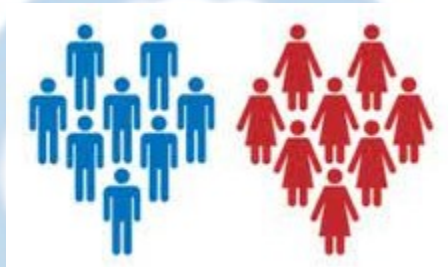# Date – 26 August 2022

Decline in "son prejudice" in India

References:

- A recent study reported that "son bias" is on the decline in India as the sex ratio at birth declined from 111 boys per 100 girls in 2011 to boys per 100 girls in 2019-21 the ratio became 108.

Major findings of the report:

National Scenario:

- The average annual number of "missing" girl children in India declined from about 4.8 lakh in 2010 to 4.1 lakh in 2019.
- "Missing" here means how many more female births would have taken place during this time if there were no female-selective abortions.
- The sex ratio at birth decreased slightly to about 109 in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report 2015-16 and NFHS-5 (year 2019-21) from 111 boys per 100 girls in the 2011 Census of India. This number has gone up to 108 boys.
- Nine crore female births went "missing" due to female-selective abortion "between" 2000-2019.

Sex Ratio by Religion:

- The report also analysed gender selection on the basis of religion, stating that the difference was highest for Sikhs.
- The sex ratio of Sikhs in the 2001 census was 130 males per 100 females, much higher than the national average of 110 for that year.

- By the 2011 Census, the sex-ratio of Sikhs had been reduced to 121 boys per 100 girls.
- According to the latest NFHS, it is now around 110, which is similar to the ratio of males to females (109) at birth in the Hindu majority of the country.
- The sex ratio among Christians (100 girls per 105 boys) and Muslims (100 girls per 106 boys) is close to the natural norm.

Religion wise share of missing girls:

Share in Indian Population:
- Sikhs: 2%
- Hindu: 80%
- Muslims: 14%
- Christian: 2.3%

Share of girls missing due to sex-selective abortion:
- Sikhs: 5%
- Hindu: 87%
- Muslims: 7%
- Christian: 0.6%

History of Sex Ratio in India
- Globally, the number of boys is less than the number of girls at birth, i.e. in the ratio of about 105 male babies per 100 female babies.
- In India, this ratio was the same in the 1950s and 1960s before prenatal sex testing became available across the country.
- The problem began in the 1970s with the availability of prenatal diagnostic technology, which allows sex-selective abortions.
- India legalized abortion in the year 1971 but due to the introduction of ultrasound technology, the practice of sex selection started in the year 1980s.
- In the 1970s, India's sex ratio was equal to the global average of 105-100, but rose to 108 boys per 100 girls in the early 1980s and to 110 boys per 100 girls in the 1990s gone.

Challenges in ensuring balanced birth sex ratio:

Regressive Mindset:
- Generally, sons are given preference in all states except Kerala and Chhattisgarh.
- The tendency to give preference to boys is related to the regressive mindset, as dowry system is prevalent in the case of girls.

Abuse of Technology:
- Affordable technology like ultrasound encourages the trend of sex selection.

Failure to implement the law:
- The Pre-Conception and Antenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC-PNDT), 1994, which provides for imprisonment and heavy fines for conducting antenatal tests

about the sex of the child to health professionals and parents, fails to regulate sex selection Used to be.

- The report found large gaps in the training of personnel implementing PC-PNDT.
- Lack of proper training means that they are unable/incapable of punishing the guilty as per law.

Illiteracy:

- Illiterate women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years give birth to more children than literate women.

Conclusion:

Bringing Change in Practice:

- Increase in female education and economic prosperity helps in improving the sex ratio. In this endeavour, the Government's "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign has achieved remarkable success in bringing about behavioural change in the society.

Sensitizing youth:

- There is an urgent need to reach youth for reproductive, health education and services as well as development of gender equality norms.
- For this, services of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) can be availed especially in rural areas.

Strict enforcement of law:

- India should more strictly implement the Pre-Conception and Antenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC-PNDT), 1994 and devote more resources to address priority issues of boys.
- In this context, the decision of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board to include ultrasound machines in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is a step in the right direction.

Swadeep Kumar

One Nation One Fertiliser scheme

General Studies Paper 3:Issues related to Direct and Indirect Farm Subsidies and Minimum Support Prices.

News: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has decided to implement **One Nation One Fertilise**r by introducing a **"Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo"** under the fertiliser subsidy scheme named **"Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna" (PMBJP).**

What is 'One Nation One Fertiliser 'or Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna(PM-BJP) scheme?

- In this initiative, both public and private sector companies will be required to sell subsidized fertilisers under a single brand name, for example, **BHARAT UREA or BHARAT DAP.**
- The new brand name, along with a logo of the renamed scheme — **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna (Prime Minister's Public Fertiliser Scheme) or PM-BJP** — will cover **two-thirds** of the front of new fertiliser bags.
- The remaining space on the front will display information about the manufacturer, including name, logo, address and other statutory information.
- According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers,the new fertiliser bags will be introduced.
- Fertiliser companies are advised not to procure any bags carrying the old design from 15 September onwards, the government has given them time till the end of this year to exhaust all old packaging into circulation beginning 2 October.

Government's role in Fertilizer industry:

- **There are some 26 fertilisers (inclusive of urea), on which the government bears subsidy and also effectively decides the Maximum retail price**: MRPs of urea are currently fixed by the government, which compensates companies for the higher cost of manufacturing or imports incurred by them. The MRPs of non-urea fertilisers are decontrolled, but companies cannot avail of subsidy if they sell at MRPs higher than that informally indicated by the government.
- Through the **Fertiliser (Movement) Control Order, 1973** the government with the help of the department of fertilizers not only decides subsidy and selling price of fertilizers but also at what price companies can sell
  - Department of fertilisers draws an agreed monthly supply plan on all subsidised fertilisers in consultation with manufacturers and importers.
  - This supply plan is issued before the 25th of each month for the following month, with the department also regularly monitoring movement to ensure fertiliser availability as per requirement, including remote areas.

Rationale behind introducing this scheme: Since, the government is spending vast sums of money on fertiliser subsidy plus deciding where and at what price companies can sell. So , it has all the logic to introduce a single 'Bharat' brand for all subsidised fertilisers.

Drawbacks of the scheme:

- Any company's strength ultimately is its brands and farmer trust built over decades. But, scheme has potential to disincentivise vise fertiliser companies from undertaking marketing and brand promotion activities.
- Fertliser companies may be reduced to contract manufacturers and importers for the government.
- **Transfer of responsibilities from companies to government:** Currently, in case of any bag or batch of fertilisers not meeting the required standards, the blame is put on the company. But now, that may be passed on fully to the government.

Sharad

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- Developments and their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life;Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics.
News: India poised to become next global SaaS capital.

## What is Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)?

- **Software-as-a-Service (SaaS**) is a software licensing model. It allows access to software on a subscription basis using external servers.
- **Important features of SaaS:** It allows each user to access programs via the Internet. The user need not install the software on his/her computer. The rise of SaaS and cloud-based computing go hand in hand.

What are other types of cloud services?

- **Platform-as-a-Service(PaaS):** PaaS is a cloud computing model that provides customers a complete cloud platform—hardware, software, and infrastructure—for developing, running, and managing applications without the cost, complexity, and inflexibility that often comes with building and maintaining that platform on-premises.
- **Infrastructure as a service (IaaS): IaaS** is a type of cloud computing service that offers essential compute, storage and networking resources on demand, on a pay-

as-you-go basis. IaaS is one of the four types of cloud services, along with software as a service (SaaS), platform as a service (PaaS) and serverless.

- **Serverless computing:** Serverless computing enables developers to build applications without managing infrastructure. With serverless applications, the cloud service provider automatically provisions, scales and manages the infrastructure required to run the code but the code is still running.

SaaS vs. PaaS vs. IaaS
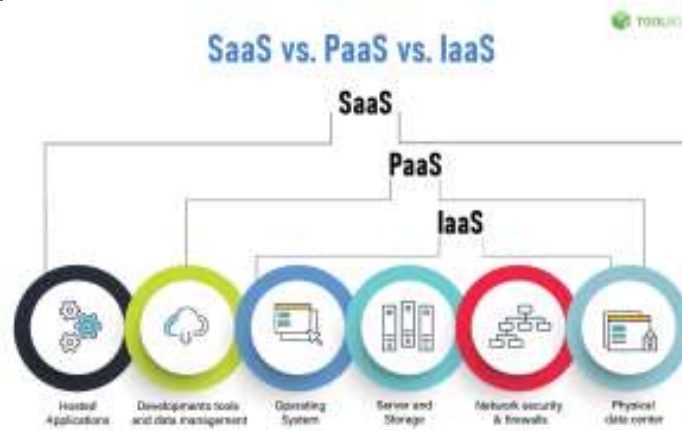
What are the differences between traditional on-premise software delivery model and SaaS?

- **SaaS deployments don't require extensive hardware,** which allows buyers to outsource most of the IT responsibilities typically required to troubleshoot and maintain the software in-house.
- **SaaS systems are typically paid within a subscription model,** whereas on-premise software is usually purchased through a perpetual license, paid upfront.

What are the benefits of using SaaS?

- **Business applications:** It includes file sharing, email, calendars, customer retention management, and human resources.
- **SaaS is cost-effective** as users pay for SaaS instead of purchasing multiple software licenses for multiple computers.
- SaaS is easy to **implement, update and debug.**
- **Accessibility:** SaaS allows users to access the software through a web browser from multiple locations. He or she can have remote desktop software and can work from home.
- **Scalability:** SaaS providers generally offer many subscription options and flexibility to change subscriptions as and when needed, e.g. when your business grows, or more users need to access the service.
- **Quick setup and deployment:** SaaS application is already installed and configured in the cloud. This minimises common delays resulting from often lengthy traditional software deployment.

What are the disadvantages of SaaS?

- **Lack of control:** in-house software application gives businesses a higher degree of control than hosted solutions where control resides with a third party. Typically everyone has to use the latest version of the software application and cannot defer upgrades or changes in the features.
- **Security and data concerns**:Access management and the privacy of sensitive information is a major consideration around cloud and hosted services.
- **Limited range of applications:** while SaaS is becoming more popular, there are still many applications that don't offer a hosted platform.
- **Connectivity requirement:** since the SaaS model is based on web delivery, if your internet service fails, you will lose access to your software or data
- **Performance:** SaaS may run at somewhat slower speeds than on-premise client or server applications, so it's worth keeping performance in mind your software isn't hosted on a local machine.

What are some of the examples of SaaS?

- **Amazon Web Services (AWS):** It is a subsidiary of Amazon. It provides around 150 services and has more than a million subscribers. AWS is even used by streaming companies like Netflix, defence organizations like the US Navy, and the world's most famous space organisation NASA.
- **Dropbox:**Files stored in Dropbox can be accessed from any device, from any location at any time.
- **Google Apps:** Google drive enables employees to access files from any location from any device.

- **Salesforce:** It is a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool, enabling employees of organizations to access the required information from any device at any location.
- **SAP Cloud Platform:** Launched by SAP in 2012
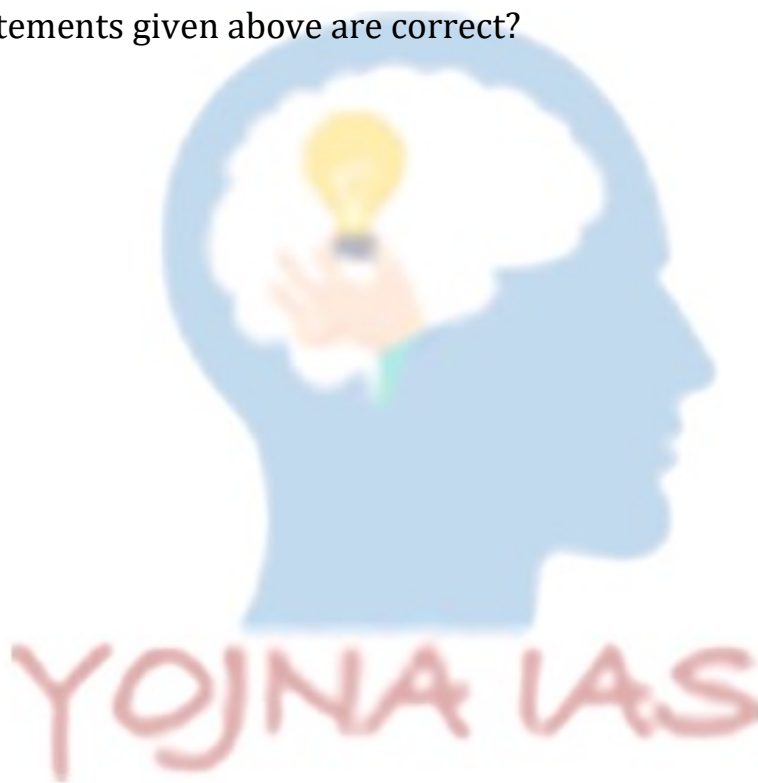- **Microsoft Azure:** Launched by Microsoft in 2010.

Previous Year Questions:

Q. With reference to "Software as a Service (SaaS)", consider the following statements:

1.SaaS buyers can customize the user interface and can change data fields.

2.SaaS users can access their data through their mobile devices.

3.Outlook, Hotmail and Yahoo! Mail is a form of SaaS.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Sharad

YOJNA IAS