

## Today's Prelims Topics

### Hike on FRP for sugarcane

#### Context

The Union Cabinet has approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by Sugar Mills to sugarcane farmers for sugar season 2025-26.

#### About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

- FRP is the **minimum price** that sugar mills are **legally obligated** to pay to sugarcane farmers for the cane they procure.
- **Who determines FRP ?**
  - Union government: **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**
    - Based on recommendations from the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The payment of FRP is governed by the **Sugarcane Control Order, 1966**. It mandates that mills pay the FRP within **14 days of cane delivery**.
- It ensures farmers receive a fair return, regardless of sugar mill profits & applies uniformly across India.
- Some states offer **additional State Advised Prices (SAP) on top of FRP**.
- **Factors considered while fixing FRP:**
  - Cost of sugarcane production.
  - Return from alternative crops.
  - Consumer sugar prices.
  - Sale price of sugar.
  - Sugarcane-to-sugar recovery rate.
  - Income from by-products (e.g., molasses, bagasse).
  - Adequate profit margins for sugarcane growers.

#### About Sugar Cane Crop

- **Growing conditions:**
  - It is a tropical crop which requires **10 to 18 months to mature**.
  - **Temperature:** Between 21-27°C with hot and humid climate.
  - **Rainfall:** Around 75-100 cm.
    - Excessive rainfall can lead to low sugar content, while insufficient rainfall produces fibrous crops.
  - **Soil Type:** Deep rich loamy soil.
- **Top Sugarcane Producing States:** (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Maharashtra (3) Karnataka.
- India has the **largest area under sugarcane cultivation in the world**.

#### Sugar Industry

- India is a **major producer and consumer (world's largest) of sugar**.
- **50 million sugarcane farmers** & around **5L workers** directly employed in sugar mills.
- **Top Sugar producing countries:** (1) Brazil (2) India (3) Thailand (4) China.

### UPSC PYQ

Q. The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane is approved by the: (2015)

- (a) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- (b) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- (c) Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture.
- (d) Agricultural Produce Market Committee

Answer: A

Source:

- [Indian Express - FRP](#)

### Jagadguru Basaveshwara

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Jagadguru Basaveshwara on Basava Jayanti.

#### About Jagadguru Basaveshwara

- He was born in **1131 AD** in **Bagevadi, Karnataka**, into a Brahmin family.
- He was a **12th Century Kannada social reformer**, poet and philosopher.
- He founded the **Lingayat** or **Veerashaiva** movement.
- **Vachana Literature**: He composed over **600 "Vachanas"** – short, powerful poetic verses in Kannada.
- He also established **Anubhava Mantapa**:
  - It was a democratic spiritual parliament in Kalyana.
  - It included saints from all castes, including women.
- **Social contribution**:
  - He strongly opposed Caste discrimination, Gender inequality & Untouchability.
  - He supported women's participation in spiritual life
  - **Key Beliefs**: **Kayak** (work as worship), **Dasoha** (equal distribution of wealth).



Source:

- [PIB - Jagadguru](#)

### Near Surface Shear Layer (NSSL)

- Recently a team of international solar physicists, including scientists from the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, mapped dynamic plasma currents in the Sun's NSSL.

#### About NSSL

- It is a **subsurface region** of the Sun located about **35,000 km deep**, just below the photosphere.
- This layer **shows changes in rotational speed** with depth—faster at the equator, slower near poles.
- It is crucial for studying **how magnetic fields and sunspots evolve**
- **Sun's angular velocity (rotation speed)** decreases rapidly with radius, creating a **rotational shear** that varies with **depth, latitude, and solar magnetic activity**.
- **Technique used**: Helioseismology – Observes sound waves moving through the Sun to infer interior flow patterns.
- **Significance of the study**:
  - Helps predict **space weather** events: Solar flares, Coronal mass ejections (CMEs),

Impacts on satellites, power grids and communication systems on Earth.

### Phases of the Solar Cycle

- **Solar Maximum:**
  - Occurs when the **Sun is most active**.
  - The **magnetic field flips** during this phase.
  - The Sun releases **intense bursts of radiation and particles** into space.
  - There is an **increase in solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs)**.
- **Solar Minimum:**
  - The **least active phase** of the Sun.
  - Sunspots, flares, and eruptions **decrease significantly**

Source:

- [PIB - NSSL](#)

### Raghuji Bhonsle-I

- Recently the **Maharashtra Government** purchased the historic sword of Raghuji Bhonsle at an **auction in London**.

### Who was Raghuji Raje Bhonsle-I?

- Raghuji Bhonsle I was an important figure in 18th-century Maratha history.
- He was backed by **Chhatrapati Shahu** in **1728** to challenge his uncle **Kanhoji Bhonsle**.
- He won a major victory in the **Siege of Bham (1730)** – a turning point that solidified his power.
- **Key Contributions of Raghuji Bhonsle I:**
  - **Captured Odisha (Orissa)** in **1751** after a treaty with **Nawab Alivardi Khan**.
    - After taking control of Odisha, he played a pivotal role in reviving the **Shree Jagannath Temple's activities**.
  - Led campaigns in **Bengal (1745–1755)**.
  - **Expanded control into:** Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh.

### About Nagpur Bhonsle

- A royal Maratha clan (like the Peshwas, Holkars, Scindias and Gaikwads).
- They were also known as **Hinganikar** due to their ancestral connection to the Hingani region near Pune.
- Bhonsle played a major role in expanding the **Maratha Empire in Central and Eastern India**.

### How the Sword Left India

- After the **Battle of Sitabuldi (1817)**, the British **defeated the Nagpur Bhonsles**.
- **Bhonsle Palace was looted**, and **treasures including weapons** were taken by the British.
- The sword may have been:
  - **Looted war treasure** or **A gift to British officials** during or after the defeat.

Source:

- [Indian Express - Raghuji Bhonsle](#)



### **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**

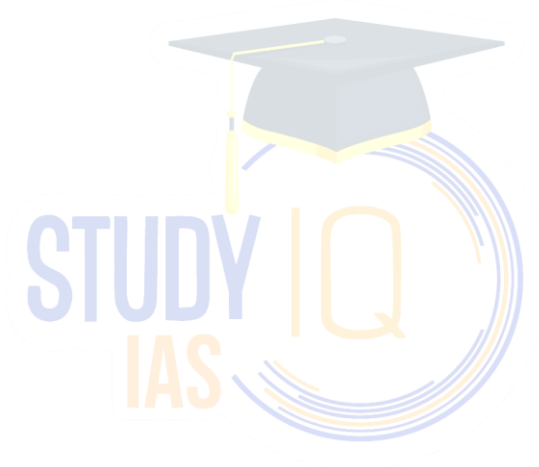
- The Union government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board and appointed **former R&AW chief Alok Joshi as its chairman.**

#### **About NSAB**

- It is an advisory body that provides inputs to the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSC).**
- It comprises a group of eminent national security experts **outside the government.**
- Members are usually senior retired officials, civilian as well as military, having expertise in internal and external security, foreign affairs, defence, science and technology and economic affairs.
- **Functions:**
  - To undertake long term analysis and to provide perspectives on the national security issues to NSC.
  - To recommend measures/solutions and policy options on the issues referred to it by the National Security Council.

#### **Source:**

- [The Hindu - NSAB](#)



## Editorial Summary

### Global Geopolitical Disruptions

#### Context

The contemporary world is undergoing a **phase of unprecedented geopolitical and economic disruption**, driven by volatile leadership, shifting power structures, and resurgent regional conflicts.

#### What are the Current Global Crises?

- **United States (U.S.):** President Donald Trump's transactional approach to diplomacy and protectionist economic policies, notably the tariff war, exacerbated global instability.
  - The U.S., once a **beacon of democratic stability**, now grapples with **deep internal divisions and declining global influence**, marked by hostile immigration policies and attacks on educational institutions.
  - E.g., Restrictions on **foreign students** (who contribute **\$40+ billion/year** and support **400,000+ jobs**) harm U.S. soft power and economy.
- **Europe:** Europe is weakened by its **Ukraine conflict and doubts over NATO's future**.
- **West Asia:** Israel's **aggressive stance in Gaza and Syria**, aided by **Western inaction**, signals an attempt to reshape regional geography.
  - The possible Israeli strike on Iran and turmoil in Türkiye further intensify tensions.
- **Africa:** Old conflicts, like **Ethiopia-Eritrea**, have resurfaced.
  - The **resurgence of Islamic State** affiliates across Africa and Asia (such as in Mozambique, Congo, North Africa & Afghanistan) heightens security concerns.
- **Asia:**
  - **Afghanistan and Pakistan:** Afghanistan and Pakistan are facing severe internal chaos and a surge in terrorism.
  - **Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal:** Internal instability grips Bangladesh (governance issues), Myanmar (post-coup conflict), and Nepal (political uncertainty), weakening regional coherence.
  - **China's Assertiveness:** Amid economic slowdown, China is intensifying **pressure on Taiwan**, countering U.S. tariffs, and asserting influence through economic and peace offensives in Southeast Asia.
  - **Geopolitical Tilt in Asia:** With the U.S. retreating, many Asian nations are tilting towards **China**, which is **expanding** its naval footprint into the **Indian Ocean and South Pacific, beyond its "nine-dash line."**
  - **India-China Tensions:** Despite recent border accords, strategic India-China rivalry persists, requiring India to counter Af-Pak-based terror threats and prepare for containment of China in the Indo-Pacific.

#### Conclusion

- The world is entering a **new disorder** driven by:
  - Disruptive leadership.
  - Disintegrating multilateral institutions.
  - Widening economic inequality.
  - Technological and military shifts.
- The **"old world order"** is crumbling, with **no stable replacement yet in sight**.
- Regions across the world, from the U.S. to Asia and West Asia, are undergoing **deep fragmentation**, requiring nations like India to adopt **strategic agility, regional vigilance, and internal resilience**.

### Comparative Analysis of Global Regions

Region/Country	Pre-COVID Scenario	Post-COVID Scenario
<b>United States</b>	Stable GDP growth (~2.3% in 2019) Trade dominance Global leadership in finance and military	Inflation spikes (peaked at 9.1% in 2022) High public debt (~123% of GDP in 2025) Protectionist trade under Trump, "America First" policy
<b>European Union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Economic integration, single market</li> <li>→ Brexit pending, but still cohesive</li> <li>→ Moderate growth (1.6% in 2019)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Brexit completed (2020)</li> <li>→ Energy crisis due to Russia-Ukraine war</li> <li>→ Sluggish growth, 0.8% in 2023</li> </ul>
<b>Middle East &amp; North Africa (MENA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Oil-driven economies</li> <li>→ High youth unemployment</li> <li>→ Ongoing regional rivalries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Oil prices volatile</li> <li>→ Conflicts escalated (e.g., Gaza, Syria)</li> <li>→ Push for economic diversification (Saudi Vision 2030)</li> </ul>
<b>Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ GDP growth of 3.4% (2019)</li> <li>→ Foreign investment in infrastructure</li> <li>→ Debt moderately high (~50% of GDP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Food security issues post-Ukraine war</li> <li>→ Debt distress in 22+ nations</li> </ul>
<b>China</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Manufacturing hub</li> <li>→ 6%+ annual GDP growth</li> <li>→ Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) expanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Growth slowed to 5.2% in 2023</li> <li>→ Aging population crisis</li> <li>→ Global pushback on BRI, tech sanctions</li> </ul>
<b>Latin America</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Commodity-based growth</li> <li>→ Democratic progress</li> <li>→ Debt levels high but stable (~60% of GDP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Growth slowed to ~1.9% in 2023</li> <li>→ Political turmoil in Peru, Argentina, Brazil</li> <li>→ High inflation, currency instability</li> </ul>

**Below are the top 10 countries with the highest public debt in 2025:**

Rank	Country	General government gross debt (% of GDP)
1	Sudan	252%
2	Japan	234.9%
3	Singapore	174.9%
4	Greece	142.2%
5	Bahrain	141.4%
6	Maldives	140.8%
7	Italy	137.3%
8	United States	122.5%
9	France	116.3%
10	Canada	112.5%

**Source:** *IMF – World Economic Forum (April 2025)*



Source: [The Hindu: From a rules-based world to shambolic disorder](#)



## The Trap Of Bonded Labour

### Context

On May 1, while the world celebrates Labour Day to respect workers and their rights, the lives of millions trapped in bonded labour in India show a darker side of reality.

### Key Factors Contributing to Bonded Labour in India

- **Poverty and Economic Shocks:** Sudden financial needs like medical emergencies, dowries, or food shortages force workers to take exploitative loans, pushing them into bondage.
  - E.g., A person from Shivpuri (M.P.) took a ₹500 advance and was trafficked 1,400 km to Karnataka, ending up in brutal bonded labour on a sugarcane farm.
- **Social Discrimination and Exclusion:** Caste, ethnicity, and religious bias deepen marginalisation, increasing vulnerability to exploitation.
- **Lack of Education and Awareness:** Illiteracy and poor legal literacy prevent workers from understanding their rights or seeking help.
- **Informal Employment and Employer Monopolies:** In informal sectors, employers dominate local labour and credit markets, using this power to exploit workers.
- **Migration and Climate Stress:** Migration driven by climate change and rural distress leads to informal, exploitative jobs in urban centres without social security.

### Impact of Lack of Unionisation on Unorganised Workers

- **No Platform for Collective Bargaining:** Without trade unions, workers cannot collectively demand fair wages, safe working conditions, or reasonable hours.
- **Greater Risk of Exploitation and Abuse:** In the absence of union backing, workers are more prone to physical abuse, wage delays, and sudden termination.
  - E.g., A family from Andhra Pradesh, trapped in a brick kiln, suffered beatings and verbal abuse, with no one to intervene or advocate for them.
- **Low Awareness of Rights and Entitlements:** Many workers remain unaware of their legal rights and available welfare schemes due to illiteracy and lack of representation.

### Government Initiatives to Abolish Bonded Labour

- **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**
  - Legally abolished the practice of bonded labour in India.
  - Declared all bonded debts null and void and mandated release and rehabilitation of labourers.
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour (1978, revised 2016)**
  - Provided financial assistance for rehabilitation.
  - Revised in 2016 to raise financial assistance to ₹1 lakh–₹3 lakh per person, depending on the severity of exploitation.
- **Draft National Policy on Rehabilitation of Rescued Bonded Labourers (2016)**
  - Envisioned a 15-year target (till 2030) to **rescue and rehabilitate 1.84 crore bonded labourers**.
  - Included provisions for temporary shelter, legal aid, and skill development.
- **Role of Vigilance Committees:** Mandated under the 1976 Act to be formed at district and sub-divisional levels for identification, release, and rehabilitation.

### Outcomes and Shortfalls

- **Poor Implementation and Rescue Rates:** Only **12,760 labourers** were rescued between 2016–2021, despite a target of **1.84 crore**.
  - To meet the goal by 2030, **11 lakh rescues/year** were required—clearly unachievable at current pace.

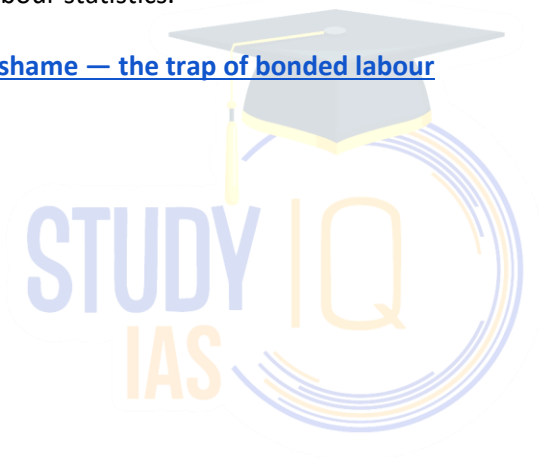


- **Underreporting and Lack of Reliable Data:** Many states report **zero bonded labourers**, despite ground realities contradicting these claims.
  - No nationwide database exists to track cases effectively.
- **Weak Vigilance Mechanisms:** **Vigilance committees** often exist only on paper or are inactive due to bureaucratic apathy.
- **Inadequate Rehabilitation Support:** Financial assistance is delayed or denied; rescued workers often **relapse into bondage** due to lack of livelihood alternatives.
- **Exclusion of Informal Forced Labour:** Millions in the **informal economy** face conditions akin to bondage but are not recognised under current rescue policies.

#### Way Forward

- **Strengthen Rescue Mechanisms:** Improve coordination between state and central authorities.
- **Extend Social Protection:** Provide unorganised workers with insurance, healthcare, and maternity benefits.
- **Revive Trade Unionism:** Empower informal workers through local unions and legal awareness campaigns.
- **Boost Rural Employment:** Reduce migration by expanding **MGNREGA**, rural skilling, and climate-resilient jobs to address root causes of bondage.
- **Data-Driven Policy Action:** Update bonded labour estimates and include informal forced labour indicators in national labour statistics.

Source: [The Hindu: India's shame — the trap of bonded labour](#)



## Caste Census

### Context

The union government decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census.

### About Caste Census

- A caste-based census in India is a census that collects data on the caste of each person. This data can be used to understand the social and economic status of different caste groups, and to identify and address inequalities.
- The first caste-based census was conducted by the British in 1881.
- The Indian government has not collected caste data in its census since 1931.
- After independence in 1947, the Indian government decided to stop collecting caste data in the 1951 census.
- India does publish separate data on Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) since the country's independence in 1951, other castes' data have not been included in the Census.

### Importance of a Caste-Based Census

- The lack of comprehensive caste data has hindered efforts to address caste-based disparities effectively.
- The existing administrative categories—Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC)—often generalize diverse groups, masking the complexities of socio-economic inequalities.
- A caste-based Census is crucial for:
  - **Accurate Identification:** Helps in identifying OBCs who lack verifiable data for inclusion in affirmative action policies.
  - **Policy Reform:** Supports demands to reassess the Supreme Court's 27% reservation cap based on demographic representation.
  - **Equitable Resource Allocation:** Reveals intra-community disparities, ensuring that benefits reach those who genuinely need them.

### Current Scenario

- **Socio-economic Disparities:** The average monthly per capita consumption expenditures (MPCE) of ST, SC, and OBC households in rural and urban areas are significantly lower than the general category.
  - In 2011-12, the average MPCE in rural areas for ST, SC, and OBC households was significantly lower than the general category (65%, 73%, and 84% respectively).
  - In urban areas in the same period, the average MPCE for ST, SC, and OBC households was also lower than the general category (68%, 63%, and 70% respectively).
- **Multidimensional Poverty:** STs, SCs, and OBCs experience higher rates of multidimensional poverty compared to the general category.
  - Multidimensional poverty estimates from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4/2015-16) show higher poverty ratios among STs (44.4%), SCs (29.2%), and OBCs (24.5%) compared to Others (14.9%).
  - Estimates from the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) indicate a similar pattern, with STs (50.6%), SCs (33.3%), and OBCs (27.2%) having higher poverty headcount ratios than Others (15.6%).
  - Muslims also face higher multidimensional poverty (31%) compared to Hindus (28%), Christians (16%), and other religious communities (15.7%).
- **Education and Employment:** Data from NSS and PLFS reveals significant disparities in education levels and employment status. The general category has a higher proportion of graduates and

postgraduates, as well as formal employment, while STs, SCs, and OBCs face a higher prevalence of casual labour.

### Education & Employment Indicators by Social Group

The table shows the Percentage distribution of persons by general education level, workers in usual status by broad status in employment, and employees in posts and services of the Central government

	ST	SC	OBC	GEN Source	Data
Percentage distribution of persons of age 7 years and above by general education level					
Literacy rate	69.6	72.4	76.9	85.9	Household Social Consumption on Education in India, NSS 75th Round (July 2017 - June 2018), NSO, MoSPI, Gol
Secondary Education	9.9	11.5	13.5	15.8	
Higher Secondary Education	6	7.7	9.4	12.8	
Graduate	3.3	4.1	5.9	12.3	
Post Graduate and above	0.7	0.9	1.2	3.4	
Percentage distribution of workers in usual status (ps+ss) by broad status in employment					
Regular wage/ Salaried	12.3	19.8	20.1	30.6	Periodic Labour Force Survey 2021-22, NSSO, MoSPI, Gol
Casual Labour	28.9	38.2	20	11.2	
Self-employed	58.8	42.1	59.9	58.2	
Percentage distribution of employees in posts and services of the Central Government					
Group A	5.9	13.0	16.6	64.6	Annual Report 2021-22, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Gol
Group B	7.1	16.8	16.7	59.5	
Group C	7.8	17.7	22.8	51.7	
Total	7.7	17.5	22.1	52.7	

- **Government Employment:** The Central government, a major formal sector employer, has disparities in its workforce, with a disproportionate representation of the general category.
  - According to union government data as of January 2021:
    - The Central government employed over 18.78 lakh persons.
    - Among these employees, 52.7% belonged to the general category.
    - Within the most qualified and highest-paid cohort (Group A employees), over 64% of the employees were from the general category.

#### Arguments Against

- **Existing surveys are sufficient:** Opponents argue that reasonable **estimates of India's social composition** are already available through various government surveys like the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS)**.
- **Operational challenges:** Conducting a **full-fledged caste census**, including a detailed breakdown of various jatis (sub-castes), would pose **operational challenges** as there is no official list of all castes in the country.
  - This would necessitate extensive post-census classification work, leading to potential delays in the release of General Caste tables.
- **Identity politics and social unrest:** Concerns have been raised that conducting such a census may promote identity politics, possibly overshadowing critical developmental issues such as health and education.
  - There is also the fear of a surge in demands for **higher quotas and the removal of the current 50% cap on reservations**.
- **Concerns of Reservation Quotas:** Some quarters oppose a nationwide caste census due to fears that revealing the exact OBC population share, potentially exceeding 52% as estimated by the Mandal commission, may lead to demands for expanding the 27% reservation quota for OBCs.

#### Arguments in Support

- **More accurate data:** Proponents of the caste census contend that data collected through surveys like **NFHS and NSSO** are estimations, whereas the Census entails an actual enumeration of every individual in the nation.

- Moreover, the Census generates data on various aspects, including educational levels, occupations, household assets, and life expectancy, for each enumerated group.
- **Better policy making:** A caste census would provide accurate and up-to-date data on the population of different caste groups, their socio-economic status, and their needs, thereby aiding in the formulation of policies for affirmative action and redistributive justice.
  - This perspective finds support in the **Indra Sawhney judgement** of the Supreme Court, which emphasised the need for collecting such evidence every decade to identify the privileged castes and ensure that they do not avail disproportionate benefits of reservations.
- **Addressing social unrest:** Recent years have witnessed significant mobilizations by communities such as Jats, Patels, and Marathas, demanding reservations, and in some cases, these protests have turned violent.
  - The absence of scientific evidence regarding the size and relative level of deprivation of these groups compared to OBC, SC, or ST groups has been a contentious issue, further underscoring the importance of accurate caste-based data.
- **Legal Validation of Reservations:** Recent legal developments, such as the 103rd Amendment Act and a Supreme Court judgement validating reservation quotas beyond the 50% threshold, have created a natural demand for expanding OBC reservations, as the 27% figure had no basis in population estimates.
- **Precision and Fairness:** A full caste enumeration is the only way to ascertain accurate numbers and proportions of individual castes within the OBC category, which is essential to ensure reservations and benefits are distributed fairly.

#### Way Forward

- **Leveraging Existing Data:** Evaluating the usefulness of current caste data is an academic endeavour focused on mapping social disparities and monitoring societal shifts.
- **Data Integration:** To maximise the utility of census data, it's crucial to integrate and synchronise it with other extensive datasets, such as the NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) or NFHS (National Family Health Survey).
  - These datasets cover areas that the Census does not, like maternal health, expanding the scope of analysis.
- **Localised Data Collection:** Independent studies should be conducted at **both the district and state levels** to gather caste and subcaste data, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of local demographics.
- **Learning from SECC:** Conducting a thorough review of the previous Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is essential.
  - Extracting valuable lessons from past experiences and identifying necessary improvements is crucial for a more effective census.
- **Facilitating Policy Implementation:** A comprehensive caste census can provide a holistic view of India's social fabric, shedding light on the interplay between different caste groups and their contributions to the nation's diversity.
  - The census should go beyond merely revising exclusionary criteria for state support beneficiaries.
  - It should serve as a tool to enhance policy implementation and foster academic reflection.
- **Conduct a Nationwide Caste Census:** Given the significant divergence in OBC population estimates, ranging from 41% to 46%, a comprehensive caste census is necessary to provide accurate data.
- **Address Concerns About Dominant Caste Groups:** Understanding the numbers and proportions of individual castes within the OBC category will help address concerns about reservations and benefits getting concentrated among certain dominant caste groups.

Source: [The Hindu: Analysing the 2023 caste-based Census of Bihar](#)