

# Eugenics

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**Why in news?**

With regards to its use and misuse.

**What is it?**

- Eugenics is the study to deliberately align individuals with different genetic features to improve the population.
- It aims at **reducing human suffering through the “selective out production”** of diseases, disabilities and so-called unwanted human population characteristics.
- Eugenics promoted the breeding and prevention of mentally challenged people.
- **Contemporary eugenics also called human genetic modification**, has been clinically and ethically further forwarded which offers hope of cure of many of the crippling diseases but still controversial.
- A major criticism of eugenics policies is that they are **susceptible to abuse, irrespective of whether negative or positive** policies are being used, as criteria of genetic selections are identified.
- In particular, negative eugenics, which **include the right to reproduce, are criticized by many as a breach of basic human rights.**
- Another concern is that eugenics programs inevitably result in a loss of genetic diversity and thus a loss of genetic diversity inbreeding depression.
- Another criticism is that it is designed to disrupt millions of years of evolution permanently and artificially and that attempting to create 'clean' genetic lines of disorders could have a far-reaching downstream impact on genetic ecology, including negative immunity and resilience of the species.

