- **Proportionality**- If a **civilian building like a school is near a military target** and gets hit during an attack, the strike is considered legal **only if the expected harm to civilians is not greater than the military benefit of attacking the target**.
- **Military Necessity** - Force should only be used to achieve **legitimate military objectives**.
- **Precaution** - Commanders must take **all feasible steps** to reduce **civilian casualties**, such as verifying targets and choosing appropriate weapons.
- Civilian buildings like **schools lose protection only if used for military purposes** (e.g., military bases or command centres).
- There is **no evidence** that the school in **Minab, Iran** was used for military purposes.

4. Importance of International Law in Conflicts

- International law distinguishes between:
 - ➔ **Jus ad bellum**- legality of **starting a war**.
 - ➔ **Jus in bello**- legality of **conduct during war**.
- International law creates **accountability by forcing states to justify their actions** before the global community.
- Violations can therefore be **identified, criticised, and condemned internationally**.
- When civilian targets such as **schools and children** are harmed, it highlights the **urgent need for stronger compliance with international law**.

KEYWORDS

Diabetes

- **Diabetes** is a **chronic disease** that occurs when the **pancreas does not produce enough insulin** or when the **body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces**.
- **Insulin** is a **hormone** that regulates **blood glucose (blood sugar) levels**.
- **Hyperglycaemia** (high blood sugar) is a common result of **uncontrolled diabetes** and, over time, can cause serious damage to many **body systems**, particularly the **nerves and blood vessels**.
- **Type 1 diabetes** occurs when the body produces **very little or no insulin**, making **daily insulin injections necessary**.
- **Type 2 diabetes** affects how the **body uses glucose for energy**.
- In this condition, the **body does not use insulin properly**, leading to **high blood sugar levels** if left untreated.
- Over time, it can cause serious damage to the **nerves and blood vessels**.
- Importantly, **Type 2 diabetes is often preventable** through **healthy lifestyle choices** such as proper diet and physical activity.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

- **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted on 31 October 2000** by the United Nations Security Council to address the impact of armed conflict on women and girls
- Four Core Pillars:
 - ➡ **Participation**: Ensures women's equal participation in peace processes, decision-making, and institutions.
 - ➡ **Protection**: Protects women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during conflict.
 - ➡ **Prevention**: Focuses on preventing conflict-related violence by improving women's rights and security.

➡ **Relief & Recovery**: Addresses the special needs of women in post-conflict reconstruction.

- It **moved women from being viewed only as victims to being recognized as active agents of peace**.
- It **requires UN member states to adopt National Action Plans (NAPs)**.

Constitutional Tort

- A **constitutional tort** is a judicial remedy that holds the **State vicariously liable**, meaning it is **legally responsible for wrongful acts** of its officials done during official duties.
- It allows courts to award **compensation** for violations of **fundamental or civil rights**.
- Recently, activists have urged the Supreme Court to treat **hate speech as a constitutional tort** due to its discriminatory impact on constitutional rights.

Places in news

Finland

- Finland is a country in **Northern Europe** bordered by **Russia, Sweden and Norway**, and by the **Gulf of Finland** and **Gulf of Bothnia**.
- The capital is **Helsinki**, which is also the largest city.
- Nearly **two-thirds of Finland is covered with forests**, making it one of the most forested countries in Europe.
- In **Finland**, inland waters cover about **one-tenth of the country's total area**
- About **one-third of Finland lies north of the Arctic Circle**, where midnight sun occurs in summer and polar night in winter.
- Finland was **part of Sweden until 1809**, later became a **Grand Duchy under Russia**, and **gained independence in 1917** after the Russian Revolution.

- Finland joined the **United Nations in 1955** and the **European Union in 1995**.
- India and Finland recently announced a **strategic partnership in digitalization and sustainability**.
- Both countries signed an MoU on **mobility of Indian professionals**, especially for innovation and technology sectors, and agreed to cooperate in **6G telecommunications**.

