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# Daily News Juice

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# G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

**Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper III; Disaster Management**

## Why in news?

- The **leaders** at **India's showpiece G20 Summit** arrived at **a joint communique** — called the **G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration**.
- The **big sticking point** was the **Ukraine-Russia conflict**, which was **addressed in detail** in **seven paragraphs**. This is **much more elaborate** than the **Bali Declaration**, which had **just two paragraphs**.
- The consensus at the Bali declaration **broke down within a month** of the **Summit** in **November last year**, and the **last nine months** witnessed **acrimony** on both sides — the **G7 grouping** on one side and **Russia-China bloc** on the other.
- But, after **months of work**, and **hours of painstaking negotiations** towards the end, the two sides managed to **build a consensus formula**.



## A 'win-win' on the Ukraine question

- The Russia-Ukraine paragraphs did not condemn Russia for its actions, nor did it call it an “aggression”. But the West also got what it wanted.
- The statement says that all states must refrain from conquering territories by force. Russia is the only country to have done so. All this helps to build consensus for the future.
- Notably, India played a special role in this process.

## A whole new format!

- The aforesaid declaration is filled with deliverables on a range of issues.
- It is also crafted in a different way — not the usual paragraphs that are structured in a joint declaration. Instead, it starts with a preamble, and then has 10 chapters, and ends with a conclusion.
- The chapters are numbered A to J, in 10 chapters, based on themes.

## Progress for all; focus on education, health

- The first chapter talks about the global economic situation, advancing financial inclusion, and fighting corruption. It vows to implement the Action Plan against Fugitive Economic Offenders that will help strengthen international cooperation and information sharing among law enforcement agencies to combat corruption.
- The next chapter is about eliminating hunger and malnutrition, health collaboration and delivering quality education among others.
- One of the important elements is on how future pandemics can impact the economy, which also brings out the gaps in the existing pandemic response mechanism, including institutional and funding arrangements.
- On education, it talks about enhancing teachers' capacity, improved curricula, content in local language, and access to digital resources.

## Future is now: Sustainability, chips...



- Another chapter stresses the need to implement clean, sustainable, just, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions.
- One important element is the mention of the need to build reliable, diverse, responsible, and sustainable value chains of critical minerals, semiconductors, and related technologies.
- The next chapter speaks of reforming international financial institutions. One of the most important elements is that reform of the UN Security Council was agreed to for the first time in the G20; and there was a strong push towards reforms for better, bigger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).

## Digital infrastructure, and a safe, secure Internet

- Another chapter contains elements of building digital public infrastructure, crypto-assets, and harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly for Good and for All.
- The G20 leaders agreed on a G20 framework for digital public infrastructure and Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR).
- The Leaders' Declaration also talks about a comprehensive toolkit which is aimed at improving cyber education and cyber awareness for the protection and empowerment of children and youth.

## Focus on gender equality, and denouncement of terror



- The Declaration promotes equal rights to economic resources, property ownership, financial services, and inheritance for women, while supporting women's organisations and networks.
- Under India's G20 Presidency, a decision to create a full-fledged working group on women's empowerment has been made. The group will prioritise gender equality, women's empowerment, and leadership, and bring convergence across sectors at all levels.
- Another chapter contains a strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and a positive message towards international peace and security.

## Inclusion of Africa; a diverse, tolerant grouping

- The last chapter has two important elements:
  - One, India's G20 Presidency has paved the way for the African Union's permanent membership in the G20. This will make G20 more inclusive, deepen cooperation with Africa, and help realise its developmental aspirations.
  - Second is a commitment to promote respect for religious and cultural diversity, and deploring all acts of religious hatred, including against religious symbols and holy books.

# MoU signed to establish India-Europe Economic Corridor



**Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper III; Economics**

## Why in news?

- On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Govts of India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany and Italy to establish the India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- The IMEC is being envisioned as a network of transport corridors, including railway lines and sea lanes, that is expected to aid economic growth through integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.
- This project is a part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII).

## Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)

- The PGII was officially launched in 2022 during the G7 summit in Germany. The G7 countries include the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the European Union (EU). This infrastructure plan is a joint initiative to help fund infrastructure projects in developing countries through public and private investments.
- PGII aims to mobilise nearly \$600 billion from the G7 by 2027 to invest in critical infrastructure.
- Notably, PGII was launched by the G7 as an alternative mechanism to the infrastructure projects being undertaken and funded by China under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at a global level.
- The stated purpose of both the PGII and the BRI is to help secure funding for countries to build critical infrastructure such as roads, ports, bridges, communication setups, etc. to enhance global trade and cooperation.



## Need for an alternative!



- China began the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013 under its President Xi Jinping. It aims to revive the ancient trade routes crossing to and from China—from Rome in Europe to East Asia. Under this, the Chinese govt helped in providing loans for infrastructure projects to various countries, and in many cases, Chinese companies were awarded contracts for carrying out the work. This helped China mark its footprints at a global level.
- However, China was criticised in the West and by some other countries for providing unsustainable debts to countries that will be unable to repay them. According to a 2019 World Bank report, among the 43 corridor economies, 12 could face a situation where debts were not sustainable, which could lead to public assets being handed over to foreign contractors or China itself.
- The report added that if issues of environmental degradation, high debts, and corruption are successfully countered and the BRI is fully implemented to its potential, it could increase trade between 1.7 and 6.2% for the world, increasing global real income by 0.7 to 2.9%. China has claimed the BRI has made economic gains and helped in job creation.
- India, however, opposed the BRI as it included the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which connected Kashgar in China with the Gwadar port in Pakistan via Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- Others are wary of the benefits they might reap from enhanced trade connectivity. Italy, the only G7 member that was part of the BRI, has also expressed its concerns in this regard.
- However, the G7 say their initiative is meant to be transparent, focused on building climate change-resilient infrastructure, and help in achieving objectives of gender equality and health.

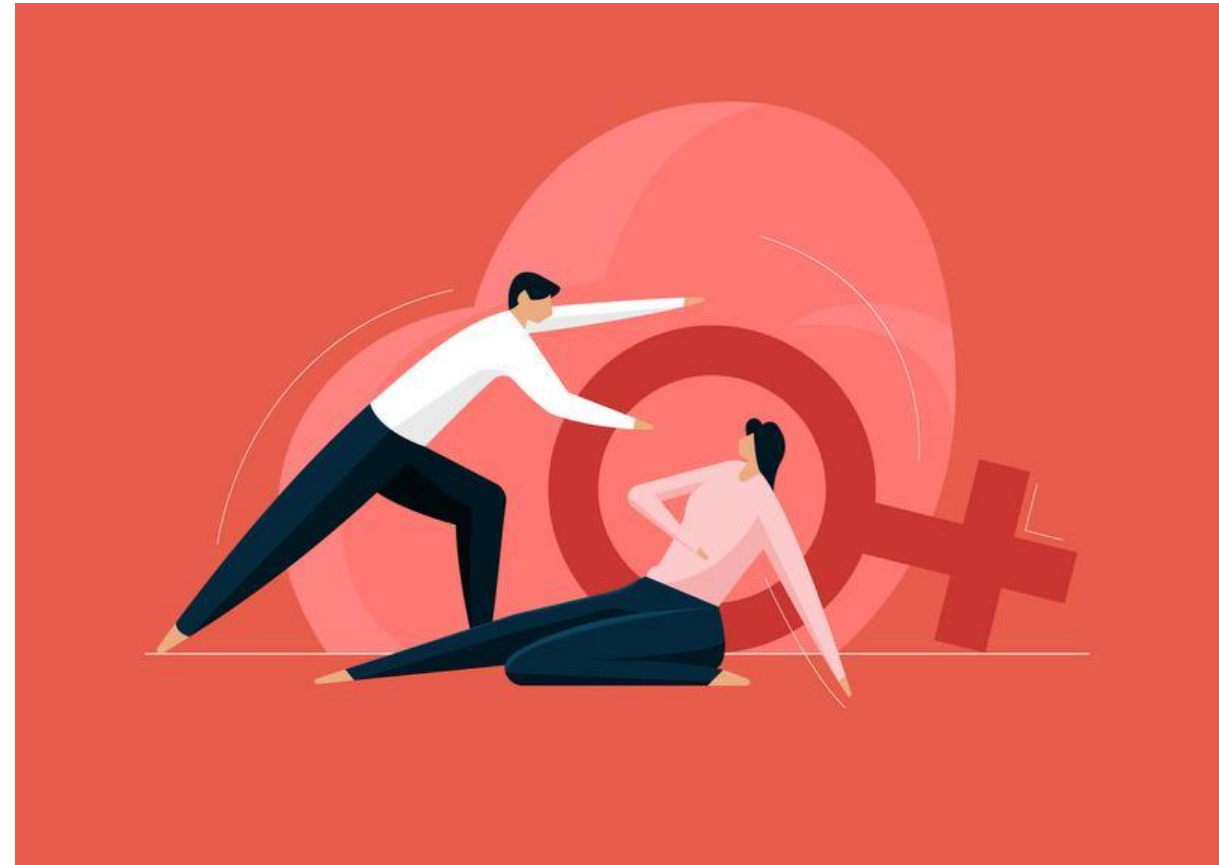


# 'False promise to marry' to be an offence under the new bill

**Relevance: Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance**

## Why in news?

- If a man promises to marry a woman but never intends to, and still has 'consensual' sex with her, it will amount to a criminal offence under Section 69 of the proposed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.
- The Bill, which seeks to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, identifies 'sexual intercourse on false promise of marriage' as an offence.
- At present, the offence is not carved out separately in the IPC, but courts have dealt with similar cases through other provisions within the criminal law framework.



## Section 69

- Chapter 5 of the Bill, titled “Offences against woman and children” describes ‘sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means etc.’
- Section 69 creates two violations: one by deceitful means, and one by a ‘false promise to marry.’ Deceitful means will include the “false promise of employment or promotion, inducement or marrying after suppressing identity.”
- The false promise to marry will be attracted only when a man makes a promise to marry a woman, with the intention of breaking it, for the purpose of getting her consent and sexually exploiting her. Both offences will extract a penalty of up to ten years of imprisonment.

## IPC’s stance on cases of ‘false promise to marry’



- In 2016, a quarter of the total rape cases registered in Delhi pertained to sex under ‘false promise of marriage’.
- The National Crime Records Bureau in the same year recorded 10,068 similar cases of rape by “known persons on a promise to marry the victim” (the number was 7,655 in 2015).
- These cases happen in one of two ways — when rape is committed, and the promise of marriage is used to silence the victim, or where the promise is made to ‘convince’ the person into entering a sexual relationship. Activists note that such cases play out mostly among socially disadvantaged women, given that legal remedy cannot be easily sought.
- BNS penalises those coercing women into sexual relationships. Previously, these cases were dealt with through a joint reading of Sections 375 and 90 of the IPC.
- Section 375, which defines rape, further defines consent as “an unequivocal voluntary agreement when the woman by words, gestures or any form of verbal or non-verbal communication, communicates a willingness to participate in the specific sexual act.”

(more ahead)

## Cont'd

- Section 375 also lists seven types of consent which would amount to rape if violated; these include if a man has sexual intercourse with a woman “without her consent,” or consent taken through fear of death, hurt or intoxication. In 2021, the Supreme Court reiterated that under Section 375, a woman’s consent “must involve an active and reasoned deliberation towards the proposed act”.
- Section 90 says consent, given under “fear of injury” or “misconception of fact,” cannot be considered as consent. Cases of false promise to marry are dealt with under the latter, where a ‘misconception’ is used to assess the validity of consent.

## Difference between ‘false promise’ and ‘breach of promise’



- The law has distinguished between a ‘false promise’ and a ‘breach of promise’ on the basis of proving if the man intended to marry at the time of engaging in sex. Courts have previously recognised the ambiguity in determining consent and intention in such cases.
- The SC observed that a false promise is “given on the understanding by its maker that it will be broken,” but a breach of promise is “made in good faith but subsequently not fulfilled.” Put simply, if a man can prove he intended to marry the woman before he entered into a sexual relationship, but later is unable to due to whatever reason, it is not legally punishable.
- The Supreme Court in 2022 held that consensual sex on a ‘genuine’ promise of marriage does not constitute rape.

## How is intention to marry proved?

- Cases of 'false promise of marriage' look at two central issues — how consent is obtained (through deceitful means, or by misconception), and whether the man ever intended to marry the woman.
- The Supreme Court this year said every breach of promise is not rape, noting: “One cannot deny a possibility that the accused might have given a promise with all seriousness to marry her, and subsequently might have encountered certain circumstances unforeseen by him or the circumstances beyond his control, which prevented him.”
- But activists argue that ‘circumstances’ practically translate to social norms that uphold the status quo, reinforcing gender roles, patriarchy and caste lines. Moreover, Section 69 in the BNS codifies the offence instead of creating a new one. Thus, in its present form, the Bill doesn’t dissolve the confused distinction between ‘false promise’ and ‘breach of promise,’ and overlooks the inherent limitations in criminal law.

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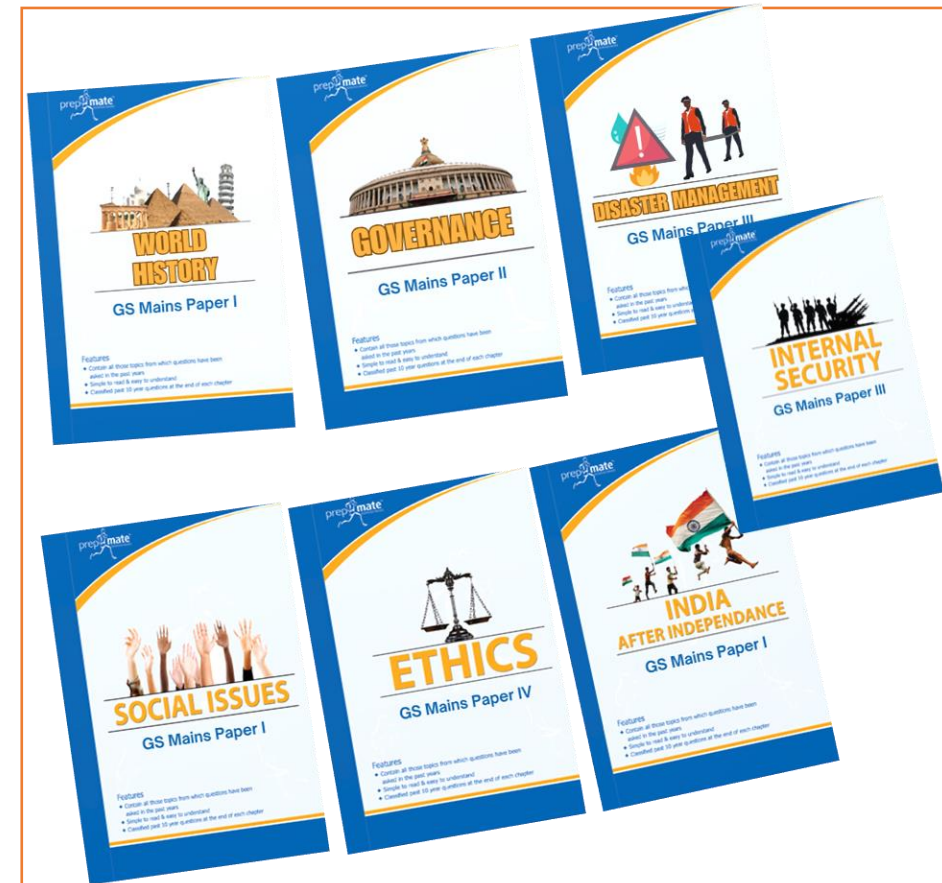
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