

8. Short News

1. India as Co-Chair of UN-GGIM-AP (2025–2028)

UN-GGIM-AP – Intergovernmental body for geospatial information management in Asia-Pacific.

Established – 2012 (evolved from PCGIAP, 1995).

Mandate/Objectives – Maximise economic, social, environmental benefits of geospatial data via cooperation and capacity building.

Membership – 56 countries/economies' geospatial authorities.

Secretariat – ESCAP since 2018.

Geospatial Information – Location-linked data; combines coordinates (lat/long) with attributes (population, land-use, etc.).

Key Components

GIS – Data management & visualization.

GPS – Precise location/speed/time.

Remote Sensing – Satellite/aircraft-based data collection.

Applications – Urban planning, logistics, environment monitoring, disaster management, real estate planning.

India's Initiatives –

1. National Geospatial Policy 2022 – Liberalized access, high-resolution mapping.
2. Integration with Digital India & PM GatiShakti.
3. Hosted UNWGIC 2022 in Hyderabad.

2. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) – UN Report 2025

Framework – UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

Pillars – Participation, Protection, Prevention, Relief & Recovery.

Findings –

1. 676 million women near deadly conflicts.
2. Civilian casualties among women/children quadrupled in 2 years.
3. Sexual violence up by 87%.
4. 123 million forcibly displaced; women/girls at higher risk.
5. 295 million faced acute hunger; pregnant/breastfeeding women malnourished.

Importance of Women's Participation – Peace agreements with women signatories 35% more likely to last ≥15 years. Broader agendas – human rights, health, education included.

Challenges – Male-dominated decisions, low funding (0.4%), shrinking civic space, militarization, climate/digital threats.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen accountability.
2. Increase WPS financing.
3. Mandate women's participation in negotiations & post-conflict governance.
4. Invest in prevention & gender data collection.
5. Integrate gender perspective in emerging threats (climate, digital violence).

3. Domestic Workers in India

Definition – Work in/for private households, critical to care economy.

Numbers – 3.9 million (NSSO) – mostly women; estimates up to 90 million.

Demographics – ~90% women/children; 25% below 14 years; mainly SC/ST.

Challenges –

1. Legal vacuum, no formal recognition.
2. Low wages, long hours, no leave benefits.
3. Job insecurity, informal contracts.
4. Abuse – physical, emotional, sexual, caste-based discrimination.
5. Lack of social security.

6. Exploitative placement agencies.
7. Child labour & trafficking.
8. Migrant workers face language & rights access barriers.
9. Weak collective bargaining.

Existing Frameworks -

1. Unorganised Workers Social Security Act 2008 → subsumed under Code on Social Security 2020.
2. Minimum Wages Act 1948 (weak enforcement).
3. PoSH Act 2013 → Local Complaints Committees.
4. Child Labour Act 1986.
5. Draft National Policy on Domestic Workers 2019 (pending).
6. State welfare boards (TN, Kerala, Karnataka proposals).
7. ILO Convention 189 (not ratified).

Way Forward -

1. Enact national law recognising domestic work, written contracts, no child labour.
2. Ratify ILO Convention 189.
3. Implement universal social security (health insurance, provident fund).
4. Strengthen grievance redressal & regulation of placement agencies.
5. Empower workers - awareness, skills, unionisation.
6. Improve inter-state coordination for migrant workers.

4. Air Quality in Delhi-NCR – GRAP

Current Situation - Delhi AQI "Very Poor" (301–400) → Stage-II GRAP invoked.

GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) - Measures to curb pollution based on AQI.

Stage I - Poor (201–300)

Stage II - Very Poor (301–400)

Stage III - Severe (401–450)

Stage IV - Severe+ (>450)

Reasons for Winter Pollution -

1. Stubble burning in Punjab & Haryana.
2. Low wind speed, temperature inversion.
3. Vehicular emissions, dust, fireworks.
4. Urban heat islands, regional topography.

Stage-II Restrictions - Limit diesel generator use, ban coal/firewood, restrict construction.

CAQM - Constituted under CAQM Act 2021; jurisdiction - Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, UP; replaces EPCA; implements region-wide measures.