

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 30, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Medical Council - has tied up with private tutors to conduct online 'Continuing medical education' (CME) programmes for doctors**
 - ✓ All allopathic doctors under the age of 70 in the state have to attend 90-hours (30 credit hours) of CME programmes for a block of five years, starting from June 1, 2012 and ending on May 31 2017
 - ✓ The online tutors will conduct programmes on set topics for a specific number of hours and follow it up with tests
 - ✓ The online courses will be inaugurated by the end of the month
- **10th edition of Hindu Spiritual & Service Fair 2019 – inaugurated in Chennai on January 28**



- ✓ The week-long fair will mainly focus on the theme of patriotism, forest conservation, protection of ecology, sustaining environment and others
- ✓ It is being organised by Hindu Spiritual and Service Foundation
- ✓ The annual fair, exploring Indian concepts, was first started in 2009

STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet - approved the construction of a four-lane, 600-km 'Ganga Expressway' connecting Prayagraj to Western Uttar Pradesh**



- ✓ Once completed, it would be longest expressway in the world
- ✓ A budget of Rs 36,000 crore has been allocated for the purpose

NATIONAL

- **India - replaces Japan as the world's second-largest steel producing country, after China**
- ✓ As per the latest report of World Steel Association, India's crude steel production in 2018 was at 106.5 MT (million tonne) which is up by 4.9% from 101.5 MT in 2017
- ✓ Steel contributes 2% of India's national income.
- ✓ The targeted steel build-up capacity in the country is likely to reach 300 million tons by 2030, aligned with the target of National Steel Policy 2017
- ✓ The World Steel Association (Worldsteel) is an international trade body for the iron and steel industry, with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- ✓ It was founded as the International Iron and Steel Institute on July 10, 1967 and changed its name on October 6, 2008
- ✓ The Worldsteel members cover around 85% of world steel production.
- ✓ Other countries capacities
 - ✓ China - 928.3 MT in 2018 from 870.9 MT in 2017 (6.6% increase)
 - ✓ Japan - 104.3 MT in 2018, which is down by 0.3% as compared to 2017
 - ✓ Global - 1808.6 MT for the year 2018 from 1729.8 MT in 2017, displaying a rise of 4.6%

- **The Union Ministry of Steel - announced to set up the 'Safety Directorate'.**
- ✓ The Safety Directorate will oversee the safety standards in steel industry
- ✓ The Ministry has also planned to draft the 'National Scrap Policy', with 7 MT scrap to be made available in the country
- ✓ The National Steel Policy 2017 aims to achieve 300 million tonnes of steel-making capacity by 2030

- **Prakash Javdekar, Union Minister for Human Resource Development - to inaugurate the new Campus of the National Museum Institute at Noida**



- ✓ Since its inception in 1989, the Institute has been one of the leading centers in the country for training and research in the field of art and cultural heritage, fully funded by Union Ministry of Culture
- ✓ The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMI) is a registered Society (Deemed to be University) under the Societies Registration Act, 1860

- **K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism - to inaugurate the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Project of the Union Ministry of Tourism at the Zero Point, Gangtok, Sikkim**
- ✓ The project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in June 2015 for Rs. 98.05 crores
- ✓ Swadesh Darshan Scheme is one of the flagship scheme of Ministry of tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned manner
- ✓ The scheme was launched in 2014 -15 when the Ministry sanctioned 77 projects worth projects for Rs. 6121.69 crore to 30 States and UTs

- **Civil Aviation minister, Suresh Pabhu - launched the country's first Geographical Indication (GI) store at Dabolim International Airport in Goa**



- ✓ It was set up by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in partnership with The Cashew Export Promotional Council of India
- ✓ The new store will promote local products made by the artisans and handicrafts at the airport
- ✓ At present, there are plans to open 101 similar stores, which might be increased to 201 stores in future

INTERNATIONAL

- **Thailand – to introduce e-visa on arrival (eVoA) for 21 nationalities, including Indians, from February 14**
- ✓ The Immigration Bureau of Thailand has tied up with VFS Global for this service

COMMITTEES

- **The Lokpal Search Committee headed by former Supreme Court judge, Ranjana Prakash Desai - held its first meeting to discuss the modalities related to the appointments of the chief and members of Lokpal**



- ✓ The Supreme Court has set a February-end deadline for the search committee to send a panel of names who could be considered for the appointment as chairman and members of Lokpal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led selection committee
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the selection committee, President has nominated Mukul Rohatgi, former Attorney General of India as 'eminent jurist' member of the panel against the vacancy arising following the death of senior advocate, P P Rao
- ✓ The Lokpal Act - envisages establishment of the anti-graft body Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants
- ✓ It was passed in 2013
- ✓ Lokpal members Selection committee
 - ✓ Prime Minister - Head
 - ✓ Speaker of Lok Sabha
 - ✓ Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha
 - ✓ Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court judge nominated by CJI
 - ✓ An Eminent jurist to be nominated by President of India on basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee through consensus

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **South India MSME Summit-2019 – held at Bengaluru**



- ✓ The summit was organized by the Southern Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Association
- ✓ It discussed about the solutions for their major problems like absence of good infrastructure, technology issues, marketing, procurement issues, regulatory issues and red tape

PERSONALITIES

- **P C Mohanan – resigned as the Acting Chairman of the National Statistical Commission**



- ✓ He cited that the commission has been bypassed on several reasons as the reason for his resignation
- ✓ The panel had earlier finalised the National Sample Survey report (which provides data on jobs) in December, but it was not being released by the government.
- ✓ Also, the commission was bypassed during the finalization of the back series GDP data, with the presence of Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar at the news conference to unveil the data, even though it was the domain of Central Statistics Office
- ✓ The National Statistical commission is a six member body

APPOINTMENTS

- **Civil Aviation Secretary, Rajiv Nayan Choubey - has been named as the member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**
- ✓ Choubey, a 1981 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, is due to superannuate on January 31, after completing 60 years of age
- ✓ Choubey was named as the Civil Aviation Secretary in June 2015
- ✓ He has worked as Special Secretary in Power Ministry, Director General in Directorate General of Hydrocarbons under the Petroleum Ministry, and in other central and Tamil Nadu government departments



- ✓ With Choubey's appointment, the Commission will be in its full strength
- ✓ As per rules, a member of the UPSC can have a maximum of six-year tenure or till an incumbent attains the age of 65
- ✓ The UPSC can have maximum of 10 members, besides a chairperson
- ✓ It conducts civil services examination annually in three stages — preliminary, main and interview — to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others
- ✓ Constitution of UPSC
- ✓ Arvind Saxena - Chairman of UPSC
 - ✓ Members
 - ✓ Former Delhi Police commissioner, Bhim Sain Bassi
 - ✓ Former chief statistician T C A Anant
 - ✓ Prof Pradeep Kumar Joshi
 - ✓ Air Marshal A S Bhonsle (retired)
 - ✓ Sujata Mehta
 - ✓ Manoj Soni
 - ✓ Smita Nagaraj
 - ✓ M Sathiyavathy
 - ✓ Bharat Bhushan Vyas
- **Suman Kumari - has become the first Hindu woman civil judge in Pakistan**
- ✓ Suman, who hails from Qambar-Shahdadkot in Sindh province, will serve in her native district.
- ✓ The first Hindu judge was Justice Rana Bhagwandas, who served as the acting chief justice of Pakistan for brief periods between 2005 and 2007



- ✓ Hindu woman, Mahesh Kumar Malani became the first non-Muslim to be elected on a general seat in the National Assembly

AWARDS

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - was awarded the first prize for its Tableau, 'Kisan Gandhi' in the Republic Day Parade – 2019




- ✓ The ICAR tableau displayed the importance of dairy farming, use of indigenous breeds and livestock based organic agriculture for rural prosperity
- ✓ The ICAR Republic Day tableau - 2018 was based on the theme of integrated farming, "Mishrit Kheti, Khushiyon Ki Kheti"

OBITUARY

➤ George Fernandes, former Union Minister (88 years)

GEORGE FERNANDES

A LEADER PAR EXCELLENCE

- 
- 1949** Moved to Bombay; joined socialist trade union movement
- 1974** Led the railway strike
- 1977** Appointed as minister for industries in Janata Party govt; showed IBM and Coca-Cola the door
- 1949** Moved to Bombay; joined socialist trade union movement
- 1967** Elected to Parliament from the South Bombay constituency
- 1975** Opposed emergency; was arrested in Baroda dynamite case
- 1989** Became railway minister in VP Singh govt; promoted Konkan Railway project
- 1998** Became defence minister in NDA government; oversaw the Pokhran nuclear tests and Kargil War
- 2001** Resigned from defence minister's post after Tehelka scandal; later received clean chit
- Jan 29, 2019** Breathes his last in Delhi after prolonged illness

- **Fernandes first gained national attention in 1974 when he led an all India railway strike, when he was the president of the All India Railwaymen's Federation**
- ✓ He had massive influence among the unions of electricity, transport workers, mill worker and taxi drivers
- ✓ Before this he had gained limelight by defeating congress heavy weight S K Patil from the Bombay South constituency in the 1967 Lok Sabha polls
- ✓ Fernandes served as Railways Minister in the V.P. Singh government from 1989 to 1990
- ✓ He was instrumental in setting up the Konkan Railway project, connecting Mangalore and Bombay
- ✓ In 1994, Fernandes formed the Samata Party, which later allied with the Bharatiya Janata Party
- ✓ He was appointed convenor of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and served as the Defence Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government for two terms, between 1998 and 2004
- ✓ His term was eventful as it witnessed the Kargil war in 1999 and Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998.
- ✓ In 1977, while serving as industry minister in Morarji Desai's Janta Government cabinet, he pushed the multinationals like IBM and Coca Cola to implement the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), which led to their exit then
- ✓ His last stint as a Member of Parliament was in the Rajya Sabha during 2009-2010.

RANKINGS

- **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2018 – released by Transparency International, anti-graft watchdog**

SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	RANK	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	RANK
87	New Zealand	2	38	Sri Lanka	89
85	Singapore	3	37	Mongolia	93
77	Australia	13	36	Philippines	99
76	Hong Kong	14	36	Thailand	99
73	Japan	18	35	Timor-Leste	105
68	Bhutan	25	33	Pakistan	117
63	Brunei Darussalam	31	33	Vietnam	117
63	Taiwan	31	31	Maldives	124
57	Korea, South	45	31	Nepal	124
47	Malaysia	61	29	Laos	132
46	Vanuatu	64	29	Myanmar	132
44	Solomon Islands	70	28	Papua New Guinea	138
41	India	78	26	Bangladesh	149
39	China	87	20	Cambodia	161
38	Indonesia	89	16	Afghanistan	172
			14	Korea, North	176

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2018

ASIA PACIFIC

44/100

AVERAGE SCORE

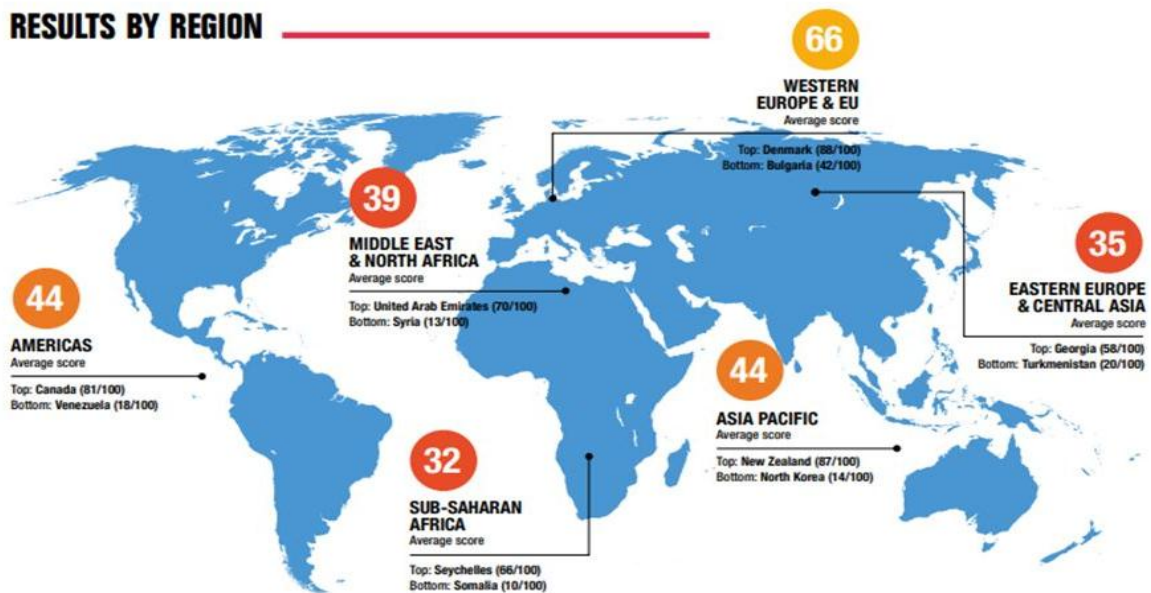


- ✓ India improved its ranking and moved up by 3 places to 78th position with 41 points (below average category) in the list of 180 countries in the world
- ✓ India's neighbouring countries, China is ranked at 87 and Pakistan at 117
- ✓ The top countries on the list are Denmark and New Zealand, with scores of 88 and 87 respectively
- ✓ Somalia, Syria and South Sudan are at the bottom of the list, with scores of 10, 13 and 13 respectively



- ✓ Overall, more than two-thirds of countries score below 50 in the 2018 CPI, with an average score of only 43

RESULTS BY REGION



- ✓ For the first time since 2011, the United States dropped out of the top 20 countries on the index, as it finished at 22nd spot, scoring 71 points

Corruption Perceptions Index 2018-2013 Top Ranking Countries + US and China

Country	Rank 2018	Rank 2017	Rank 2016	Rank 2015	Sources 2014	Rank 2013
Denmark	1	2	1	1	1	1
New Zealand	2	1	1	4*	2	1
Finland	3	3	3	2	3	3
Singapore	3	6	7	8	7	5
Sweden	3	6	4	3	4	3
Switzerland	3	3	5	7	5	7
Norway	7	3	6	5	5	5
Netherlands	8	8	8	5	8	8
Canada	9	8	9	9	10	9
Luxembourg	9	8	10	10	9	11
Germany	11	12	10	10	12	12
United Kingdom	11	8	10	10	14	14
Australia	13	13	13	13	11	9
United States of America	22	16	18	16	17	19
China	87	77	79	83	80*	80

- ✓ In the 2016, India was in the 79th place among 176 countries.
- ✓ The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean

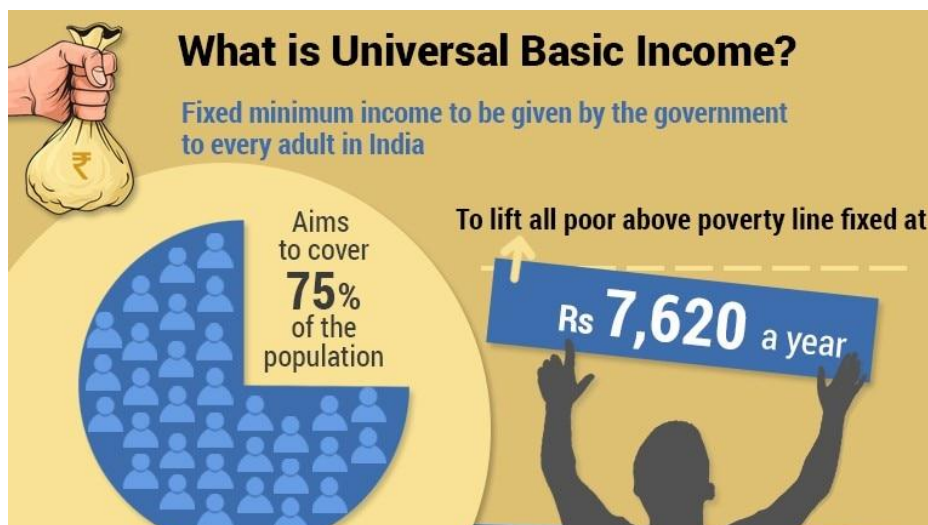
UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME (UBI) – AN INTRODUCTION

- ✓ UBI is a fixed income every adult - rich or poor, working or idle - receives from government
- ✓ The idea of UBI first came up in early 1960s in the country when the Planning Commission of India started working on it.
- ✓ Several countries like US, Canada, Brazil, Kenya and Finland have been mulling to implement it in some or the other form
- ✓ Finland, the only country to try it, had to give it up because it is too costly
- ✓ The basic premise of UBI is the Economic Survey of 2016-17
- ✓ As per the Economic Survey of India's suggestion, a UBI of Rs 7,620 per annum per person should be given to lift all poor above the Tendulkar poverty line, based on economist Suresh Tendulkar's poverty line formula








	in million			% of poor		parameters - poverty line
	Rural	Urban	Total	2011-12	2009-10	
Tendulkar formula	216.5	52.8	269	21.9	29.8	per day: rural- Rs 27.2 and Rs 33.3; per capita per month- rural Rs 816, urban-Rs 1,000
Rangarajan formula	260.5	102.5	363	29.5	38.2	per day- Rs 32 and Rs 47; per capita expenditure-rural -Rs 972/month; urban- Rs 1,407; Household- rural- Rs 4,860, urban- Rs 7,035 at 2011-12 prices. 'Well-being' will be much higher
Difference	44	49.7	93.7			

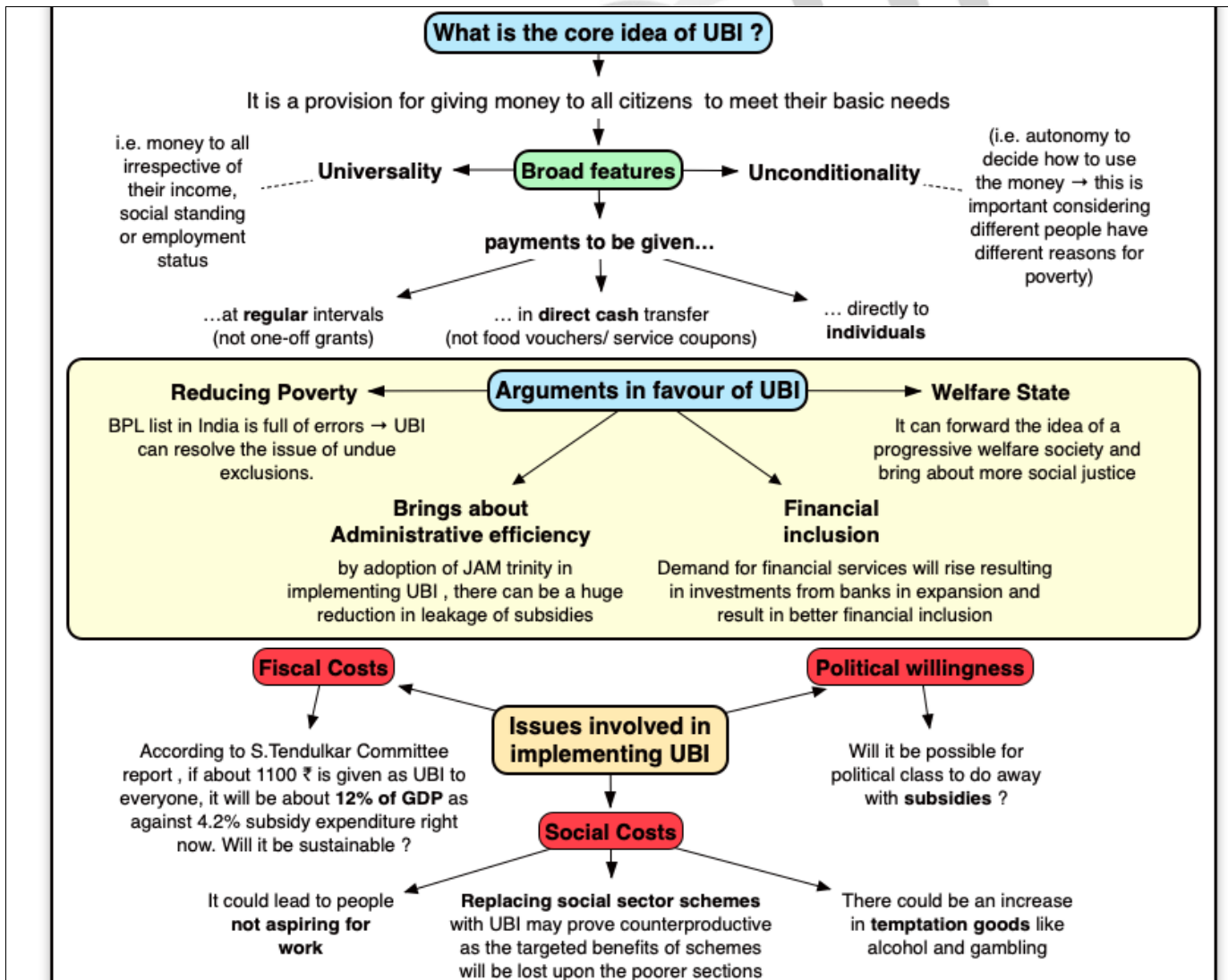
Source: Niti Aayog and other govt reports

- ✓ While Tendulkar's version fixed 22% of the population as poor, C Rangarajan later pegged the figure of poor families at 29.5% or 363 million in 2014-15
- ✓ The per capita rural spending level was also revised from Rs 27.2 in 2011-12 to Rs 32 in 2014-15 while it was changed to Rs 47 in 2014-15 from Rs 33.3 in 2011-12 for urban areas
- ✓ Despite Rangarajan's assessment, the Niti Aayog's Task Force on Elimination of Poverty' report supported Tendulkar's formula, adding that Rangarajan's formula has not been officially accepted
- ✓ In India, Sikkim became the first state to propose UBI by the year 2022
- ✓ UBI and MIG
 - ✓ A universal basic income (UBI) provides a monthly stipend that would ensure that a person would be above the poverty line without any other source of income.
 - ✓ A minimum income guarantee (MIG) is pretty much at the discretion of the government of the day -- it can be equal, more or less than the poverty line expenditure.



Has UBI worked in other countries?

FINLAND	CANADA	KENYA	UNITED STATES	Other countries running experiments
				 SPAIN Barcelona has tested unconditional cash payments
From Jan 2017 to Dec 2018	Ontario province started pilot last year; to be scrapped	Experimental project in 120 villages	Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend running since 1980s	 NETHERLANDS Some cities have launched trials for welfare recipients
2000 unemployed people received €560 a month	C\$150 mn to 4,000 people in low-paying or precarious jobs	\$23 per month or lump-sum \$276 given	Pays \$2,072 a year to every adult citizen	 SWITZERLAND Voters rejected basic income plan in 2016



Who should get it, and how to pay for it

A number of economists recently suggested solutions that would enable Indians to receive a basic income from the government. Four of the **six proposals** talk of universal coverage while two target specific sections

*2.5% and 1.9% of GDP if paid to only 67% and 50% of the population, respectively

**approximately 10% of the population



	Population coverage	Transfer amount per year (in ₹)	Cost as % of GDP	Funding mechanism
2016-17 Economic Survey	Bottom 75%	6,540-7,260	4.2-4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll back social sector plans Implicit middle class subsidies: 2.07% of GDP Top-10 centrally sponsored schemes: 1.38% of GDP
Pranab Bardhan, UC Berkeley	All	10,000	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll back non-merit subsidies: 9% of GDP Eliminate corporate tax holidays and exemptions: 3% of GDP
Vijay Joshi, Oxford	All	3,500	3.5*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privatisation of public sector units: 1% of GDP Taxing farm income: 0.5% of GDP Remove dysfunctional social welfare schemes: 0.5%
Maitreesh Ghatak, LSE	All	13,432	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll back subsidies going to the non-poor: 9% of GDP Raise additional taxes
Abhijit Banerjee, MIT	All	13,000	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace welfare schemes like the public distribution system and MGNREGA
Reetika Khara, IIT-D	All elderly, widows, disabled persons**, pregnant women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pensions: ₹ 12,000 Maternity entitlements per child: ₹ 6,000 	1.5	NA

Source: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

To give or not to give a minimum income?

FOR

Fighting poverty | Poverty and vulnerability will be reduced drastically
No poor person left behind | As all individuals are targeted, exclusion error (poor being left out) is zero, though inclusion error (rich gaining access) is 60%

Financial inclusion | It will drive greater financial inclusion as transfers will encourage people to use bank accounts, leading to higher profits for banks. Also, increased income will release the constraints on access to credit for those with low incomes

Administrative efficiency | UBI instead of a plethora of separate government schemes will reduce the administrative burden on the state

Psychological boost | A guaranteed income will reduce the pressures of finding a basic living on a daily basis

AGAINST

Conspicuous spending | Households, particularly male members, may spend the additional income wastefully
Reduction in labour supply | UBI might disincentivise people from joining the labour market

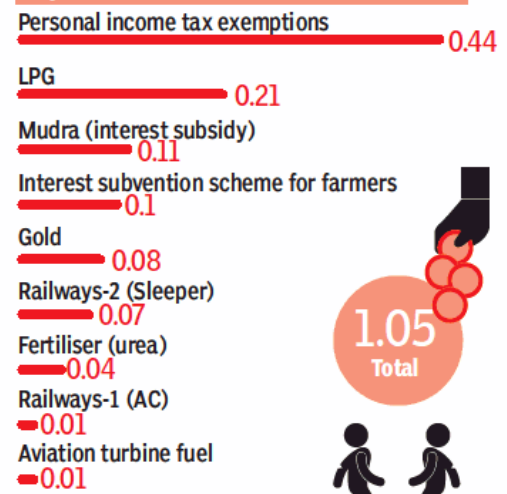
Implementation | UBI may put stress on the banking system

Fiscal cost | Once rolled out, it may be difficult for a government to shut the programme down in case it proves to be unfeasible

Gender disparity | Men are likely to exercise control over spending of guaranteed income. This may not always be the case with other in-kind transfers

Fiscal cost of existing central gov't programmes (2015-16)

Implicit middle class subsidies as % of GDP



Text: Surojit Gupta;
Source: 2016-17 Economic Survey

