

## Consequences

- Common people's faith in the judiciary declines.
- It denies true justice to under-trial prisoners, many of whom get acquitted after spending many years which is a violation of their fundamental rights and also spoil their whole life.
- The economic cost of pendency is also very huge. Projects worth billions get delayed and delays in judgement. It is estimated that delay in justice costs 1.5% of GDP annually which also deters future investment in India.
- Delay in justice also fails to create deterrence in the mind of criminals thus crime goes on perpetuating.
- Overcrowding of jails is also a result of a delay in judgment.
- The criminalization of politics keeps on rising as culprits are not punished timely

## Context

- The Chief Justice of India stated that the Indian Judiciary is overburdened because of the system and he also mentioned that it is difficult to find good lawyers to fill judicial vacancies in High Courts.
- The Chief Justice highlighted that increasing the number of judges will not solve the problem of pendency.
- He said that 20% of the judicial posts in the High Courts were vacant.

## Concerns

- Case pendency Hurts investors' confidence.
- Economic activity is getting affected by high pendency and delays across the legal system.
- It adds a burden on Courts and collaterally harms other litigants.
- It increases project costs and delays projects.
- Slows down administrative processes, delaying decision-making.
- Diversion of precious resources.
- Effects ease of doing business.

## Present Status

- More than 70 thousand cases are pending in the Supreme Court according to the latest data available on the National Judicial Grid.
- Nearly 60 lakhs cases are pending in the High Courts.
- Over 40 million cases are pending in Subordinate Courts across the country.
- The high pendency of Cases in Some tribunals indicates that the objective of setting them is not achieved.
- According to data compiled from the National Judicial Data Grid, more than one lakh cases are pending in district and taluk courts for 30 years. Over 90% of these cases are pending in just 4 states: Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Bihar.

## Steps taken

- Infrastructure has been improved from the Supreme Court to the lower court.
- The Central government increased the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 31 to 34.
- The government is also emphasizing the increasing use of Lokadalais and other alternate dispute settlement mechanisms.
- Special courts deal with technical matters so that judgement can be pronounced on time.
- Adoption of "National Litigation Policy 2010" to transform the government into an Efficient and Responsible litigant.
- All states formulated state litigation policies after National Litigation Policy 2010.
- Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS), was created in 2015 with the objective of tracking cases to which the government is a party.
- The Supreme Court advised the centre that criminals sentenced to imprisonment for 6 months or a year should be allocated social service duties rather than be sent to further choke the already overflowing prisons.

## Reasons

- Lack of sufficient number of judges and high vacancies in the judiciary and long leave to judges deteriorate the already grim situation.
- Frequent adjournment of the cases even on frivolous issues.
- India has very few courts compared to its huge population.
- Excessive litigation from the government side, the government is the largest litigant, responsible for nearly half the pending cases and most of them are on petty issues such as inter-departmental conflict.
- Lack of quality judges in the lower judiciary leads to appeals to the higher judiciary in most cases.
- Archaic laws or vague laws present another challenge as it takes time to interpret the law and most of the time matters go to higher courts through appeal.
- Poor police investigation leads to poor collection of evidence and hostile witness thus adjourning the hearing for the next date.
- Increasing the number of use of Public interest litigation (PIL).
- Increasing awareness among citizens about their rights and law courts.

# PENDENCY IN HIGHER COURTS

## Importance of Green Bonds

Climate change threatens communities and economies, and it poses risks to agriculture, food, and water supplies. A lot of financing is needed to address these challenges.

Green Bonds can be an important financial instrument to deal with the threats of climate change and related challenges.

It's critical to connect environmental projects with capital markets and investors and channel capital toward sustainable development. Green Bonds are a way to make that connection.

## Green Bonds in India

In 2021, the government said it stands committed to reduce the Emissions Intensity of GDP by 45 percent from the 2005 level by 2030.

It further aims to achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

In line with the commitment to significantly reduce the carbon intensity of the economy, the Union Budget 2022-23 made an announcement to issue Sovereign Green Bonds.

## Closing Thoughts

Over the last 14 years, green bonds have become an important tool to address the impacts of climate change and related challenges.

Green financing will increase the level of financial flows (from banking, micro-credit, insurance and investment) from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to sustainable development priorities.

The issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds will help the Government of India (GoI) in tapping the requisite finance from potential investors for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.

## Context

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it will for the first time issue Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) worth Rs 16,000 crore.

## What are Green Bonds?

Green bonds are debt securities specifically destined for the funding or refunding of green projects, i.e. projects that are sustainable and socially responsible in areas as diverse as renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation or responsible waste management.

They commit the use of the funds obtained to an environmental project or one related to climate change.

They are issued by any sovereign entity, inter-governmental groups or alliances and corporates.

Green Bonds finance projects that help reduce the effects of climate change or protect the environment.

Proceeds from these bonds are utilized for projects classified as environmentally sustainable.

The very first green bond was issued in 2007 by multilateral institutions European Investment Bank (EIB) and World Bank.

## Application of Green Bonds in India

The government will use the proceeds raised from SGBs to finance or refinance expenditures for various green projects, including in renewable energy, clean transportation, energy efficiency, climate change adaptation, sustainable water and waste management, pollution and prevention control and green buildings.

In renewable energy, investments will be made in solar, wind, biomass and hydropower energy projects.

## Challenges

- In our Country, both obesity and malnutrition are Public health issues.
- Over half of adolescent girls and women are anaemic.
- Every 3rd Child is undernourished which leads to several diseases, Child death and maternal mortality.
- Inadequate health infrastructure, inadequate investments in health and other Sectors.
- Anganwadi has good Programmes but due to a lack of Coordination with PHCs, Children tend to miss the necessary nutrient updates.

## Government initiatives

- Promotion of Institutional deliveries through Cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana.
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram: Free ante-natal Check-ups, Post-natal Care and Treatment of Sick infants till one year of age.
- Newborn Stabilization Units and Kangaroo Mother Care units for Care of Sick babies.
- The government launched an Action Plan for 'Undernourishment free India' by 2022.
- The national nutrition Strategy has Set targets for 2022 and Posthan Abhiyan has Specified 3 years targets to reduce Stunting, under nutrition and low birth weight by 2% each year and to reduce anaemia by 3% each year.
- Mission Indradhanush: Expanding full immunization Coverage, the introduction of new vaccines.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan to address Malnutrition.
- Iron and folic acid Supplementation for Prevention of Anemia, home visits by ASHAs to Promote breast feeding and Promote the use of ORS and Zinc for management of diarrhoea in Children.

## Context

The Union Minister of Women and Child Development has released a target report to curb malnutrition in India and updated the Rajya Sabha about the various steps taken by the government to reduce:

Stunting and under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) by 2% per annum among children under 6 years.

Low birth weight by 2% per annum.

Anaemia among children between 6 and 59 months, as well as women and adolescent girls from 15 to 49 years, by 3% per annum.

## About

Malnutrition is the condition that develops when the body is deprived of vitamins, minerals and other nutrients that our body needs to maintain healthy tissues and organ function.

Malnutrition occurs in people who are either undernourished or over-nourished.

Article 47 of the Indian Constitution mentions the "duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the Standard of living and to improve Public health".

## Key Points

Meghalaya has the highest number of stunted children (46.5%), followed by Bihar (42.9%).

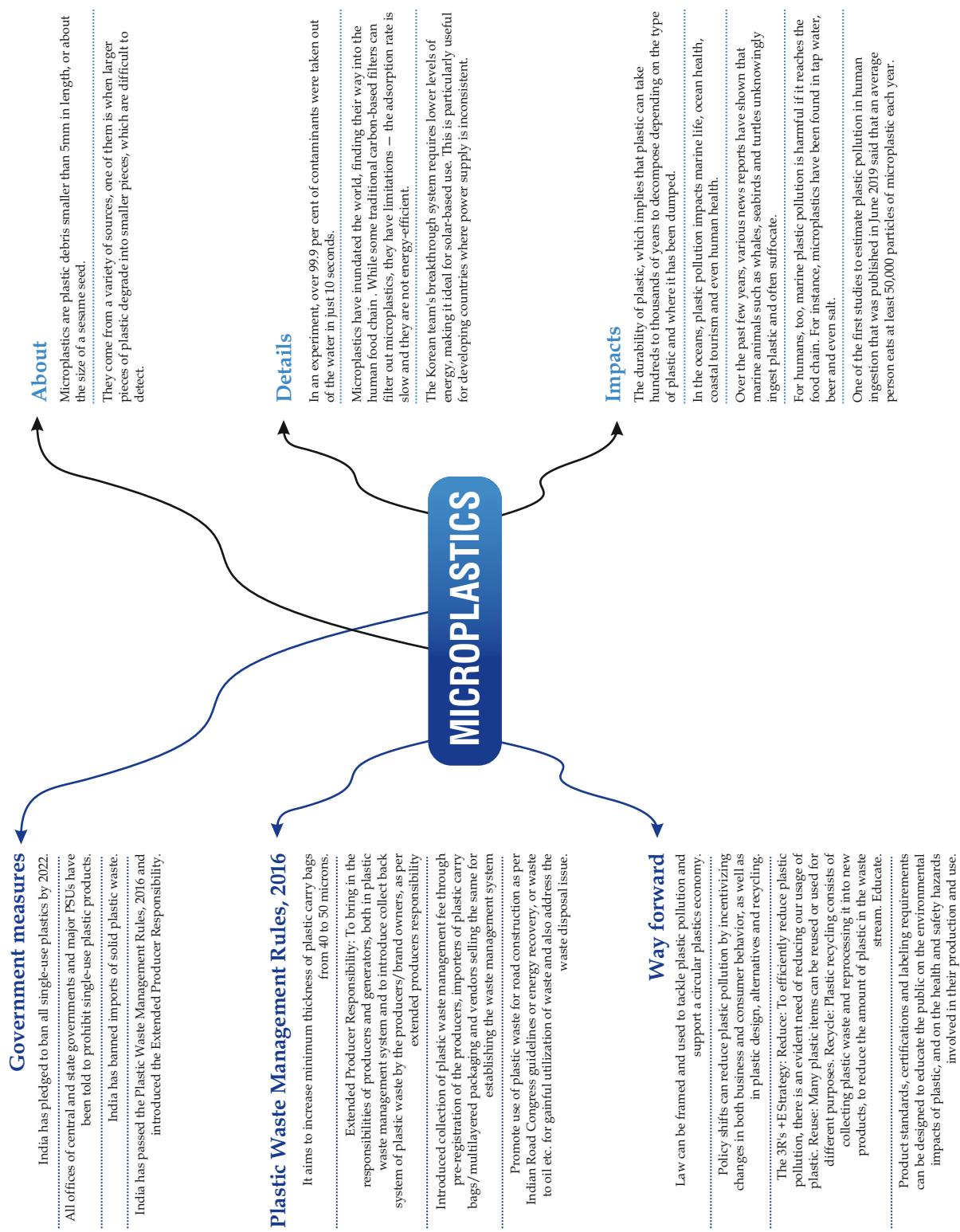
Maharashtra (25.6%) has the highest number of wasted children (weight for height), followed by Gujarat (25.1%).

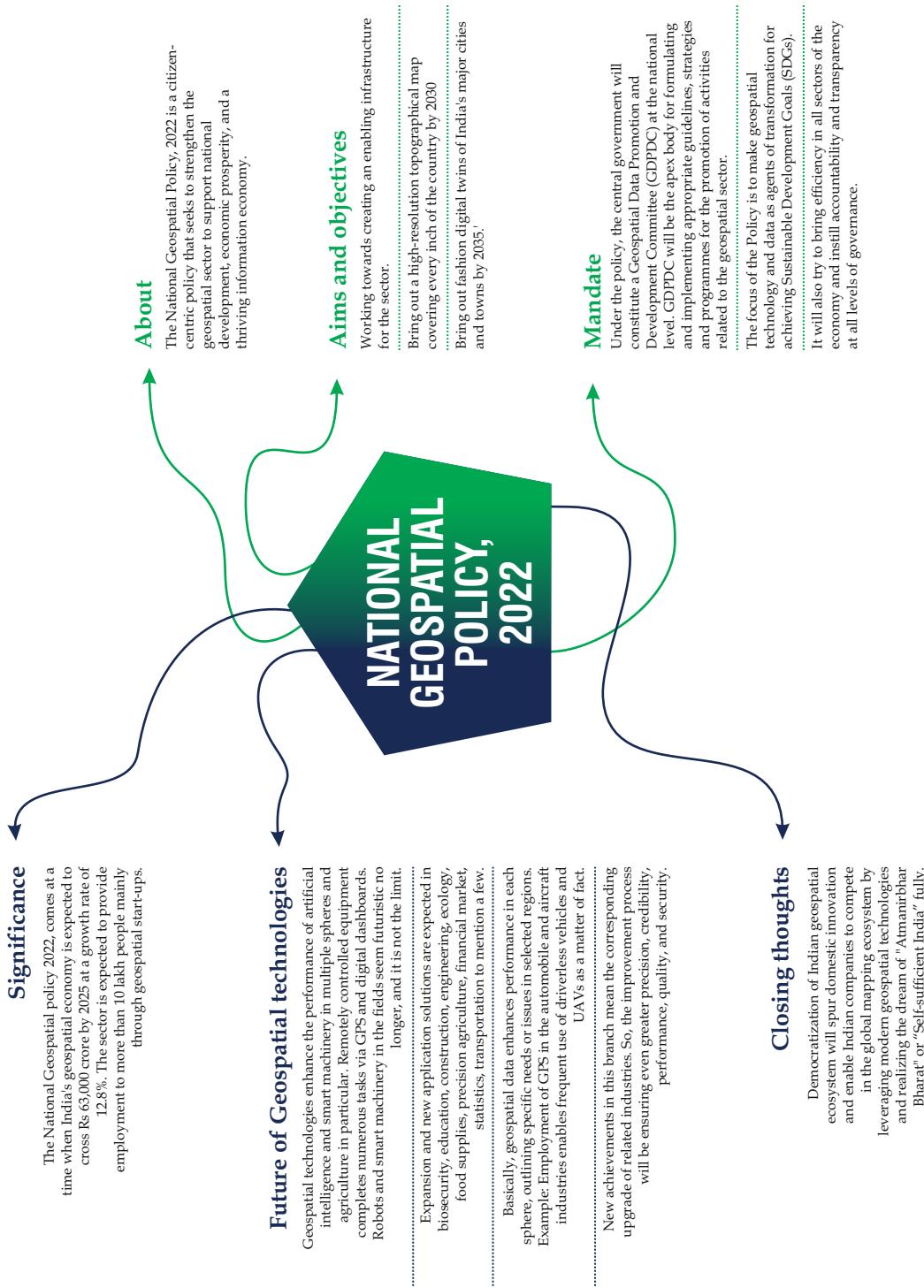
Bihar (41 %) has the highest number of underweight children, followed by Gujarat (39.7%), and Jharkhand (39.4%).

Jharkhand has the highest percentage of women, between 15 and 49 years, who have a below-normal Body Mass Index (BMI).

## Way forward

- Need to ensure access to Safe drinking water & Proper Sanitation.
- Dietary diversification, Promote millets and Pulses Production and distribution under Food Security Programme.
- Fortified food into mid-day meals, Public Distribution Shops and Anganwadi Centres.
- Women empowerment can help end malnutrition.
- ICT enabled a real-time monitoring mechanism.
- Improving the infrastructure of Anganwadi Centres along with training of Anganwadi workers.
- Social awareness through both formal and informal channels to generate awareness.
- Bio-fortification is important in overcoming hidden hunger Caused by micro-nutrient deficiencies Such as iron, iodine, zinc, vitamin A, and vitamin B12.





## Competitiveness

Research & Development (R&D): R&D is not merely the responsibility of the Government and public sector units but also that of private sector companies.

India's R&D spend is only 0.7% of the GDP which is less than that of our peer countries such as Vietnam (2%) - it needs to be double and triple. R&D in our educational institution must be encouraged. More academia and industry partnership is required to boost R&D.

To promote exports, a three-way partnership is needed

Diplomatic missions abroad must reach out to investors in those countries who are interested in setting up R&D facilities in India.

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry should take the lead towards promoting R&D.

Industry associations and chambers like FICCI and CII should connect small -medium enterprises and companies to this initiative.

## INDIA'S EXPANDING MANUFACTURING PMI

### Reforms needed

Fixed employment policy: It gives flexibility to industries to hire and fire the workers or upscale or downscale workforce as per need, without significantly compromising on labor interest.

Simple labor laws: labor laws must be made less complex to give more decision making autonomy to manufacturing units.

Amend Factories Act 1948: many provisions are obsolete which must be removed.

Self-certification: To develop a culture of trust and transparency, monthly and quarterly inspections by the Government authorities should be replaced by a self-certification norm and defaulters should be strictly penalized.

### Way forward

Boost spending on research and development to at least 2% of the GDP.

Eliminate exemptions on countervailing duties on imports as the duty exemptions are favoring foreign producers over domestically made goods

Monetize the land owned by public sector companies which could be used to develop eco-systems to nurture start-ups and develop sites for industrial clusters.

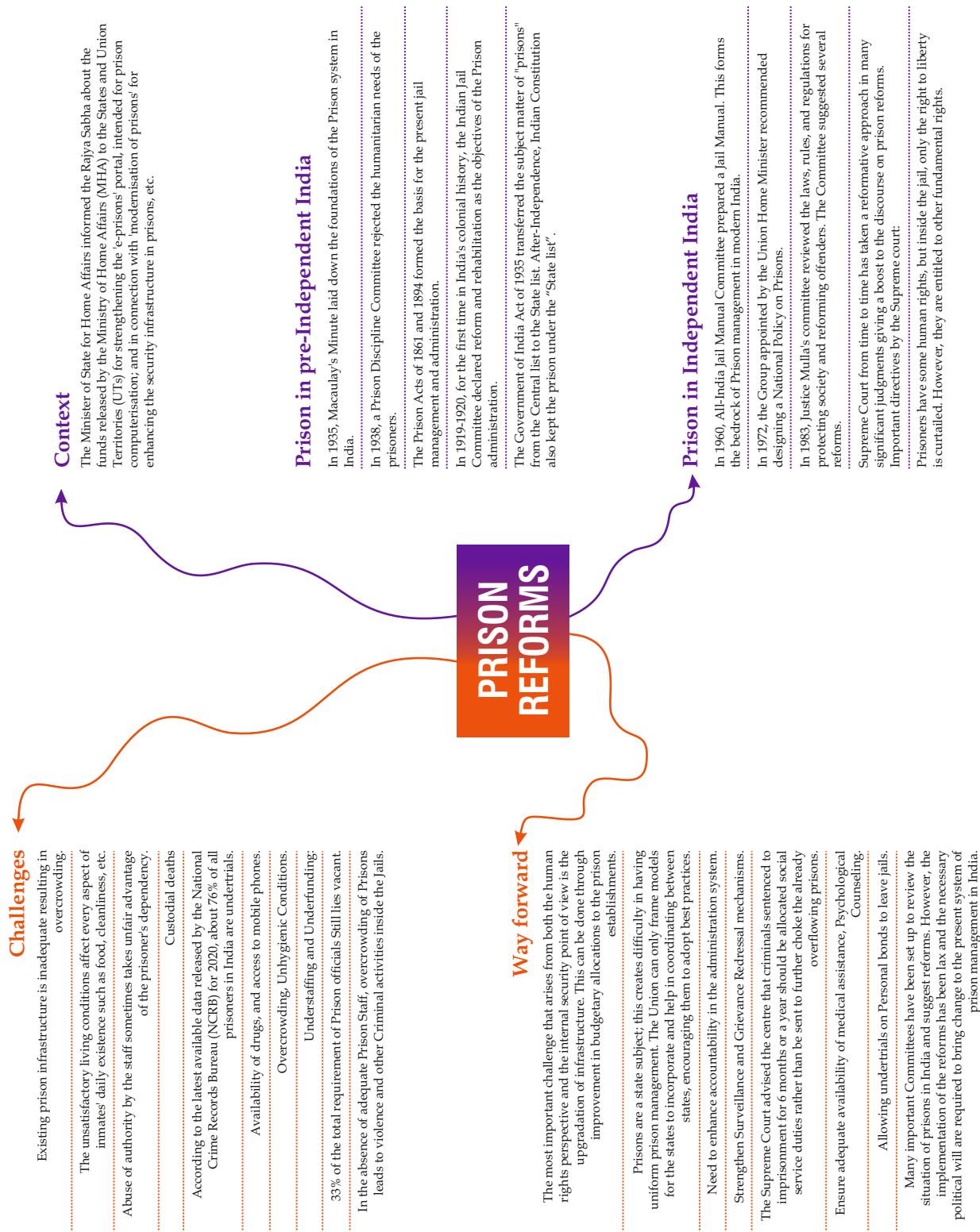
Allow industries to buy electricity directly from the markets.

Rationalizing labor laws to promote big industries rather than small and dwarf industries.

Government should refrain from frequent policy twisting as it deter investment due to policy uncertainty.

Improving infrastructure from transport systems to the power sector to reduce logistic cost and power outage.

Improve access to finance for MSMEs sectors as most are facing financial crunch.



## Evaluation of UPI Ecosystem in India

The Economic Survey 2021-22 highlighted the growing trend of increasing digital transactions over the years and the emergence of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the most preferred mode of transaction since its launch in 2016.

UPI emerged as the single largest retail payment system in India in terms of the number of transactions.

Commissurate with growing participation in equity markets, UPI also emerged as a popular method of participation in the primary market by investors. In 2018, SEBI introduced UPI as a payment channel to invest in IPO. Over time, RBI has increased the transaction limit for IPO participation from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

Bhutan recently became the first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR code. It is also the second country after Singapore to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.

Reserve Bank of India launched a new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments solution - 'UPI123Pay' for feature phone users. In 2022, UPI transactions have increased dramatically in both volume and value over the last year, demonstrating the success of UPI in India.

## Reasons behind the penetration of UPI

Transaction amount: It accepts transactions as small as one rupee and for merchants, a significant incentive to accept UPI payments.

Simple process: Since just a smartphone is needed to complete a transaction it makes the process as simple as it can get instead of using devices like the Point-of-Sale card-swiping machines. Ecosystem in which UPI thrives: The presence of high-speed internet, cloud computing and modern software engineering technologies that fulfill a transaction in a few seconds.

Consumers have benefited greatly from the digitization of payments as well as the revolution in investing on the demand front. India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has been appreciated by the World Bank and others. While India to a great extent has covered digital literacy grounds, digital financial inclusion remains the need of the hour for the country.

The usage of digital literacy created a bridge for inclusion in the new digital finance system. This degree of inclusion is now the need of the hour for the whole of India to advance its economy.

The cumulative participation of the whole country in digital finance will pave the way for economic growth in tandem with global numbers.

## Context

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) closed the year 2022 on a high note as the number of transactions reached a record 7.82 billion in December and totalled Rs 12.82 trillion, also a record high.

## About

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

It facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions.

The system powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.

NPCI launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with member banks in 2016.

## Features

Immediate money transfer through mobile device round the clock 24\*7 and 365 days.

Single mobile application for accessing different bank accounts.

Single Click Factor Authentication - Aligned with the Regulatory guidelines, yet provides for a very strong feature of seamless single click payment.

The virtual address of the customer for Pull & Push provides for incremental security with the customer not required to enter the details such as Card no, Account number, IFSC etc.

Merchant Payment with Single Application or In-App Payments,

Utility Bill Payments, Over the Counter Payments, QR Code (Scan and Pay) based payments.

## Conclusion

Consumers have benefited greatly from the digitization of payments as well as the revolution in investing on the demand front. India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has been appreciated by the World Bank and others.

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## RECORD UP! TRANSACTIONS

