

6. National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey of India (2015-19)

Prelims: Governance- Health

Mains: GS-II- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in News?

- ▶▶ National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey of India (2015-19) was released recently.

About the Survey:

- ▶▶ The survey was conducted by Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ▶▶ It was conducted in 31 districts of 24 States across India.

Key Highlights of the Survey:

- ▶▶ Cataract is the principal cause of blindness for people above 50 years in India. Cataract is the cause for 66.2% cases of blindness, 80.7% cases of severe visual impairment, and 70.2% cases of moderate visual impairment in the age group.
- ▶▶ Blindness is more pronounced among illiterate (3.23%) than literates (0.43%) and more prevalent in the rural population (2.14%) than urban (1.80%).
- ▶▶ Approximately 93% of cases of blindness and 96.2% visual impairment cases in this age group were avoidable.
- ▶▶ Barriers to accessing treatment includes no one to accompany [the patient], seasonal preferences, and financial constraints.
 - ❖ Among men, the most important barriers are financial constraints (31%) and local reasons (21.5%).
 - ❖ Among women, local reasons (23.1%) and financial constraints (21.2%) were the most important barriers.