

9pm

Compilation

1st to 9th August, 2020

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

General Studies - 1

1. Tilak's contribution
2. Urban migrant issue
3. Continuing Migrant problem
4. August Revolution and New India – Comparison

General Studies - 2

1. National education policy 2020
2. Reforming Urban Governance
3. NEP - right intention
4. NEP 2020 and Medium of Instruction
5. Kashmir policy and federalism
6. NEP issues
7. Right to Education violated in COVID
8. Online delivery of Justice
9. Preventive detention
10. One year of the abrogation of Article 370

General Studies - 3

1. Ecological restoration
2. Dilution in EIA
3. Indoor air pollution and LPG usage
4. Role of Indigineous people in REDD+ initiatives
5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – Proposed amendments
6. Reviving Economy
7. PM-KISAN
8. Development of Eastern States
9. Securing labours during covid crisis
10. Agricultural economy cannot drive growth across the overall economy
11. Need a bottom up approach to tackle the new economic challenges of 21st century
12. Labour industrial relationship
13. Resorting to Money Financing to revive the economy
14. Effect of declining tax collection on Economy
15. Self-reliance in the defence sector
16. The claim on Nuclear deterrence is misleading
17. Herculean task of digitising India
18. Increasing the demand by enhancing the income of Low paid work force

General Studies Paper - 1

General Studies – 1

Syllabus: GS-1- History

1. Tilak's contribution

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Context: on Tilak's hundredth death anniversary, our government can learn useful lessons in dealing with public protests from his two trials on sedition.

The first trial

- In the famine of 1896 **Tilak's first trial** for sedition had begun.
- A series of articles were printed in **the weekly newspaper Kesari** which was started by Tilak. Officials who insisted on collecting land tax even during a famine, and for not implementing the Famine Relief Code were criticised in his newspaper.
- To control the spread of the Bubonic plague struck Pune in 1897, the special duty officer Walter Charles Rand adopted **repressive measures under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897**.
- Damodar Chaphekar murdered officer Rand and was convicted and hanged. Tilak had written strong articles condemning the brutality of the measures adopted even before this murder.
- Tilak also **justified the killing of Afzal Khan by Shivaji** in his article. The Anglo-Indian press bitterly criticised the British government for not taking action against Tilak.
- On July 27, 1897, Tilak was arrested and tried for sedition before the Bombay High Court. Dinshaw Davar, his lawyer who got him bail was the same judge who gave the order against him 10 years later.
- W C Bonnerjee, a Congress leader, Moti Lal Ghosh, the founder of the Amrita Bazar Patrika, and Rabindranath Tagore collected almost Rs 20,000 from donors and this was used to send two leading English barristers from Calcutta as none of the lawyers from Bombay High court were willing to appear for Tilak.
- Tilak was sentenced to **18 months' imprisonment** by Strachey because of his "disaffection" which constitutes the offence of sedition, under section 124A of the IPC, was simply "**the absence of affection**". Tilak's article on the killing of Afzal Khan by Shivaji was the part of the foundation of a case of sedition.
- The British press noted that Strachey's interpretation of "disaffection" would be unacceptable in England whereas the decision was hailed by the Anglo-Indian press.

The second trial

- The partition of Bengal and the killing of two English women by a bomb hurled by Khudiram Bose led to large-scale repression. The Anglo-Indian press held Tilak responsible for provoking the youth.
- Tilak in his articles suggested that the best way to stop violence and bombs was to grant self-rule to the people of India and also **criticised the Explosives Act**. He also asked the government to stop repressing freedom.
- Tilak was arrested in June 1908 and charged with sedition. M A Jinnah appeared for Tilak and applied for bail, but this was rejected by Justice Davar, who had appeared for Tilak in 1897.
- Tilak argued his own case and stated that the English translation of his articles had serious errors and asked for a correct version, but this plea was rejected.
- A card was found from Tilak's Pune residence on which he had written the names of two books on explosives. Tilak explained that when he was writing an article on the

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

Explosives Act, he came across the names of these two books, but this card was the basis of an allegation that Tilak was manufacturing bombs.

- Davar accepted the majority verdict of the jury which consisted of seven Englishmen/Anglo-Indians and two Indians and sentenced Tilak to **six years imprisonment**.
- The verdict was criticised by several newspapers. However, Tilak was sent to **Mandalay jail in Burma** and returned in 1914.

Conclusion

Tilak's imprisonment by invoking the law of sedition failed to suppress the freedom struggle. Our government can learn useful lessons in dealing with public protests from his two trials on sedition. Suppressing widespread dissent or criticism has always proved counterproductive and so government should work out the opposite viewpoint and have the grace to correct its path wherever necessary.

2. Urban migrant issue

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: The massive job loss due to the lockdown made several migrant workers in the urban areas head back to their villages with almost no resources.

The issue of unemployment

- The Indian labouring classes face issues of unemployment which is an outcome of the fact that 93% of our economy is informal and **the Industrial Disputes Act** encourages this trend.
- It orders employers to pay compensation wages, and other benefits, only if workers are hired, and are on the rolls, continuously for over 248 days.
- Only a minuscule minority stays employed for long as law has had the unintended consequence of **making it attractive for management to periodically flip labour around**.

Forget the industrial glue

- The job could be well paid and the worker may have even held it for some time yet the pull of home and family is much stronger for the migrant worker than the industrial glue that comes with an urban occupation.
- A comparative approach might help to settle this issue:
 - In Surat in 1979, when there was a widespread fear that a satellite was going to fall smack in the city centre and was going to cause untold deaths, a large number of migrants there left for their villages.
 - In Surat, in 1994, the plague scare prompted over 6,00,000 to leave their work stations for the railway station. In both these instances, jobs were not threatened, but **there was this perceived fear of death**.
 - Only a few migrant workers left at the time of demonetisation in 2016 because this distress was **primarily economic, without a threat to life**.
 - In 2020, when people started dying because of COVID-19, there was a drastic shift; now, men without families went home because they did not want to die alone.

Data from the survey

- A **YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey** conducted in 2020 tells us that the Indian millennials depend on their parents' real estate property and savings to give them a start.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- A 2018 CBRE survey shows that **80% of young Indian millennials live with their parents.**
- Census figures show that joint families are growing, although slowly, in urban India, but declining in the villages.

Rituals and customs

- It will take more than a job somewhere to overcome the fear of dying anonymously, without proper ceremonies being performed as in both the religions there is a belief that if rules, are not followed correctly, the soul of the dead person could suffer everlasting pain in the other world.
- If about 90% of slum dwellers in Dharavi stayed put, post lockdown, it was because most of them lived with their wives and children and did not fear a death without rituals.

Gender factor

- **Women actually form 55% (majority) of rural migrants** to urban India but there were fewer of them on highways it was because arranged marriages have brought most of them to the city, not a flimsy job prospect.
- Rural men migrate with tentative employment prospects and it will be a long time before they can, if at all, imagine getting their families over.
- About 72% of slum dwellings are owned, not rented and this shows the overwhelming preference the poor have for family life, only if they could afford one.

Conclusion

The urban workers rush to their rural homes because they fear a death where nobody prays for them instead of a life where nobody is willing to pay them.

3. Continuing Migrant problem

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: India's labouring poor slip into chronic hunger and intense poverty after closure of the entire economy, which was already in recession.

Present condition of the labouring class

- Around **4000 homeless men in Delhi** used to live on an embankment called Yamuna Pushta, even though underpaid they managed to keep raw hunger at bay by eating food provided by religious food charities in gurdwaras, temples and dargahs.
- The Delhi government has mostly ended its free cooked food distribution programme. At the peak of the programme, **about 10 lakh people were being fed in over 1,000 centres.**
- The communities who used to survive on the edge of hunger even in normal times, their condition is getting worse.
- Casual daily wage workers, weavers, artisans, home-based workers, rickshaw-pullers and street vendors are struggling to survive.
- There are **millions of new entrants into the ranks of the hungry**, which include laid-off employees of small enterprises and eateries, domestic workers, sex workers, workers in the gig economy, and even teachers in low-income private schools and those taking private tuitions.
- Millions of people are **learning to live in chronic hunger** by:
- Eliminating nutritious but unaffordable portions of one's diet, including dal, milk, vegetables, fruit, eggs and meat.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Reducing food intake, cutting down on both the quantity eaten during each meal and the number of meals, teaching one's body to endure with less and less.
- Children who could earlier depend on the school or preschool centre for at least one nutritious meal are now being sent out to work.

Public policy failures

- **400 million new workers are at risk of slipping into extreme poverty, of less than \$1.90 a day**, according to a United Nations University paper.
- It is alarming that more than **250 million people are at risk of acute hunger** and "the location of global poverty is likely to shift towards middle-income countries and South Asia and East Asia."
- At senior levels of the Indian government, there is **little acknowledgement of the depth of the crisis of hunger** and the eradication of livelihoods.
- The Finance Minister **relies mostly on credit rather than on fiscal transfers to revive the economy** and MSME sector which employs most people outside agriculture which is un mindful as:
 - Governments also wanted to revive the broken economy by excluding workers from organisations of labour rights protections, presumably for attracting capital investment.
 - Some governments attempted to extend the workday to 12 hours, to **suspend the protections of various labour laws for three years**, and regulate the movement of workers across State borders.

Abandoned by the state

- India slipped to **the 102nd position in the Global Hunger Report of 2019** that ranked 117 countries. It had fallen behind its neighbours Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh even before the pandemic.
- As the COVID-19 infection spreads to States with the most broken public health systems, such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and with the homeless and **the poor being excluded from highly privatised health facilities in cities**, the problems of the poor will further worsen.

Way forward

- The political establishment, the media and the middle class should focus on the crisis from which these labouring poor classes are going through as with millions slipping invisibly into chronic hunger and intense poverty, this is gravest humanitarian crisis in over half a century.

Syllabus - GS 1 - The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country

4. August Revolution and New India – Comparison

Source – [Indian Express](#)

Context - The 78th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, famously known as the August Revolution in the history of India's freedom movement, falls on August 9.

Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India Movement

- **August revolution's aim** - On 8th August 1942, Quit India Movement, famously known as August Revolution was launched by Mahatma Gandhi demanding an end to British Rule of India.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- **Tagline** - The slogan was “Karo ya maro”.
- **Opposition** – Communist Party of India (CPI), opposed the movement as they considered the Independence of India in 1947 was more a consequence of international conditions and not a direct result of the Indian people’s struggle.
- **Social Base** - The real strength of the Quit India Movement lay in the people who participated and people who was their own leader during the movement. The will of people was– “we want to be free and we shall be free”.

PM Modi’s New India Vision

- Slogan of New India- “ Kareng Aur Karake rahenge” .
- Aim - To achieve the goal of building a “New India” by 2022.

Issues with the New India Vision

- **Constitutional values are violated** - The Foundation of a religion-based New India was laid on August 5 in Ayodhya by the prime minister is against the value of secularism as given in Constitution of India.

Way Forward- The people were their own leaders in the Quit India Movement. This is very different from the vision of 'New India' of today which can only be successful if mass participation of people is there and it’s a bottom up movement.

General Studies Paper - 2

General Studies - 2

Syllabus: GS2: Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

1. National education policy 2020

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Context: Analysis on National education policy 2020

Challenges to education:

- Lack of political will to prioritise quality education.
- Resistance to institutional changes by the educational institutions has failed to meet the rising aspiration and demand for education.

Analysis on New Education Policy

- **It emphasises on critical thinking and free inquiry:** which is possible only when universities restraint themselves from political and cultural conformity in the era of identity politics.
- **Objective of creating a new regulator, a new research foundation** is appreciable but lot depends on the norms these institutions adhere to and its implementation.
- **On the issue of language,** the policy prefers the long-standing recommendation of primary education in the mother tongue without making it compulsory.
- **It emphasises on engagement with Indian civilisational history:** this can be realised only with a fair and unbiased curriculum.
- It primarily focuses on early child development, learning outcomes, different forms of assessment, holistic education, recognising the centrality of teacher and teacher education. All these measures will render meaningless unless achieving universal foundational numeracy and literacy is prioritised.
- **Its recommendation on multiple Exit options is unclear** whether exit options will be made available within a single institution, or from different institutions that offer different kinds of degrees.
- **Its recommendation to make all higher education institutions multidisciplinary** betrays the principle that different institutions have different identities, different comparative advantages, different pedagogical philosophies and a different mission.
- A healthy education system should incorporate diversity of institutions that caters to the student's choice for different kinds of institutions
- **It emphasises to shift the focus from exams to learning** but it contradicts itself by recommending a national aptitude test

Conclusion: The New Education Policy is a forward-looking framework for transforming Indian education. Proper implementation of its recommendation with a priority on empowering school children, appropriate government expenditure will ensure the success of public education and India's future.

Syllabus: GS2: Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.

2. Reforming Urban Governance

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: Much needed reforms in our urban governance model.

Inadequate planning owing to non-functional Metropolitan Planning Committees (MPCs):

1. The formation of Metropolitan Planning Committees (MPCs) is mandated by the constitution in all areas with a million-plus population.
2. They are responsible for the preparation of draft development plans, integrate priorities of local authorities, State and Central governments and to ensure integrated planning for the entire metropolitan area.
3. In practical, MPCs are either not constituted or defunct.
4. Janaagraha's Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2017 report found that only nine out of 18 cities assessed had constituted MPCs even if on paper.
5. **Impact:** The absence of comprehensive integrated planning has resulted in Poor housing, sanitation, and a lack of access to meaningful social security for the urban poor.

Inadequate municipal capacities in finance and staffing:

- a. For Major metropolitan cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai expenditure is more than the revenue generated due to less capacity in financing.
- b. Also, Strength of human resources is abysmally low compared to global cities such as Johannesburg and New York.
- c. **Impact:** Leading to poor capacity of municipalities in delivering infrastructure and services, and managing disasters which was very visible during the pandemic.

Disenfranchised Mayors

- India's metropolitan cities are headed by Mayors who are powerless and possess less authority owing to the practice of Indirect election of mayors in almost all big metropolitan cities with 10 million-plus population and short tenure of service.
- Further, Mayors do not have full decision-making authority over critical functions of planning, housing, water, environment etc. in most cases.
- Also, public agencies for planning, water and public transport report directly to State governments neglecting the role of Mayors.
- **Impact:** Citizens are unable to hold one political authority accountable in the city, as it is practically difficult to hold the Chief Minister or the State government accountable.

Lack of Transparency, accountability and citizen participation:

1. Metropolitan cities do not have a functional ward committees and area sabhas that encourages citizen participation.
2. The absence of citizen participation is compounded by the problem of poor transparency in finance and operations.
3. As per ASICS 2017, India's big metropolitan cities on average score 3.04/10 in transparency, accountability and participation.

Neglect of Smaller towns

- India's urbanisation is characterised by the emergence of smaller towns, that is emerging around existing large cities.
- According to the Centre for Policy Research, the growth of small towns in India is beyond the economics of large agglomerations.
- Going forward, the 69 metropolitan cities, combined with their hinterlands, will generate over half of India's incremental GDP between 2012 and 2025 - **McKinsey report**

- Yet, India Doesn't have an active discourse on cohesive metropolitan governance frameworks.

Inequitable public health system:

1. According to the World Bank, India's out-of-pocket health expenditure is more than three times compared to the world average (62.4% in 2017, world average 18.2%).
2. Public health system characterised by low manpower in the health sector for example, India's doctor-population ratio is 1:1,457 is lower than the World Health Organisation norm of 1:1,000.
3. **Impact:** Governance has a bearing cost on our preparedness for natural and man-made disasters and contingencies.

Way forward

- The fundamental change should include empowered Mayors with five-year tenure.
- **Imbibing lessons on direct election for mayors from global examples:** for example, the Tokyo metropolitan government, and recent experimental models such as combined authorities in the United Kingdom and Australia
- **To avoid the repeat of disasters** we need a medium to long-term spatial planning that focuses on equal access to opportunities and services.
- **Need to bolster the capability of municipalities** to self-govern with a sense of urgency.
- **Decentralise ward level governance, and inter-agency coordination** that ensure citizen participation platforms which can be helpful from identifying beneficiaries to recruiting volunteers, and collaborating with civil society organisations during any emergency.
- **To reap the benefit of scale**, India's urban vision should also focus on smaller towns while focusing on its metropolitan cities.

Conclusion: To build a comprehensive and integrated urban planning we need to introspect and reform the way India's metropolises are governed. The Central and State governments should lead efforts towards a metropolitan governance paradigm.

Syllabus: GS-2- Education

3. Significance of National Education Policy 2020

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Context: The Ministry of Human Resource Development announced The National education policy 2020 with a goal of transforming the system to meet the needs of 21st century India. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, opines that it has the potential to help India leverage its demographic dividend.

Significance of NEP 2020

1. **Access to Education:** The NEP 2020 focuses on universalising access from early childhood to higher education. It seeks to integrate nearly 2 crores out-of-school children and emphasises of socio-economically disadvantaged groups.
2. **Increased focus on Foundational Learning:** It advocates to boost foundational learning through early childhood care, a new curriculum and play- and activity-based pedagogy. Along with national mission for foundational literacy and numeracy, NEP 2020 will be significant for strengthening foundational learning in India.
3. **Departure from archaic practices and pedagogy:** NEP 2020 does away with the distinction between curricular, extra-curricular and co-curricular subjects in school.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

It also provides provision of multiple entry and exit options in higher education, options for learning vocational skills.

- 4. Assessment of Learning Outcomes:** NEP provides for a comprehensive system for regular, credible and comparable assessments of learning outcomes through the establishment of the National Assessment Centre called PARAKH (National Centre for Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development).
- 5. Revamped Teacher Education:** NEP 2020 provides a comprehensive curricular framework, multidisciplinary programmes and stringent action against substandard institutions providing teacher's education. It also calls for merit-based selection and deployment, online systems for teacher transfers.
- 6. Making India a higher education destination:** NEP 2020 calls for creation of an academic credit bank, the impetus to research, graded autonomy, internationalisation and the development of special economic zones. It also advocates multilingual education and efforts to enhance the traditional knowledge of India. All these will help India emerge as a destination of higher education.
- 7. Strengthening Governance:** It calls for school complexes and clusters to bring about efficient resourcing of delivery structures, common standards and norms to boost the quality of institutes across all levels, and a single regulatory body for higher education. This marks a shift from overregulated governance to a more coherent one.

Conclusion: The New Education Policy is a forward-looking framework for transforming Indian education. Proper implementation of its recommendation with a priority on empowering school children, appropriate government expenditure will ensure the success of public education and India's future.

2. Role of Parents in Early Childhood Care and Education

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: The National Education Policy 2020 lays out a detailed paradigm for educators to provide high-quality ECCE through preschools and anganwadis and emphasises on the role of parents in Early childhood care and education (ECCE).

How can low-income parents start getting more involved in ECCE?

- **Awareness:** Currently, 30% of low-income parents don't send their children to any ECCE institutions. This is due economic constraints, lack of awareness and social incentives. Therefore, it is important to raise awareness on the importance of ECCE through role modelling, mass media and social media involving examples of celebrities and influencers.
- **Providing Educational Tools:** It is important to provide low-income parents with educational tools to support their children. Educational content should be simplified and contextualised — creation, curation, and dissemination of content should be in local language.
- **Measurement of Progress:** Parents should be provided, on a regular basis, measurable indicator of progress and change. The child's progress and growth can be measured through rigorous assessments and through visual learning journeys.

3. NEP - right intention

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: The NEP policy 2020, which is the first policy on education after 34 years, was announced recently. It has several innovative ideas and daring proposals but also a few assumptions.

Bold moves in the policy

- **A 5+3+3+4 system** in school education has been introduced in the policy that includes:
 - Early childhood care and education
 - Universal education that includes the secondary level
 - Adoption of school complexes
 - Breakfast in the school meal programme
 - Introduction of vocational education at the upper primary level
- **A multidisciplinary system** which offers choices to students from among a variety of subjects from different disciplines irrespective of their “stream”.
 - Integrated education in undergraduate, postgraduate and research levels.
 - A four-year undergraduate programme
- There will be just **one regulatory body** for the entire sector in the Higher Education Commission of India.
- It aims to increase public **investment in education to 6% of the GDP** and promises to provide higher education free to about 50% of the students. It also aims to increase the gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035.
- The liberal arts, humanities, and Indian heritage and languages have been emphasised and facilitation of selective entry of high-quality foreign universities is there.
- **The three-language formula** will promote national integration and use of mother tongue while teaching till class 5 would also be beneficial.

What's missing in the final policy?

- “All commercially oriented private institutions will be closed”, this statement was mentioned in the draft policy but was missing in the final policy even though there is a serious problem with the private education sector in India.
- Now the policy simply states, “The matter of commercialization of education has been dealt with by the Policy through multiple relevant fronts, including: the ‘light but tight’ regulatory approach that mandates full public self-disclosure of finances”.
- The 2020 policy simply assures the commitment to allocation of 6% of GDP whereas doubling public expenditure on education to 20% of the total government expenditure was promised in the draft policy.
- There is no mention of State School Education Regulatory Authorities in the 2020 policy. At the State level, the Department of School Education is regarded as the apex body.
- There is also no promise of ‘full’ recruitment of teachers at all levels.

Way Forward

The policymakers will have to differentiate the not for profit, public spirited private sector and undesirable but powerful market forces in the education sector and regulate the entry and growth of the latter.

4. NEP 2020 and Medium of Instruction

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Context: The author opines that the National Education Policy 2020 does not adequately address the issue of inequity arising out of medium of instruction.

NEP 2020 on medium of instruction

- The NEP 2020 states that the mother-tongue or the regional language would be the “preferred” mode of instruction till Class 5, possibly Class 8.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- It also states that, “wherever possible” these languages will be used in public and private schools.

Previous Standard of Education in Bhasha-Schools

Even 20-25 years after Independence, most school-going children attended bhasha-medium schools and the medium of instruction did not hamper progress in life. This was primarily because:

- The standard of English taught in those schools was very good
- Most students belonged to the upper castes and had a tradition of education in their families.

Issues in Current Bhasha schools:

the quality of education in bhasha schools has deteriorated over the years. Further, students have opted out from these and there is a growing demand for English medium schools.

At present Bhasha schools mainly cater to students from Bahujan Samaj. These students face two issues:

- The quality of education is very poor
- Such children rarely have a tradition of education in their families and find it very difficult to compete with their peers from better financial background, better education and proficiency in English. Bhasha medium students do not get the coveted jobs and the disparity between the two widens.

Way Forward:

The author suggests that all students should be made to study English from an earlier age. Making special funds available for English-teaching at panchayat or zila parishad level schools should be the first step forward.

Syllabus: GS-2- Policy

5. Kashmir policy and federalism

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: The article 370 that defined Jammu and Kashmir’s relationship with the rest of India was turned down and a new framework was introduced in 2019 as there was an idea that existence of article 370 weakened the democracy.

Upend of article 370

- **Unavailability of democratic rights:** continued detention of political prisoners who have been elected and have represented the people, shows that if democratic rights are not available to political leaders’ then ordinary people cannot imagine holding these rights.
- The change was introduced on august 5, on the birthdate of foremost scholar and activist on Jammu and Kashmir, Balraj puri and his **two core ideas** were:
 - Peace would not arise in Jammu and Kashmir without guaranteeing respect for the democratic rights for its people.
 - To ensure the democratic rights the most important tool would be a rigorous pursuit of federalism within the state.

Key to integration

- “Policy of denying Kashmir a right to democracy , imposing of one party rule on the state through manipulation of elections, prevention of growing of opposition parties

and refusal of basic civil liberties and human rights has been a **greatest block in the integration**", Balraj Puri wrote in his book *Kashmir towards Insurgency*.

- There is a requirement to **emotionally integrate** Kashmir with the rest of India as the feeling of hopelessness and a threat to identity creates a breeding ground for militancy.

Asymmetry and federalism

1. Some people view last year's constitutional change as an attack on Indian federalism. Jammu and Kashmir's separate flag and constitution within the Indian union represented asymmetry which is an integral part in the Indian federal experience.
2. The multi-regional and ethnic Jammu and Kashmir's pursuit for autonomy should be seen with a broader lens as asymmetry has strengthened the Indian union and led to better policy implementation and participation in political processes.
3. The decline of political power from centre to Jammu and Kashmir should not lead to political hegemony of any one region or political party.

Way Forward

1. Serious introspection is required for all those who believe in an inclusive and accommodative idea of India.
2. A multi-layered, institutionalised decentralisation and respect for democratic rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

6. NEP issues

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Context: New educational institutions will not flourish in an old culture and they need an environment of trust and freedom. Changes in the educational culture are a requirement along with the change new policy has brought in.

The vision for higher education and NEP 2020

1. The policy has envisioned a complete **transformation of higher education ecosystem** by 2040.
2. All the colleges and universities, both public and private will be multidisciplinary with more 3000 students in each institution. There should be at least **one higher education institute in or near every district**.
3. Universities will do research as well as postgraduate and undergraduate teaching where medium of teaching will mostly in Indian local languages or bilingually.
4. All HEIs will eventually become "**independent self-governing institutions**" with considerable "**faculty and institutional autonomy**", having complied with a series of regulatory exercises that are "**light but tight**" operated by a large number of private license holders overseen by a new set of regulatory institutions at the national level.
5. India's higher education system will have **doubled the Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50 per cent by 2035**.
6. Refurbished Open and Distance Learning system and through the use of technologies including online modes will help in making the enrolment ratio double.

Problems in education system in reality

1. Accomplishment of "complete overhaul and re-energising of the higher education system" would be difficult as India is not starting with a clean slate but with **existing imperfect institutions**.
2. No clear roadmap is laid out in the policy for the complete makeover of existing educational culture where there is **fragmented ecosystem of low standard teaching**,

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

lesser emphasis on research, suboptimal governance and leadership and **ineffective regulatory system**.

3. NEP 2020 itself is **an exercise of imposing uniformity** and standardisation along a single axis of control and power, which is ironic given India's size, population, diversity and constitutional federalism.
4. One old institution may divide into four new ones, but the genetic material out of which these are created remains the same, and so does the institutional culture.

Way forward

1. It is important to recognise that institutions are organic entities with their own histories and have specific social and cultural contexts. Each ancient university is unique and should be allowed to flourish with trust and freedom as it would not be fruitful to cast each one of them in the same mould.
2. Creation of a new ecosystem is not the only solution, but new educational culture and environment also needs to be built.

Syllabus – GS 2 - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

7. Right to Education violated in COVID

Source – [Down to Earth](#)

Context – The online class is violating the very spirit of the Right to Education of children who lack resources.

Impact of online classes on rural government school

Case Study – Government schools of Odisha

1. Mobile Connectivity – According to Economic Survey (2018-19), more than 20 per cent (11,000) villages in Odisha do not have mobile connectivity.

2. Internet availability - Internet subscribers per 100 people in rural areas stand only at 16; it is 83.3 in urban areas.

3. Poor learning outcomes - At least 59 per cent of the students in class V failed to meet the required learning level in English; the figures were 53 per cent in Mathematics and 31 per cent in Odia language.

4. Child abuse - Children who stay at homes for a longer time risk being pulled into child labour or child marriage. They also face violence.

Suggested solution

Remedial classes - The government should initiate remedial classes for kids, starting with a small group comprising five-six students.

Way Forward - The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated structural disparities between rural and urban areas. It has had a critical impact on the education of children, especially the disadvantaged ones. Thus for disadvantaged sections, classroom-based learning remains the only hope.

Syllabus: GS-2- Judiciary

8. Online delivery of Justice

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: Justice delivery can shift online as it provides the opportunity to give more people access to justice and ease the burden on the courts.

Supreme Court in current situation

1. Efficient justice delivery will require the intervention of technology and a two-pronged approach towards dispute avoidance and dispute resolution.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

2. The Supreme Court heard over **7,000 matters online**, issuing more than **670 judgments** through more than **620 Benches** prior to its two-week recess whereas the Supreme Court of the UK had taken up just 10 cases and pronounced 15 judgments, and the Supreme Court of Canada heard 173 cases, both in a similar time frame to our apex court's.
3. The Supreme Court also brought in **e-filing** and released **comprehensive information modules** on how best to on-board these developments.

Online dispute resolution

- ODR has the potential to help solve small and medium disputes at scale before they even come before the formal court processes as ODR traces its ancestry to leading practices from alternative dispute resolution (ADR), matching them with the latest technology.
- ODR has been able to resolve hundreds of millions of matters at the conflict level, led by eBay and PayPal. In the European Union, an ODR platform provided by the European Commission helps make online shopping transactions fairer and safer.
- Recently, **an e-Lok Adalat** was live streamed in Chhattisgarh, hearing 3,000 matters over 200 Benches across districts in the State.

Innovative mechanism

- There needs to be **a fundamental change in the mind set** where justice is a service that is availed of and not a place for dispute resolution (court) where justice is administered.
- India is leading the way in innovative justice delivery through initiatives led by the e-Courts project, whose impact will penetrate both vertically and laterally.
- ODR as a **technology-led affordable solution** is needed to help take matters outside the court.
- The combination of technology and data with negotiation, mediation and adjudication supported by all concerned stakeholders will enable this approach to avoiding, containing and resolving disputes.

Way forward

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) could be a vital component in the bid to make life simpler for every person who seeks access to justice through technology, positive intent and active implementation.

Syllabus: GS-2- Polity

9. Preventive detention

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: Unchecked preventive detention and difficulty in accessing information in the valley are the violation of human rights ever since the abrogation of article 370.

Under house arrest

- The state is empowered to declare a building or house as a sub-jail even though the concept of house arrest is not mentioned in the criminal manual.
- The resident of a sub-jail is automatically under detention which is also known as house arrest.
- The state virtually acquires the property for its own purposes and the owner of the house is entitled to rent or compensation for the use and occupation of the property.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- For instance, vast tracts of land were taken over by the armed forces to suppress an insurgency. Mizo landowners have petitioned for compensation, though with little effect and people in the valley may face similar problem.
- During the emergency, few tourist resorts near Delhi were declared as sub-jails where prominent political leaders were confined.

Preventive detention

1. Preventive detention under the public safety act is harsh but our constitution provides **important procedural safeguards** that must be followed by the state.
2. It's the fundamental right of the person in detention to be communicated and informed about the grounds of detention and given a chance of representation against the order.
3. Decisions of the Supreme Court hold that if there is an unexplained delay of even one or two days in dealing with representation, the order of preventive detention is debased.
4. In **the case of A.K Roy v. Union of India (1981)** the Supreme Court stated that "Laws of preventive detention cannot, by the back door, introduce procedural measures of a punitive kind, the normal rule has to be that the person in detention will be kept in a place which is within the localities of his or her ordinary place of residence."

Problems faced by people of the valley

1. **Access to information** is a human right, if not a fundamental right yet the residents of the valley have been deprived of the benefit of 4G internet for past one year.
2. **Right to health** is an essential component of the **right to life** and this has been denied to a large number of patients as medical professionals have difficulty in advising and counselling their patients.
3. **The economy in the valley** has taken a hit as businesses have suffered.
4. It has been difficult for students as **the joy of learning has become a hassle** with 2G internet.

Way forward

It is possible to block access even in a limited way with today's advanced technology and so the threat which comes with uncontrolled access to internet and misuse of internet by terrorists and militants could be curbed.

10. One year of the abrogation of Article 370

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: It's been one year since the abrogation of some provisions of the Article 370

Background

On 5th August, 2019, the government of India took the following steps:

- Promulgated the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019. The order abrogated some provisions in Article 370.
- Introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019. As per the provisions of the bill, the state of J&K has been bifurcated into two Union territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 was also introduced to extend the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in educational institutions and government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Article 370

The Article 370 of Indian Constitution gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The article was drafted in Part XXI of the Indian Constitution: “Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions”. This special status gave the following special powers to J&K:

- It allowed J&K to have its own Constitution and Flag.
- Article 370 also explicitly mentioned that only the provisions of Article 1 and Article 370 applied to the state.
- The Centre could extend the central laws on subjects included in the Instrument of Accession (IoA) — Defence, External Affairs and Communications — by “consultation” with the state government.
- The remaining central laws could be extended to the state only with the “concurrence” of the state government.

Article 35A

- It was included in the Constitution by a Presidential Order in 1954.
- Article 35A of the Indian Constitution gave power to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to define ‘permanent residents’ of the state, their special rights and privileges. The Jammu and Kashmir Constitution was adopted on November 17, 1956. It defined a ‘permanent resident’ as a person who was a state subject on May 14, 1954, or was a resident in the state for 10 years on that date, with a legally acquired property.
- As per the provisions of Article 35A, non-permanent residents couldn’t acquire immovable property, get government employment, scholarships or other aid provided by the state government.
- It also provided that no act of the J&K legislature under Article 35A can be challenged on the grounds of violating the Indian Constitution.

Improvements in Jammu and Kashmir after removal of Article 370

- **End of Discrimination:** Article 370 was discriminatory on the basis of caste, class, gender and place of origin. For instance, many who migrated from Pakistan post-partition were not given Permanent Resident Status, voting rights etc. Similarly, Article 35A was discriminatory to the Valmikis who were brought in from Punjab as government sweepers in 1957. But the provisions of Article 35A prevented them from getting a permanent resident status. The removal of Article 370 has ended discrimination.
- **Right to Education:** After removal of Article 370, Right to Education is applicable in the region. This has paved the way for universal elementary education across the region.
- **Reduced Militancy:** Abrogating Article 370 has helped in integrating the region with the rest of the country. This has helped bringing private investments, generate revenue and create new jobs for the locals and reduced militancy in J&K.
- **Gender Rights:** Article 35A led to denial of property rights to women who marry outside the state. For ex- the child of a woman married to an outsider was denied inheritance rights. The discriminatory provisions have been removed after removal of Article 35 A.
- **Economic Transformation:**
 - National Saffron Mission has been introduced and more than 3,500 hectares of land are being rejuvenated for saffron cultivation
 - The government is also incentivising farmers to introduce ultra-high-density plantation of apple and other fruits.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Tourism infrastructure is being upgraded in mission mode. In a bid to further boost tourism and connectivity, 11 airports in J&K and two in Ladakh are being considered under the UDAN scheme.
- **Health Infrastructure revamped:** The health sector has been transformed with the opening of two AIIMS Hospitals and five new medical colleges. The Ayushman Bharat scheme is now available for all residents of J&K.

ForumIAS

General Studies Paper - 3

General Studies - 3

Syllabus: GS-3- Environment- Environmental impact assessment

1. Ecological restoration

Source: [DownToEarth](#)

Context: Our natural ecosystems need restoration beyond conservation and significant steps have been made in both the science and practice of restoration over the last three decades.

Ecosystem degradation

- It is one of the **biggest environmental threats** as almost all our ecosystems, terrestrial or otherwise, stand degraded to varying degrees due to a **mix of factors** such as developmental pressures, population growth, over-exploitation, etc.
- Other factors such as invasive alien species and climate change also impact many ecosystems.
- Degradation has **serious implications** for human well-being and economic sustainability. Degradation of natural ecosystems in the Western Ghats poses a direct threat to water security, and in turn, to livelihoods of millions of people in the plains.
- We are in a situation where conservation is not enough as Mangroves along our coastline are severely impaired and need intervention and many protected areas like national parks stand ecologically unprotected due to invasion by species such as *Lantana camara*.

Ecological restoration

- Ecological restoration is defined as “the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed”.
- **Objective of restoration:** It is done through a scientific process of benchmarking with reference models from the same native ecosystem in order to achieve an ecosystem to recover to its pre-degradation trajectory.
- **Ecosystem integrity:** It forms the foundation of ecological restoration and covers both biotic and abiotic aspects.
- All elements of an ecosystem such as soil, hydrology, flora, fauna, etc are given importance in restoration. This makes restoration **different from other rehabilitation approaches** such as afforestation and reforestation, which mainly focus on planting of saplings of a few tree species.

Growth of the restoration discipline

- **Restoration methodologies** have been developed worldwide for different degradation scenarios including for extreme ones like landslides, mining, forest fires, etc.
- The publication of the standards for the practice of **ecological restoration by the Society for Ecological Restoration**, the leading global body for the discipline has been important for the discipline.
 - It includes leading-edge monitoring methods to measure the ecological as well as social outcomes of restoration initiatives.
 - These standards provide the core principles and framework for restoration.
- Ecological restoration has been placed at the forefront of the world’s biodiversity and climate change agendas by The Bonn Challenge declaration and the United Nations declaration of 2021-30 as the ‘Decade of Ecosystem Restoration’.
- Climate change programmes should embrace restoration principles so that biodiversity goals are achieved simultaneously.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

The Indian context and way forward

- The need for restoration is considerable and urgent in India where most initiatives are small and site-specific. It is still a developing discipline in the country.
- For example, most forests lying outside protected areas have been degraded due to high human pressure. Our protected areas, in turn, are affected by factors like invasive alien species.
- India has a target of restoring 26 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030.
 - A large number of well-trained restoration practitioners would be required to achieve this goal and there is a need for separate mechanisms to train field-level personnel who will be handling implementation and monitoring of programmes.
 - Projects should adhere to the core principles of restoration. The international standards can help in this regard, with suitable adaptation for Indian conditions.
 - Sustained funding and focus is required as the restoration project lasts well over five-six years.

2. Dilution in EIA

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: Climate action group Fridays for Future India was recently charged under the UAPA and the IT Act for protesting against the new draft Environment Impact Assessment notification.

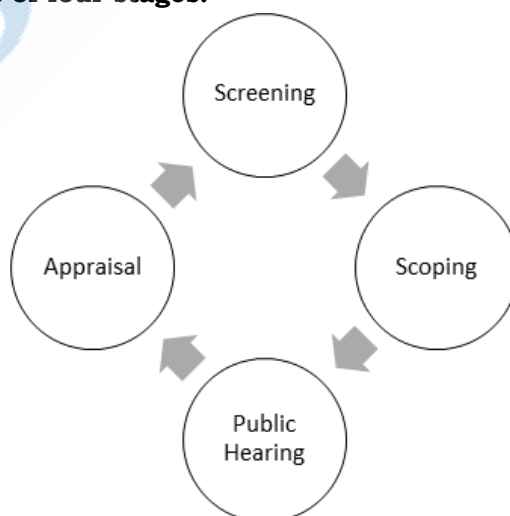
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- EIA is a process which studies all aspects of the environment and seeks to anticipate the impact (positive and/or negative) of a proposed project or development on the environment.
- EIA is mandatory under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 for 29 categories of developmental activities involving investments of Rs. 50 crores and above.
- India for the first time in 1994 notified its first set of assessment norms, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It mandated that projects beyond a certain size from certain sectors (e.g. mining, thermal power plants, ports, airports and atomic energy) get an environmental clearance as a precondition to their commencement.

EIA 2006

It increased the number of projects that required an environmental clearance. It also created appraisal committees at the level of both the Centre and States.

The **EIA Cycle** comprises of four stages:



9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

EIA 2006 categorized development projects in two categories:

- **Category A:** These projects require mandatory environmental clearance and do not go through screening process. They are appraised at the national level by Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) and the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).
- **Category B:** They are appraised at the state level. State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) are constituted to provide clearance to these projects. Category B projects are further categorised into two:
 - A) Category B1 projects: They require mandatory EIA
 - B) Category B2 projects: They do not require EIA

Issues with EIA 2006

- The final EIA report is often not made available to the public
- The procedure for securing clearances for certain kinds of projects has been accelerated
- There is often little scope available for independent judicial review.

Draft EIA Notification 2020

Changes proposed	Concern
It allows for post facto approval for projects. It has provisions to award clearances for projects even if they have started construction or have been running without securing environmental clearances.	It is in violation of the “precautionary principle”-a principle of environmental sustainability. Further, any environmental damage caused by the project is likely to be waived off by only as the violations get legitimised.
It has omitted prior screening requirements for Category B projects and expanded the list of projects categorised under B2	It has eased process for many industries which might have socio-environmental consequences. Compromising appraisal in such cases will result in further environmental damage.
It proposes to classify inland waterways as Category B2 projects and will not require public consultations irrespective of whether these projects are located in notified ecologically sensitive areas.	It might have significant impact on the marine ecosystem and long-term survival of India’s rivers
It proposes to expand the list of projects that do not require public consultation before receiving Prior-EC. It confers absolute power to the central government to categorise projects as “strategic” and information related to these projects will not be put in public domain.	The provision has completely diluted public consultation process and there is a risk of states taking up development initiatives at the risk of environmental degradation
New construction projects up to 1,50,000 square metres (instead of the existing 20,000 square metres) will not require detailed scrutiny by the Expert Committee, EIA studies and public consultation.	The building and construction sector is among the largest greenhouse gas emitters however, the proposed notification gives leeway to the sector
It proposes an eased monitoring mechanism Under the draft, project owners are to submit environmental compliance	It dilutes the backbone of environment clearance rules i.e. monitoring the conditions on which projects are cleared

reports (after getting clearance) every year in contrast to present 6 months.	and ensuring compliance.
--	--------------------------

Way Forward: Mere strengthening of the existing EIA norms will not by itself be sufficient to address environmental issues. Government to address the increasing socio-economic and environmental challenges in a comprehensive manner by striking a balance between ecological and developmental projects.

3. Indoor air pollution and LPG usage

Source: [Hindu BusinessLine](#)

Syllabus: GS-3- Environment

Context: Indoor air pollution and LPG usage

Status of Air Pollution in India

- In 2018, India had 22 of the world's 30 most air-polluted cities.
- Indoor Air Pollution: Household sources of ambient air pollution, such as cooking and heating, are the single largest contributors in much of the developing world, including India.
- Air pollution levels within households that cook with solid fuels, such as wood and cow-dung, is estimated to 40 times higher the safe limit prescribed by the WHO.

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Aim:** To replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).
- **Objective of the scheme:** (a) Empower women and protect their health (b) Reduce the serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuel (c) Reduce the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel and (d) To prevent young children from significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution.
- **Beneficiaries:** Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a below poverty line family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.

Issues and Challenges with reducing air pollution through LPG Usage

- **Affordability and Inactive gas cylinders:** Many people with new connection Under PMUY are not refilling their cylinders after the first use. This is primarily because not only installing charges but refilling charges of LPG cylinders is considered to be very high. The scheme does not have provision of bearing the cost of the subsequent refills.
- **Subsidy Design:** Though LPG is subsidised in India, the subsidy design is complex. This hinders uneducated and liquidity constrained consumers to either comprehend or take advantage of the subsidy
- **Low awareness:** A major issue is low awareness with regard to advantages of LPG as a cooking fuel. Further, the lack of familiarity in operating LPG gas stoves is another issue hindering LPG adoption.

Way Forward: The LPG subsidy scheme should be redesigned to increase take-up. Rural people should be educated about the subsidy scheme and ill-effects of soil fuels.

4. Role of Indigineous people in REDD+ initiatives

Source: [Down-to-earth](#)

Context: REDD+ initiatives needs to accommodate the interests of indigineous people to attain its true potential

Objective: REDD+ aims to create financial value for stored carbon in forests by incentivising developing countries.

Significance: It provides for a quick and low-cost mechanism to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrialised era.

Principles of REDD+

1. Reducing emissions from deforestation
2. Reducing emissions from forest degradation
3. Conservation of carbon stocks
4. Sustainable management of forests
5. Enhancement of carbon stocks

REDD+ impacts on forest dependent communities

- **Violation of Rights** leading to increased socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities of the affected communities.
- **Following Top-down approach** disrupts their traditional livelihoods, traditional forest management and use practices, leading to increased conflicts.
- **Lack of adequate safeguards and shortfalls in implementation** prevent the benefits from reaching indigenous peoples.
- **Limited information sharing & uneven awareness:** women and poor villagers are being less informed about project activities.
- **Women Empowerment:** REDD+ initiatives has increased women's participation in village decision-making processes.

Measures to protect:

The Cancun Agreement: At COP 16, the Cancun Agreement was adopted which has laid out Seven safeguards to mitigate negative impacts of REDD+ activities. Important among them are

- Need to be respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities.
- It stressed on the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders.

The Warsaw Framework: It mandated that, for a recipient country to avail finances REDD+ implementation it should develop a mechanism to showcase how the safeguards are addressed and respected.

Independent contracts from multilateral institutions will also require additional safeguard to be followed by developing countries. For example, The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has allocated \$500 million for its pilot programme for REDD+. To avail this fund, recipient country should follow the safeguards in "Indigenous Peoples Policy" adopted by GCF.

Way forward: Change in approach required to reap the non-carbon benefits of forests sustainably.

Rights-based approach: with a strong emphasis on free, prior and informed consent Also, there needs to be an inbuilt mechanism for quick access to justice and grievance redressal mechanism.

Bottom-up approach: A decentralised approach should be followed to enhance the rights, responsibilities and decision-making power of the local communities. It can be done by restructuring the forest management system.

Capacity building for meaningful participation: The REDD+ implementation process should actively engage indigenous peoples in the decision-making process and focus on capacity building efforts at the grassroots level. TO achieve this REDD+ initiatives should strive to gain trust among forest-dwelling communities.

Generate reliable data related to carbon stocks at a lower cost: If the measures such as capacity building and rights-based approach are properly implemented, forest communities will be willing to engage in participatory forest resource mapping which can be used to generate reliable data

Conclusion: India's Nationally Determined Contribution vowed an additional carbon sink of three billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. A well-defined REDD+ programme in India can help India to attain its goal for creating additional carbon sinks.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – Proposed amendments

Source – [The Hindu Businessline](#)

Syllabus - GS 3 - Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Context- In the context of the industrialization-led economic development model, the main ethical dilemma is what constitutes an appropriate trade-off between industrial development and environmental protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - Environmental Impact Assessment or EIA is the process or study which predicts the effect of a proposed industrial/infrastructural project on the environment. It prevents the proposed activity/project from being approved without proper oversight or taking adverse consequences into account.

Challenges in implementing EIA

1. Prior clearance – The projects that fail to obtain prior clearance has been a difficult issue for the regulator, since the project proponents cite sunk investments if the penalty for violation involves shutting down the project.

2. Post-hoc legalization - Post-hoc legalization of such violations lead to perverse incentives for the industry, rendering the entire regulation redundant.

Process to apprehend violators

In the draft notification, the Ministry has laid out a process that such violators should follow in order to continue their operations legally:

1. Stage 1 – The Appraisal Committee will assess that whether the project can be run sustainably under compliance of environmental norms with adequate environmental safeguards. If the answer is no, it can recommend closure of the project.

2. Stage 2 - If yes, then it will require the project proponent to assess the ecological damage and prepare a remediation plan as well as a “natural and community resource augmentation plan”, along with an EIA report and also required to submit a

bank guarantee, equivalent to the cost of the remediation plan, prior to receiving an environmental clearance.

Issues with the proposed Legalization process-

- 1. Conflict of interest** - The damage assessment is carried out by an accredited third party hired by the project proponent which leads to conflict of interest.
- 2. Penalties** - The penalties, ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs.10,000 per day for the period of violation, are not high enough to act as a deterrent.
- 3. Clause 22** - According to Clause 22, only the violators themselves or a regulatory or governmental authority can bring the violation to notice.

Way forward - Centre must adopt a more deliberative approach that takes into account various stakeholder views. It is imperative that the government incorporates a wide range of perspectives, before the new notification is finalized.

Syllabus: GS-3- Economy

6. Reviving Economy

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: India's economy is going to contract significantly as an impact of COVID-19 and ways to revive the economy in order to build India's confidence is to be thought of.

An event with deep impact

- Economic contraction is a reversal of many years of progress and not just falling of the GDP number. Following are the occurrences that may take place due to the contraction:
 - A significant number among the weaker sections of our society may slip back into poverty which is rare for a developing nation.
 - An entire generation may be lost due to severe unemployment.
 - Many enterprises may shut down.
 - A contracting economy can adversely impact our ability to feed and educate our children owing to a shortage of financial resources.
- The slowdown in economic activity is both a function of external factors such as the lockdown and behavioural changes of people and enterprises, driven by fear.

NREGA and cash support

- Thrice the usual number of people and 10 times more than the total number employed by the entire listed corporate sector has demanded work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) programme at minimum wages. (approximately 62 million)
- Even though the MGNREGA programme has proved to be a bed rock of support in such times but it is not enough.
- India is the only large democracy that has not provided direct cash assistance of a significant amount during the COVID-19 crisis and so money in the hands of people should be provided.
- For instance, In the United States, as per reports, nearly three-quarters of unemployed workers received higher pay and benefits under their government's COVID-19 assistance than from their employers. But this has not prevented American industry from reopening.

Current financial system

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Interest rate reductions, credit guarantee and liquidity enhancement schemes are some steps taken by the RBI and the government to restore confidence in the financial system. However, they have largely failed since banks are not confident of lending.
- Allowing institutions such as the RBI, public sector banks, bankruptcy boards, securities and insurance regulators to function freely and professionally is the foundational step to restoring confidence in the financial system.
- When firms feel confident of availability of capital and consumers, they do not need much else to kick-start production and investment, so the processes such as the insolvency process must be allowed to function smoothly without intervention.

Government's role in the current financial situation

- India must make full use of loan programmes of international institutions such as the **International Monetary Fund and the World Bank** as the country is an ideal borrower for these institutions with no default, timely repayments and full transparency.
- India should pay attention to the old ways of **deficit monetisation by the RBI**, also known as printing money.

Way Forward

- Restoring confidence in people through direct cash assistance and other welfare programmes can help them live their lives and spend.
- Restoring confidence among bankers through autonomy of institutions and processes will help them lend.
- Restoring confidence among businesses with greater access to capital will help them invest and create jobs.
- Restoring confidence among international organisations by re-establishing the credibility of our institutions will help get funding assistance and objective sovereign ratings.

Syllabus: GS3: Issues related to Direct and Indirect Farm Subsidies

7. PM-KISAN

Source: Indian Express

Context: The recent telephonic survey conducted by NCAER National Data Innovation Centre around Delhi-NCR reveals useful insights role of PM-KISAN in alleviating economic distress among farmers.

PM-KISAN:

- It is the first **universal basic income** scheme aimed at alleviating the agricultural stress of farmers.
- Under this scheme central government will pay Rs.6000 per year in 3 instalments of 2000.
- Initially it was targeted at small and medium landed farmers later it was **expanded to all farmers** from May 2019.
- Budgetary allocation for the year 2020-21 is Rs 75,000 crore.

Findings from the survey

- According to the survey, the farmers recorded a lower level of **economic distress** among farmers than among other groups such as business, casual labours etc.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Faced with only **logistical challenges** in transporting and selling their produce, most farmers continued to harvest rabi crops and prepared for the kharif season. This shows farmers were relatively immune to the economic impact of the lockdown compared to other groups.
- It was also observed that, the beneficiaries under PM-KISAN experienced relatively lower signs of economic distress. However, these beneficiaries were better off than the general rural population. Hence, PM-KISAN scheme cannot be the sole reason for their immunity towards income shock
- The most worrisome revealing was that only 21 per cent of the farmers were receiving the benefits inspite of the scheme being extended to all farmers.

Conclusion: The scheme serves the better off than the poor rural population. The problem is compounded by exclusion and inadequate reach to the needy. Hence the relevance of the scheme needs to be re- evaluated.

Syllabus: GS3: Inclusive Growth and issues arising from it.

8. Development of Eastern States

Source: Indian Express

Context: Prioritising education to reduce Population growth can ensure development of the Eastern states.

The Chinese growth story

Reforms in Agriculture:

- China's Economic reforms started in 1978 by bringing transformational changes in Agriculture sector.
- It established a household responsibility system in land holdings by dismantling its earlier commune system.
- Agricultural reforms were also focused on deregulation of agricultural price control.
- **Impact:** It ensured a high growth rate in agriculture (4.5 per cent per annum between 1978 and 2018). The real income of farmers doubled, which in turn created a huge demand for industrial products, which helped to build a demand base for a long-term manufacturing revolution.

Reforms in population policy

- Along with Economic reforms china also introduced its one child policy to arrest its population growth. It was introduced in 1979 and continued till 2015.
- **Impact:** China's average family size of 4.84 in 1971, dropped to 3.03 in 2017. Dramatic increase in per capita income. China's per capita income was even lower than that of India during 1978, but today it is almost five times higher. This transformation that has made China the world's second superpower

Comparison with India's Economic reforms

- India's economic reforms started in 1991 by bringing changes in its trade and industrial policies. This had only limited success in the states of Eastern India.
- Much of the reason can be cited due to large family sizes in these states (average Indian household in Bihar, Jharkhand, Up is more than 5 as per the 2011 Census) and very small agricultural holdings.
- **Impact:** These states lag behind the all India average on developmental indicators. The eastern states Bihar, UP and Jharkhand has the lowest per capita incomes amongst the country's major states. Their growth rate remained below the all India

annual average. This scenario very well explains the largest migration of rural labour to Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi from these states.

Way forward:

- **Push for increasing Literacy levels:** Unlike china India is a vibrant democracy which cannot enforce a one-child policy to overcome its population problem. Therefore, the only way out for India is a massive education drive, especially directed towards the girl child supported with liberal scholarships.
- **Long-term plan for massive infusion of development funds for the laggard Eastern states** to improve basic infrastructure of health, education (including population control), housing, roads, power and water etc. This will also create jobs and ensure development.
- **Increasing the overall expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP** as reiterated by The New Education Policy.
- **Massive Funding:** Along with public spending, the private sector can also be roped in to channel their CSR funds in well-designed schemes.

Conclusion: Mobilising resources for Financing such a mega investment plan is a difficult task. Rationalisation and pruning of the massive subsidies given to food, fertilisers, power sector, and disinvestment in loss making public enterprises can help in financing a development plan for eastern India.

Gs3: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

9. Securing labours during covid crisis

Source: [livemint](https://www.livemint.com)

Context: While much of the nations have tried supporting their workers during Covid crisis India's response towards securing its workers livelihood has been inadequate.

Impact of Covid Crisis on workers

- While the workers employed in the technology, finance and consulting sectors were able mitigate the effect of Covid Crisis as a result of **work-from-home (WFH) policies**, most of the impact was on vulnerable workers.
- Almost 70% of women, those employed in the health and social care sectors and work as informal and temporary workers were deeply affected.
- Migrants and international immigrants were also affected disproportionately due to unsustainable jobs and high burden of health care.
- Equivalently, (MSME) workers who were employed in their own micro businesses in particular have suffered the most.

ILO's Response to Secure workers

- **About ILO:** It came into force in 1919. It aims to set labour standards, develop policies, and devise programmes to promote decent work for all women and men by bringing together the governments, employers and workers of its 187 member states.
- **Response during covid crisis:** To save businesses and jobs, to prevent layoffs, to protect incomes and livelihoods of labours and to leave no one behind the ILO supports its member countries to plan their relief packages.
- **ILO's four pillared recovery strategy:**
 - Stimulating the economy and jobs
 - Supporting enterprises, employment and incomes

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Protecting workers in the workplace
- Dialoguing among the GWE to promote solutions.

Global Response to secure workers during covid crisis

- In the developed economies workers were provided assistance through measures such as **unemployment insurance** and a **worker wage subsidy**.
- European countries such as Germany, France, United Kingdom have **subsidized companies** to keep workers on their payrolls.
- Whereas in the U.S, the **unemployment insurance payment** was raised by \$600 a week.
- The most effective measure from the worker's point of view was the **job-sharing programmes** among workers that were initiated in some European nations like Germany, in which workers were paid nearly full wages for partial work eliminating the need to lay off people simultaneously it also reduced the requirement for retrenchment.

India's Weak Response towards the plight of labours

- While the India's measures to rescue its economy, through fiscal and monetary stimulus and an MSME support programme were appreciable, its Direct measures related to the formal and informal labour market have been inadequate.
- With respect to migrants, the central government response has been largely restricted to repatriation transportation.
- The states have made their situation worse by issuing ordinances to relax labour regulations that are against ILO norms and even violative of draft labour codes. For example,
 - Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka have increased the maximum factory work hours per day to 12, and from 60 to 72 hours per week whereas the ILO specifies a maximum of 9 hours per day and 48 hours per week.
 - Further the UP and Gujarat government have specified that the extra hours are not eligible for overtime payment.
- Added to this, it's impossible to have a specific welfare scheme exclusively for labours as only 10% of its labour force makes up the formal labour market and another 12-15% working as contract labour which means that only about 22-25% can be identified and provided specific support.

Conclusion: A concerted effort should be made to give workers a financial identity by collating and simplifying labour laws into a few codes and reducing labour compliances at the Centre and states. Only then marginalized workers will have the legal recourse to avail their welfare benefits.

10. Agricultural economy cannot drive growth across the overall economy

Source: [livemint](https://www.livemint.com)

Context: Theories that highlights the indicators of increase in tractor sales, increased govt procurement of food grains, expected growth in agriculture sector to argue that agricultural economy would revive the Indian rural economy which in turn drive growth across the overall economy is untrue.

Reasons:

- First, Rural economy is not only about agriculture.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Second, increased govt procurement of food grains does not benefit the farmers universally.
- Third, increase in tractor sales only indicate that rich farmers are doing well.
- Other factors convey that Rural economy will be impacted negatively

Rural economy is not only about agriculture:

- According to **NABARD's All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17**, only 23% of the income of an average rural household came from agriculture. Surprisingly, out of the 23% total income of an agricultural household, 34% of the income came from wage labour.
- Excluding agriculture, the non-agricultural rural economy consists of construction, manufacturing, financial services, communication and the government.
- As a recent phenomenon, manufacturing activities has been shifted to rural areas owing to non-availability of land in urban areas which has helped in job creation and facilitated the slow movement of people from agriculture to manufacturing.
- Out of the 63 million MSMEs that contributes to 30% of India's gross domestic product (GDP), 50% are in rural areas.

Issues in Government procurement policy (MSP):

- **Restrictive:** Because a farmer in order to sell his produce to the government, he needs to produce above a minimum threshold also he should have the financial capacity to bear upfront expenses involved in selling to the government.
- **Lacks wide coverage:** Procurement operations of the government are unequally concentrated in certain parts of the country and it tends to benefit the farmers in those parts only. **For example**, in case of wheat, Punjab has more than 80% coverage compared to U.P which has only 7% coverage under procurement operations
- **Monopoly in crops:** It encourages farmers to grow rice and wheat at the expense of other crops such as pulses, oilseeds etc.
- **Not farmer centric:** The agricultural economy is more than just rice and wheat. It does not support farmers producing vegetable, fruits, dairy, Horticulture and poultry.

Tractor sale cannot reflect the state of the overall agricultural economy: First, tractors form an insignificant part of the overall agricultural economy. Second, Tractors are too expensive for a normal farmer to buy hence increase in tractor sales only indicate that rich farmers are doing well whereas Indian agriculture is characterised by 85% of small and marginal farmers.

Other Factors affecting Rural growth:

- **Weakening MSMEs**
 - According to Reserve Bank of India's latest systemic risk survey, the MSME sector is affected by lack of cash flows, Low demand, lack of manpower, stuck working capital and a lack of capital which has further created the stress on employment.
 - According to the third national multi-institutional survey on MSMEs estimates close to a third of the jobs in the sector would have disappeared by the end of Aug 2020.
 - This is evident from the massive demand for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
 - This explains the fact that, the non-agricultural part of the rural economy, which is close to 70% is inadequate to generate work equal to the demand created and forcing people towards MGNREGS.

- **Inadequacy in MGNREGA to sustain employability**
- **Not every household that demands work is entitled to work.** Out Of the 125 million households which have demanded work this year, only 104 million households (or around 84%) have managed to get work.
- **Regional Variation in coverage:** States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have better coverage under the scheme in comparison to states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, etc. Despite the fact that the bulk of internal migrants in India's cities come from the poor states.
- **Fall in remittances:** due to reverse migration of workers from urban centres, internal remittances are expected to come down which will have a negative impact on the rural economy.
- **Contracting State finances:** State governments expenditure has been greater than centre for the last 5 years. With declining tax collection and need to allocate more money to health care sector to fight covid will also impact rural growth negatively.
- **Stagnant economy due to spread of Covid 19:** Rural areas have weak medical infrastructure facilities, with covid 19 spreading to rural areas will prompt the government to enforce lockdown which will stall the rural momentum

Conclusion: All these reasons demonstrates that while the agricultural economy cannot drive growth across the overall economy.

11. Need a bottom up approach to tackle the new economic challenges of 21st century

Source: [LiveMint](#)

Context: The new economic challenges of 21st century cannot be tackled with old trade and free-market ideas (Export led growth, Market reforms, sustaining high growth rate etc.)

Culmination of export-led growth

- By transforming itself into an export-based economy, China became the factory of the world that helped them to lift itself out of poverty. But now, the world will not be ready to allow another china to rise. So, export led growth will not be a reality in coming days.
- India needs to concentrate on specific sectors where Indian manufacturers can compete with the world rather than focusing on to replace China as global supply chains look to diversify their sources.

Market reforms won't work

- Market reforms produced the intended benefits during 1991 by boosting growth and generating new jobs but the same won't be able to deliver results in this complex changing world.
- With growth in technology, it has replaced all other factors of production as the main driver of growth.
- Now, for businesses, labour laws aren't the source of worry. They look up to other factors such as court delays, excess regulation at multiple levels (central, state and local bodies) and expensive logistics to decide their investment. Hence market reforms cannot generate jobs as well as growth.

Economies cannot sustain high growth due to decreasing demand and decline in credit growth

- With more focus on climate change and threat of global warming forcing the world to "reduce, recycle and reuse" demand for consumption will reduce.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Also, with most of the developed nations are ageing and a greater number of developing nations reaching replacement fertility rate growth is expected to slow down.
- Changing demand structures that advances pay-by-use ideas (rental homes, shared mobility) inspite of ownership of goods have impacted credit growth as companies are reluctant to borrow to finance expansion.
- Similarly, companies are more pronounced towards equity rather than debt. This means that banks need to shrink their traditional volume businesses and focus on small firms which affects credit growth.

Conclusion: The government needs to devolve more powers to empower people to try and experiment what works for them so that they can develop the needed resilience to respond to new opportunities and threats posed in a more complex world.

12. Labour industrial relationship

Source: [The Hindu Business line](#)

Context: India is living in denial and needs to fix the imperfections of the industry-labour relationship.

Business industry and plausible deniability

- **Plausible deniability** involves deliberately not acknowledging information by those in power who are exposed to public scrutiny of their actions, so that they can deny any involvement with certain actions or developments with a reasonable degree of believability.
- Head of the CIA and America's chief spymaster, Allen Dulles brought up the concept of plausible deniability during the height of the Cold War in the 1960s.
- Plausible deniability has been lost on its exact nature of the relationship between business and industry in India that is large-scale, organised, small, medium, unorganised, micro and labour due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sudden migration

- There has been an exploitation and abuse of workers' rights as many labourers were forced to head back to their native towns post the announcement of a sudden lockdown.
- **Different treatment for permanent and contractual staff:** India's biggest names in business which can claim that they are complying with not just the letter but spirit of labour laws when it comes to their full-time or permanent staff, claim with plausible deniability that their contractual or part-time staff are also treated exactly the same way.

Middle-men

- Large **employers get the labour they need at prices they like**, without having to suffer the time consuming burden of agreement which falls on any unit which actually tangles with India's devious labour laws.
- The **so-called labour contractors**, who have contacts and muscle power to back it, provide large numbers of skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled workers at short notice to the organised-sector players.
 - The big companies themselves do not deal with them directly but through agencies and service contractors.
- These large contractors provide not only employment but often **shared housing and even food or mess facilities**, and **in return take up a healthy slice of the workers' earnings**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- Soon after Lockdown 1.0 started these middle men vanished or kicked out these labourers resulting millions of workers on the streets heading home.

Pressure on operations

- “Low capacity utilisations, higher production cost and hence margin contraction are likely to impact the companies facing labour shortage due to reverse migration and the manufacturing sector will be at the forefront of the disruption particularly micro, small & medium enterprises in Maharashtra and Delhi”, according to a **report by India Ratings & Research**.
- Delhi has a **‘Migrant Dependency Ratio’ of 93.52** and the percentage of migrant labour as part of the total workforce.
 - Haryana is also classified as “highly vulnerable” with an MDR of 51.74.
 - Maharashtra and Gujarat are classified as “moderately vulnerable” with their MDRs at 29.19 and 17.12 respectively.
- **Causes of the reverse migration**
 - Preferring the shortcut of dealing with intermediaries and middle men.
 - Treating all legal requirements which increase the cost of labour as a hinderance to business.
 - Treating labour as disposable inputs instead of partners in their business.
- **Impact of the labour shortage**
 - Lack of skilled labour will lead to **“significant pressure on the output, leading to underutilised capacity”**, according to India ratings and research.
 - Manufacturing cost is likely to increase, led by either loss of economies of scale or higher wages of workers, as **demand exceeds supply**.

Way forward

- Deals with middle men should be stopped just to save a few bucks.
- The industry needs to introspect on exploiting the workers’ rights for many years now and a healthy working environment needs to be created.
- Contractual or temporary staff should not be treated differently than the permanent staff.

13. Resorting to Money Financing to revive the economy

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: To finance public spending, given the current situation, money financing will be a better option than debt financing.

Need for Financing: Greater public spending is needed as a policy response to revive the currently depressed economy which can stimulate the growth. But increased public spending will increase fiscal deficit. Hence there is a need for financing.

Ways for Mobilisation of resources: Government can resort to higher taxation or money financing or financing through External debt to cover up the additional expenditures.

Analysis

High taxation is not feasible: The idea to mobilise resource through increasing tax rates when the economy is in recession is not a prudent solution, so the government is left with other two options.

Issues in External Debt financing: Borrowing from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has its own problems

- **Repayment through hard currencies:** For this the government needs to increase exports which is a difficult task under current circumstances

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

- **Conditionalities:** Loans from IMF and WB is usually accompanied by set of conditions that needs to be adhered this increases governments liability to foreign institutions.
- **Time consuming:** As it takes time to negotiate. Whereas the Government needs to spend its time and energy to fight covid-19

Issues in Money financing:

- **Cost associated with money financing:** According to experts, money financing to expand public spending is associated with high intangible and institutional costs, also it is widely accepted that money financing is **inflationary**.

Supporting claims for Money financing: Whether a fiscal expansion is inflationary or not is related more to the state of the economy than the medium of its financing. Currently, the economy is faced with increasing unemployment, so any fiscal expansion in the current situation will not have inflationary effect on economy.

Conclusion: With no reasoned case for denying the option of money financing, Government should rely on money financing to take us back to pre-COVID-19 levels of output and employment.

Syllabus: GS3: Government Budgeting.

14. Effect of declining tax collection on Economy

Source: [BusinessLine](#)

Context: With tax collections below target, the Centre will possibly resort to higher market borrowings, thereby raising bond yields

Reasons for Short fall in tax collection

- **Downsizing human resources:** Industries are facing fall in their business activity due to pandemic induced lockdown. Hence to protect their businesses, corporates are taking measures such as **job cuts, decreasing the salaries of their staff, reduction in variable pay etc.** Which negatively impacts tax collection.
- **Fall in business profits:** Industries are also facing reduced sales activity and contraction in their profits this will result in reduced tax payments affecting tax collection.
- **Declining GST collection:** because GST is a **consumption tax**, so for GST collection to increase there needs to be an increase in consumption whereas lockdown has restricted consumer spending there by lowering the revenue for the government.
- **Decrease in custom tax:** Due to fall in economic activities and reduced demand, imports are declining thereby reducing custom tax collection

Impact of falling tax collection on economy

- **Impact on State:** Due to shortfalls in the centre's revenue, resource transfer to states will be decreased which will push states to cut back on expenditure.
- **Impact on Centre:** Faced with unexpected increase in relief expenditure, central government will be forced to cut expenditures either by resorting to cut Capital expenditure or by bringing sharp cuts in subsidies.
- **Resorting to borrowing:** To balance higher fiscal deficit centre will be necessitated to borrow form the market which will result in increased bond yields.

Syllabus: GS-3- Security

15. Self-reliance in the defence sector

Source: [Live Mint](#)

Context: India's new policy for the domestic production of weaponry will make the country self-reliant in defence sector

Introduction

- The draft **Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020** aims for domestic output worth ₹1.75 trillion of aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025, with exports raking in ₹35,000 crore.
- The document contains various strategic initiatives that would aid the **indigenous development of modern weaponry**, from hypersonic missiles and ace sensors to stealth submarines and fly-by-wire fighter jets.
- **Rapid upgradation** was required as the rest of the country's armoury does little justice to big power stature.

Current situation

- India had to place **an emergency order for 21 MiG-29 jets** with Russia; it was done to meet an Air Force shortfall that the local production of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's Tejas has failed to address.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO)** scientists claim success in several projects, including the Tejas design but decisions on attaining for our armed forces are made through a complex process which involves service chiefs, technocrats and politicians and that ends up favouring foreign purchases.
- India was the **world's third largest military spender** in 2019, with a bill of over \$71 billion, after the US and China. Though finer details of defence deals are usually confidential.
- **Long drawn out attainment processes** may partly be to blame for our private sector into the act have not progressed too well.

Way forward

A big push for "made in India" defence systems calls an entire ecosystem of experiments, ideas and technical skills into being, it could help our economy leap ahead too.

16. The claim on Nuclear deterrence is misleading

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Context: The claim on Nuclear deterrence is misleading. World needs to understand the vulnerability of nuclear weapons and should take steps to disarm nuclear weapons

Nuclear states: As of now, 9 countries around the world possess nuclear weapons. They are, the United States, the Soviet Union/Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.

Vulnerability of Nuclear Weapons:

- **Large Scale damage:** The two atom bombs dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has killed over 2,00,000 people and got many more injured.
- **Agility:** Nuclear weapons can be launched at any time against any target around the world.
- **Absence of effective deterrence mechanism:** The introduction of Ballistic missiles has made it nearly impossible for any ballistic missile defence systems to intercept nuclear weapons as they manoeuvre with great speed.
- **Destabilise the world:** It not only threatens Nuclear states but also the non-nuclear states.
- **Environment destruction:** over 2000 nuclear tests conducted by nuclear states to demonstrate their explosive power has caused long-lasting damage to the environment and public health.

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

- **Concerns over the controllability of nuclear weapons:** In the real world, it is not possible for planners to have complete control over the use of nuclear weapons. The desire to believe in the perfect controllability and safety of nuclear weapons is more likely to lead to accidents and possibly to the use of nuclear weapons.

The false notion of Nuclear deterrence

- The claims made by the nuclear states that, possessing nuclear weapon will prevent war, promote stability and use of nuclear weapons is impossible owing to its large-scale destructive ability does not have any evidence.
- Contradicting to the claims, Nuclear threats can be provoking, which might get escalated. For example, the case with Fidel Castro during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Even some of the experts have clearly stated that the idea of possessing nuclear weapons for deterrence is an illusion and the possibility of a nuclear war is much a reality.

Conclusion: There are many instances during which the world came close to nuclear war. These dangerous situations were averted due to diverse and contingent factors and not because of the idea of nuclear deterrence. Hence, the nuclear states should advance themselves towards nuclear disarmament to build a safe world.

Syllabus: GS3: Digital Infrastructure

17. Herculean task of digitising India

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Context: With Google's commitment to invest \$10 billion in India, it needs to focus on fulfilling the below mentioned inconsistencies in India's digital space.

Digitalisation paradox in India:

- Though penetration of smartphones is increasing, India's internet speed is slow or varied across the landscape.
- India leads the web censorship with maximum number of internet shutdowns yet it recognises the internet as a human right.
- In spite of increasing internet users, app downloads and social media users India's digital preparedness is unsatisfactory.

Digital Divide:

- **Gender divide:** Only 21 per cent of women are mobile internet users, while the percentage of men that uses mobile internet is 2 times that of women.
- **Rural-Urban Divide:** India's two-third population lives in rural areas yet only a quarter of the population has access to internet.

Digital Payments: With only 22 per cent of recipients of migrant remittances have access to banks within one km, meaningful digitalisation should make electronic cash transfers as a priority this would largely empower informal migrant workers.

Digitalising Agriculture: Developing Precision farming that uses predictive data analytics and basic artificial intelligence, aiding farmers access to credit at lower costs and innovating technologies to forecast commodity prices can create a value addition of \$33 billion annually in Indian agriculture.

Data governance policies: India is a data rich country, with 650 million internet users but it lacks a forward-looking inclusive data governance policy. With its vast experience in data governance rules abroad Google can offer data governance guidance to Indian lawmakers

Secure Digital Space: India's cyber space is faced with the problem of "infodemic" with wide circulation of Fake news and misinformations. Although, Google is credited for launching Fact Check information and removal of 8,20,000 misleading videos by YouTube it can further **deeper investments** in both human and machine intelligence to strengthen algorithm that could spread misinformation.

Way forward:

- Government should play an enabling factor by developing more progressive data accessibility laws to enhance the country's digital space
- The government must **invest in skill-building** and education at all levels to translate these changes into productive work.

Gs3: Inclusive Growth, Growth, Development and Employment.

18. Increasing the demand by enhancing the income of Low paid work force

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Context: Measures to address India's structural demand problem.

Boosting domestic demand: With external demand will remain low in the upcoming days, we need to focus on domestic demand for economic revival

Focus on low income groups: Till now, India's growth has been driven the demand generated by the high- and middle-income groups which has got stagnated. So, we need to shift focus to increase demand from low income groups by enhancing their income.

Structure of Indian workforce

- According to **Periodic Labour Force Survey** (2018-19), only 10 per cent of the workforce is engaged in **regular formal jobs** having earnings above the decent minimum wages
- Whereas, 14 % of Indian workforce are engaged in **regular informal jobs** earn equivalent to or slightly below a minimum wage.
- The **self-employed** and **casual workers** constitute 50 per cent and 24 per cent of the workforce with average earnings below a minimum wage.

Measures to increase earnings of low-income groups

- Need to increase productivity in the informal sector thereby increasing the incomes of low-wage workers.
- Ensuring a decent minimum wage for the casual labourers will also help to set higher wage floor for others engaged in low-paid work thereby enhancing their earnings.
- Also, it is important to ensure minimum wages paid in public workfare programmes such as MGNREGA that will benefit the unskilled labourers.
- Apart from paying minimum wages public workfare programmes needs to be made universal to employ more people, currently it less than 4 per cent of casual workers are employed.
- More importantly we need shift in policy approach to determine minimum wages. So far, the approach has been **to prevent exploitation** and to **ensure bare sustenance of life**. Instead we need to aspire for providing them a decent wage that enables them to maintain a reasonable level of consumption expenditure. For this purpose, the minimum wage can be linked to the consumption expenditure of the relatively better-off group of workers.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of August (First week), 2020

Way forward:

- The Code on Wages (2019) that seeks to universalise minimum wages and extend them to the unorganised sector is a step-in right direction.
- The agricultural sector and the construction sector in particular are important source of employment generation especially for casual labourers. Raising the minimum wages of casual labourers will play a critical role in economic revival of the country.

Conclusion: Policy intervention to determine a minimum wage floor will not only enhance the livelihood of low paid workers will also fuel the much-needed demand for growth.

ForumIAS