

INSIGHTS into EDITORIAL

GENERAL STUDIES - I

1. A greater impact on women

Introduction:

- India reported double the usual number of **domestic abuse cases** in the first week of nationwide movement restrictions, according to the country's National Commission for Women.
- Early signs are that SARS-CoV-2 poses a **greater direct health risk** to men, and particularly older men.
- But the pandemic is exposing and exploiting **inequalities of all kinds**, including **gender inequality**.
- In the long term, its impact on **women's health, rights and freedoms** could harm us all.
- Women are already suffering the deadly impact of lockdowns and quarantines.
- These restrictions are essential, but they **increase the risk of violence** towards women trapped with abusive partners.



Increase in domestic violence all over the world:

- According to **UN Women**, globally **243 million women and girls aged 15-49** have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the previous 12 month.
- The number is likely to increase as **security, health and money worries heighten tensions and strains** are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions.

It says according to emerging data, violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has 'intensified'.

1. Recent weeks have seen an **alarming global surge in domestic violence**; the largest support organisation in the U.K. reported a 700% increase in calls.
2. At the same time, support services for women at risk face cuts and closures.
3. This was the background to recent appeal for **peace in homes around the world**.
4. Since then, more than 143 governments have committed to supporting women and girls at risk of violence during the pandemic.
5. Every country can take action by moving services online, expanding **domestic violence shelters** and designating them as essential, and increasing support to front line organisations.