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Date: 18 April 2024

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT APPLICABLE TO ALL WOMEN IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGION

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT APPLICABLE TO ALL WOMEN IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGION". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "POLITY AND GOVERNANCE" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

The recent observation by the Delhi High Court underscores that the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, serves as a tool for social justice intended to protect all women regardless of their religious beliefs or social status. Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta emphasised that the law was created to uphold the rights of individuals facing 'domestic violence' within a 'domestic relationship'.

ABOUT PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Act defines domestic violence as any act, omission, or commission by the respondent that harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb, or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes:

1. **Physical Abuse:** This includes any act that causes physical harm or injury, such as hitting, kicking, slapping, or pushing.
2. **Sexual Abuse:** This includes any act of a sexual nature that is forced or coerced upon the aggrieved person.
3. **Verbal and Emotional Abuse:** This includes insults, name-calling, threats, intimidation, and humiliation.
4. **Economic Abuse:** This includes depriving the aggrieved person of financial resources or controlling their access to money.

WHO IS COVERED UNDER THE DV ACT?

The DV Act adopts a broad definition of "domestic relationship," ensuring a wide net of protection. Here's a breakdown of women who can seek protection under the Act:

1. **Close Family Members:** Mothers, sisters, wives, and widows are explicitly included, recognising the potential for violence within familial relationships.
2. **Partners in Shared Households:** The Act extends protection to women in live-in partnerships, irrespective of a formal marriage or adoption, acknowledging the realities of modern relationships.
3. **Female Relatives in Joint Families:** Women residing with their male relatives in a joint family structure are also covered, understanding the complexities of domestic dynamics within extended families.

WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT?

Women Experiencing Domestic Violence: Any woman who has endured domestic violence has the legal right to file a complaint, initiating the process of seeking justice and safety.

Mothers Acting on Behalf of Children: Recognizing the vulnerability of children, the Act allows mothers to file complaints on behalf of their minor children (regardless of gender) who have experienced domestic violence within the household.

Children Included in Applications: If a woman files for her own protection, her children can be included as co-applicants in the court proceedings, ensuring their well-being is addressed alongside the mother's.

It's important to note that the DV Act does not allow female relatives of the husband/partner to file complaints against the wife/female partner, focusing on violence within a heterosexual relationship.

AVAILABLE RELIEF MEASURES UNDER THE DV ACT

1. **Protection Orders:** These court-ordered safeguards aim to shield women from further physical or emotional harm by the respondent. These orders can restrict the respondent's contact with the woman or limit their access to the shared household.
2. **Residence Orders:** These orders grant women the right to stay in the shared household, irrespective of ownership. This ensures they have a safe space to live, especially if they have children.
3. **Financial Support:** The Act recognises the economic impact of domestic violence. Women can seek financial assistance (maintenance) for themselves and their children, ensuring their financial security and independence.
4. **Temporary Child Custody:** During legal proceedings, women can obtain orders for temporary custody of their children. This is crucial to ensure the children's safety and well-being while the court makes long-term decisions.
5. **Compensation for Damages:** Women can claim compensation for any physical or emotional harm caused by domestic violence. This serves as a form of justice and helps cover medical expenses or other losses incurred.

SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR WOMEN

1. **Protection Officers:** Government-appointed officers play a vital role. They assist women in filing complaints, accessing legal aid, and ensuring court order enforcement. These officers act as a bridge between women and the legal system.

2. **Service Providers:** These are NGOs that collaborate with various stakeholders, including the police and legal aid organisations. Service providers offer a holistic range of support, including legal aid, shelter in short-stay homes for women and children, counselling, medical care if needed, and even vocational training to empower women to achieve economic independence.

Laws For Indian Women



01	Hindu Succession Act (1956)
02	The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
03	The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
04	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
05	The Pre-conception Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994
06	The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
07	The Commission of Sati (prevention) Act, 1987
08	The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

FACTORS BEHIND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Power Imbalance:** Domestic violence often stems from an unequal distribution of power within relationships, where one partner exerts control over the other through physical, emotional, or financial means.
- **Social Norms and Gender Roles:** Traditional gender norms and expectations may perpetuate attitudes that condone or justify violence against women. Societal expectations regarding masculinity and femininity can reinforce power differentials and normalise abusive behaviour.

- **History of Abuse:** Individuals who have experienced or witnessed violence in their childhood or past relationships may be more likely to perpetrate domestic violence or become victims themselves.
- **Stress and Economic Hardship:** Financial strain, unemployment, or poverty can exacerbate tension within households and increase the likelihood of conflict and violence. Economic dependence on the perpetrator may also trap victims in abusive situations.
- **Lack of Education and Awareness:** Limited access to education and awareness about healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and legal rights may contribute to a lack of understanding of what constitutes acceptable behaviour within intimate partnerships.
- **Cultural and Religious Beliefs:** Cultural or religious beliefs that prioritise male authority or uphold strict gender roles may perpetuate attitudes that tolerate or justify domestic violence.

STATUS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA

- Domestic violence persists as a significant issue in India, impacting a substantial portion of married women aged 18-49 years, as evidenced by the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 2019-2021**, which reports a prevalence rate of 29.3%. Additionally, 3.1% of pregnant women have encountered physical violence during their pregnancy.
- The prevalence of domestic violence displays **regional disparities, with Karnataka, Bihar, and Manipur exhibiting the highest rates, while Lakshadweep, Goa, and Himachal Pradesh record the lowest rates.** Recent NFHS-5 data indicates that 30% of Indian women encounter domestic or sexual violence, highlighting the widespread nature of this issue. Notably, domestic violence transcends educational backgrounds, affecting women across all strata of society, including educated households.

PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' is:

- a strategy to tackle regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- a plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of the deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum
- an agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations
- a strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit

Answer: C

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the impact of climate change on women:

- Women in low-income countries are more vulnerable to climate change due to their dependence on natural resources and labour-intensive work.
- Women in urban areas are more vulnerable to climate change than those in rural areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. In what ways has economic instability during the pandemic contributed to instances of shadow violence, particularly in marginalised populations?

Himanshu Mishra

IPEF CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMIC FORUM

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "IPEF CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMIC FORUM". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "INTERNATIONAL RELATION" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

The Department of Commerce recently announced that the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) will host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5th and 6th, 2024. The department has also invited applications from domestic climate and tech entrepreneurs to participate in the meeting.

WHAT IS THE INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF)?

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), initiated in 2022, aims to foster collaboration among countries in the region for resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, promoting cooperation, stability, and prosperity.
- It comprises 14 countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.
- The IPEF comprises four pillars of cooperation: Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy.
- It is not a free trade agreement (FTA) between the member countries.
- The IPEF provides a platform for countries in the region to collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth. Further, it aims to contribute to regional cooperation, stability and prosperity.

ABOUT IPEF CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMIC FORUM:

1. The IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum brings together the region's top investors, philanthropies, financial institutions, innovative companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs.
2. The forum focuses on catalyzing investments in sustainable infrastructure, climate technology, and renewable energy projects.

3. The forum will provide opportunities for the Indian industry in two distinct tracks, e.g., the Climate Tech Track and the Infrastructure Track.
4. The Infrastructure Track emphasizes investment-ready sustainable projects spanning energy (solar, wind, hydrogen), transportation (EVs, charging stations), and waste management.
5. Through its Climate Tech and Infrastructure Tracks, the forum will highlight leading climate tech firms and sustainable infrastructure projects to global investors.
6. Top climate tech companies from India seeking investment opportunities will also attend the meeting.

The Department of Commerce is the nodal agency for the IPEF engagements, and the IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum is managed by Invest India, India's National Investment Promotion Agency.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY IN INDIA:

Clean energy addresses the world's various environmental, economic, and social challenges. Clean energy sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and biomass produce minimal or no greenhouse gas emissions during power generation. By replacing fossil fuels, which are major contributors to air and water pollution and climate change, clean energy helps mitigate environmental degradation and reduce the impact of global warming.

Since pledging to be a net zero emitter by 2070 at COP 26 in Glasgow, India has introduced policies and regulatory actions to develop technologies. These initiatives aim to help India to achieve its ambitious climate target, reflecting its commitment to environmental sustainability. **Some targets are:**

- Reducing emission intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030, compared to 2005.
- Raising the share of non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity to 50% by 2030.
- Reduce projected carbon emissions by 1 bn tonnes by 2030.
- 20% ethanol blending by 2025.
- 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.
- 5 MTPA green H₂ production by 2030.

Several companies in India have announced their net zero goals and plans to reduce their carbon footprint through technology. These clean energy drivers primarily focus on renewables, battery storage, electric vehicles, carbon capture, green hydrogen, and biofuels.

The Government of India has undertaken several initiatives to promote renewable energy. These initiatives reflect India's commitment to achieving its renewable energy targets, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and transitioning towards a more sustainable and cleaner future. **Here are some key initiatives:**

- **National Solar Mission (NSM):** Launched in 2010, the NSM aims to promote solar energy development in India. This mission includes various incentives, such as subsidies, tax benefits, and generation-based incentives, to attract investments in solar power generation.
- **PM-KUSUM:** PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) is a farmer-oriented solar power scheme that will allow the setting up of grid-connected solar plants in rural areas and off-grid solar pumps. Under the scheme, the government plans to incentivize farmers to run solar farms and water pumps and use barren land to generate power for extra income up to Rs 60,000 per acre annually.
- **Clean Energy Financing:** The government has established institutions like the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) to provide financial assistance and loans for

renewable energy projects. Additionally, initiatives like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) aim to mobilize funds for India's climate-resilient and low-carbon development projects.

- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Promotion:** To reduce vehicular emissions and promote clean transportation, the Indian government has launched schemes such as the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme. This initiative provides subsidies and incentives for adopting electric and hybrid vehicles.
- **Energy Efficiency Programs:** The government has implemented various energy efficiency programs to reduce energy consumption and promote sustainable practices. This includes the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme, which aims to improve energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries through regulatory mechanisms and incentives.
- **Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO):** Under the Electricity Act 2003, state electricity regulatory commissions enforce RPOs on distribution companies and open-access consumers. These companies are mandated to procure a specific percentage of their power from renewable sources.
- **Tax Incentives:** The government provides tax benefits, including accelerated depreciation and income tax exemptions, to promote investments in renewable energy projects.

India actively participates in international collaborations and agreements related to clean energy and climate change, such as the Paris Agreement. These collaborations facilitate technology transfer, capacity building, and financial assistance for clean energy projects in India. However, policy implementation, infrastructure development, and financing challenges remain critical for achieving ambitious clean energy targets.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION:

Q. Consider the following statements about the Clean Energy Economic Forum:

1. It is the initiative of the World Economic Forum.
2. India is not part of this forum.
3. The forum only focuses on reducing CO₂ emissions.

Which of the above statements is correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: D

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION:

Q. What are the most effective strategies for overcoming the technological, financial, and policy barriers to significantly increase the global adoption of clean energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to ensure a sustainable and environmentally friendly future?