

Q → Though Government of India has taken considerable measures in eradicating child labor, challenges still persist. Elucidate

A → According to ILO, child labour refers to deprivation of child from his/her childhood, potential & causes harm to their physical & mental development.

India has the largest child labor population of more than 1 Crore.

The main reasons behind it are

- Poverty - Gurupad Swamy report in 1979 highlighted that as long as poverty persists, child labor will continue
- High fertility rate
- Unemployment
- Lack of vocational training in school
- Lack of awareness among parent

## Steps taken by Government

- Child Labor Abolition Act, 1986.  
It was amended in 2016, now child labor is banned everywhere except family enterprises & entertainment for every child below 14 years of age
- National Child Labor Policy, 1987

## Issues

- No proper definition of family enterprises leaves the scope for misuse
- Less focus on vocational education & training.
- Poverty still remains a major problem.

## Way forward

- Important terms such as family enterprises must be defined clearly
- family planning must be promoted especially in those states which still have high Total fertility Rate, e.g. - UP, Bihar.
- NEP-2020 should be implemented efficiently & comprehensive focus of vocational training is given.

- Use of IEC channels to spread awareness about child labor

As India is a signatory to UN Convention on Rights of a Child, it must fulfil its commitments as this will also ensure that the fundamental right against exploitation for a child mentioned in Article-23 is also ensured.